

**The Republic of Suriname**  
**Measures to Implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

Pursuant to article 30, paragraph 4, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury the Republic of Suriname provides the following information on its measures to implement the Convention. For additional information on the hereafter named measures, this can be obtained through the entity that was named as the focal point for information exchange, pursuant to article 17, paragraph 4 of this convention.

In the table below an overview is given of the measures Suriname will be implementing.

<b>ART.</b>	<b>MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN SURINAME</b>
Art. 3 para. 6 & 7	<p><b>Primary Mercury Mining:</b>            Primary mercury mining does not occur in Suriname. According to the Mining Act of 1986 there are 5 groups of minerals that can be mined: hydrocarbons, bauxite, construction materials and other minerals (metal and non-metal). Even though mercury could fall under the last group, up until now this metal has not been mined.</p> <p><b>Mercury trade:</b>            There is import of mercury –added products. So mainly measures will be taken to stop the import of these products. Currently there is a national Level 2 inventory of imported mercury-added products in process. This inventory will be completed in June 2018.</p> <p>Suriname chooses not to make a general notification under art. 3 para. 7, but will require a separate notification of the exporting country for every import of mercury.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By the end of 2018, a State order shall be issued which will forbid primary mercury mining in Suriname.</li> <li>2. The revision of the Mining Decree by mid-2019, the aforementioned will be explicitly included;</li> <li>3. The import of metal mercury is already regulated through a permitting system. Two mobile scans have been purchased by Customs to increase import control.</li> </ol>
Art 4 para. 2	<p><b>Plan for Phase-out Annex A:</b>            Based on existing data, it is already clear that for a number of products in Annex A Suriname will not be able to comply to the phase-out date of 2020. An extension will be requested from the Secretariat for a period of 5 years. This means that the phase-out date will be 2025.</p> <p>In the period from 2018 to 2025, there will be a phased-out according to the model that has been used for the phasing out of Ozone depleting substances (ODS) in Suriname. This means that, after the inventory, import quotas will be levied on the products in Annex A of the Convention. A The current proposals for quotas are: 2019: 75% of the baseline year allowed for import; 2020: 50% of the baseline year allowed for import;</p>

ART.	MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN SURINAME
	<p>2022: 35% of the baseline year allowed for import; 2024: 0% of the baseline year allowed for import. This quota's will be further discussed and implemented. Furthermore, the use of alternatives will be promoted through public awareness</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Placing on the Negative List of Annex A products and requiring a permit. This is included in the Asycuda system used by Customs, which gives the system a notification for extra control;</li> <li>2. Increase the import duties on the products listed in Annex A;</li> <li>3. Stimulate the import of non-mercury-containing alternatives through, among other things, public awareness;</li> <li>4. Link violations of the Negative List to the Economic Offenses Act.</li> </ol> <p><b>Non electronic measuring devices:</b> As far as the meters containing mercury such as blood pressure meters and thermometers are concerned, extension of the phase-out date will also be required. Here, the PAHO and the Ministry of Public Health are investigating which actions have to be taken, especially in the conditions of the interior of the country. The use of these meters is still preferred because of their advantages such as accuracy and maintenance.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Studying alternatives together with Ministry of Public Health and have alternatives available by 2020;</li> <li>2. Request technical assistance from international organizations such as the PAHO / WHO;</li> </ol> <p><b>Waste &amp; seizure of illegal mercury and mercury -added products:</b> Suriname does not yet have an adequate chemical and hazardous management system. Currently, modalities are being considered to go to a Public Private Partnership in which the private sector and the government will jointly contribute to a chemical management plan that not only covers mercury but all other chemical waste. It will therefore be a system from the moment of import (port), transport, storage, use (standards for emissions), and waste management.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conclude studies on a Public Private Partnership for chemical storage and waste</li> <li>2. Setting up an adequate storage area for waste and confiscated products under Annex A.</li> </ol> <p><b>Dental amalgam in the Dentistry:</b> As far as the use of mercury amalgam in dentistry is concerned, discussions took place in 2013 with the Dentists Association. Based on their information it has been established that mercury amalgam is practically no longer used in Surinamese dentistry. Nevertheless, together with the Dentists Association and the Foundation for Youth Dental Care (JTV) a program will be set up to completely halt the use of mercury amalgam in the dentistry.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p>

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	<p>1. By the end of 2018 in collaboration with Dentists Association and Foundation for Youth Dental Care (JTV) to completely ban the use mercury amalgam</p>
<p>Art. 5 paras. 2, 3, 5, 6 &amp; 7</p>	<p><b>Manufacturing processes:</b>            Currently there are no production processes as listed in Annex B in Suriname. Even though this is the case legislation will be drafted to prevent start up. It will be policy of both the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and the Districts Commissioners under the Nuisance Act to reject the startup of companies using these processes.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b>            1. Prohibit these specific production processes by State Order by the end of 2018.</p>
<p>Art 7 para. 3</p>	<p><b>Artisanal and Small Scale mining and processing with mercury amalgamation:</b>            At the time of depositing its instruments of accession Suriname will also submit a notification as referred to in article 3 para. 3. This notification of "more than insignificant" will be made on the basis of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of persons directly or indirectly earning income in this sector. (<math>\pm</math> 30,000);</li> <li>- The contribution of this sector to the GDP of Suriname. (Suriname Development Plan 2017-2021, p. 83).</li> </ul> <p>From the moment of notification, Suriname has 3 years to present its National Action Plan in which it explains how the use and emission of mercury in small-scale mining will be reduced and where possible eliminated. The treaty (Article 7 and Annex C) does not give a phase-out date for mercury use in the ASGM. Suriname, through its own national consultation processes, will indicate which measures will be taken.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mapping of legal and illegal mining areas by means of GIS data and the monitoring thereof via satellite images;</li> <li>2. Start consultation process mid-2018 for the formulation of Suriname's first NAP. It will be formulated in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>3. By 2021, Suriname will submit its National Action Plan for the use and emission of mercury in small-scale mining;</li> <li>4. Start project "Environmental Management in the Mining Sector, with Emphasis on Artisanal and Small scale Gold mining", in collaboration with the UNDP/GEF mid-2018. This project aims to improve environmental management in the ASGM by introducing environmentally friendly gold mining methods. This will be done by setting up Mining centers where these methods will be demonstrated and the miners will be trained in this. The project document has been endorsed by the GEF CEO and for approval of the project document. The project has a duration of 7 years.</li> </ol> <p><b>Illegal import of metal mercury:</b>            According to Surinamese law the import of mercury is regulated. Together with the sector an investigation will start on which route can be followed and within which period</p>

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	<p>the import of mercury can be completely banned, without having adverse effects on the sector and the income of the State. These measures will all be part of the NAP.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaboration with neighboring countries through cooperation mechanisms such as the River Council with French Guiana and the Suriname-Guyana Cooperation Council, for the formulation and implementation of measures to contain illegal import of mercury.</li> <li>2. In consultation with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Justice and Police, minimize the illegal import and regulate the import of mercury via the legal route until the moment of phasing out linked to the NAP.</li> </ol> <p><b>Technical and financial assistance:</b> The NAP will also pay attention to the areas where Suriname needs technical and financial assistance from the international community. On the basis of this List of Needs, international organization such as the GEF, Minamata Convention, Alliance of Responsible Mining (ARM), Artisanal Gold Council (AGC) and other bilateral partnerships will be negotiate and established, creating multiple opportunities for the sector to transition into mercury-free mining.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To enter into international and bilateral collaborations to support the implementation of the obligations under Art. 7 in particular.</li> </ol> <p><b>Stimulus ASGM sector:</b> Modalities will also be discussed within the government to further stimulate this sector. Some modalities to be considered are: tax reductions, soft loans, etc.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish Mining Centers for Training and Awareness (UNDP / GEF project) in the 5 main mining districts by the end of 2020.</li> <li>2. Establish Mineral Institute by the end of 2019.</li> </ol>
Art. 8	<p><b>Point source emissions (Annex D):</b> Given that most of these industries do not exist in Suriname, Government's policy will be to prevent the start of these industries through the adoption and implementation of necessary legislation.</p> <p><b>Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further regulate the start of these activities by law;</li> <li>2. With regards to industrial gold the regulation for controlling "total mercury" to land and water will be in accordance with measures under art. 9.</li> <li>3. With regards to industrial gold the regulation for controlling "total mercury" to the atmosphere, emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from gold smelting and roasting processes, will be included in the environmental law.</li> </ol>

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Art. 9	<p><b>Controlling “total mercury” to land and water:</b> The Level 2 Mercury Inventory will determine whether there are other sources where mercury is released into the soil or water that has not been mentioned in other articles of the Convention.</p> <p><i>Measures:</i> The control of limits for the release of mercury in soil and water will be further regulated by the adoption of standards under the Environmental Law (and Implementation regulations) which are currently being finalized and will be sent to the Parliament by the end of the second quarter of 2018 for approval.</p>
Art. 10	<p><b>Environmentally sound interim storage:</b> As mentioned earlier, Suriname currently does not have an adequate chemical and hazardous waste management system. Currently, modalities are being considered to go to a Public Private Partnership in which the private sector and the government will jointly contribute to a chemical management plan that not only covers mercury but all other chemical waste. It will therefore be a system from the moment of import (port), transport, storage, use (standards for emissions), and waste management.</p> <p><i>Measures:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On the short term the storage of seized illegal mercury will be temporarily stored in identified storage facilities awaiting further disposal;</li> <li>2. Within 5 years, using levies or through public-private partnership work is being done to set up an adequate storage space for waste and seized mercury and products under Annex A.</li> </ol>
Art. 11	<p><b>Mercury waste:</b> Suriname is a party to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Waste and Hazardous substances and their disposal. Under this treaty, the export and processing of hazardous substances is regulated on the basis of internationally established procedures.</p> <p><i>Measures:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Export of mercury or mercury-added mercury waste for processing must be done according to the Basel procedure.</li> <li>2. Office of the President / Coordination Environment is the Designated National Authority where exports must be reported for permission and further guidance.</li> </ol>
Art 17 para. 4	<p><b>National Focal Point:</b> Suriname will facilitate the exchange of information through setting up of a Coordination Mechanism and naming a special focal point for art. 17..</p> <p><i>Measures:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Coordination Mechanism for the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention will be set up in the framework of the MIA project in 2018.</li> </ol>