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2018/01/LAC/ARG

ANNEX B
Templates for interim and final progress reports
and interim and final expenditure reports

Argentina

I. Template for Interim and Final Progress Report (an interim progress report is to be submitted every six months; final progress report to be submitted upon completion of the Agreement)

Project ID: 2018/01/A/LSO

Country/Region: Argentina / Latin American

Project Title: Capacity-building Programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Argentina

Duration: 24 months

Organization/Institution delivering the project: Basel Convention Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for South America (Argentina)

Amount: USD 250,000

BP No: 1500004588

Budget line: SB-011033.03.01 / Cost centre 11283 / Fund 32MCP

PCA starting date: 01/08/2019

Reporting period: from 1/07/2020 to 31/12/2020

A: SUMMARY OF STATUS

Brief description of the status of implementation of the PCA at the time of reporting and progress towards achieving PCA's objective

Under the reporting period, it has been carried out different activities with key stakeholders in all activities. Awareness campaigns aimed at the general public were carried out, as well as several webinars, in conjunction with different actors.

From a legal perspective, various proposals were made, linked to the implementation and correct compliance with the Minamata Convention in Argentina. For that purpose, the work was carried out in conjunction with the National Direction of Substances and Chemical Products (MAyDS), the authority responsible for implementing the Convention and others related to chemicals and waste.

For capacity strengthening, a proposal for a Comprehensive Mercury Seminar has already been developed. It has already been presented to the authorities, and approved by them. In relation to the Nation Mercury Monitoring Plan, approval of the activities is awaited.

In order to Equip a local unit to support sampling, processing and other mercury surveillance activities, the receivers of the equipment have been already selected and the selection of the kind of equipment has already been finished. We are currently working on the purchase process. It is important to note that, in the context caused by the global pandemic situation, the population of the city of Buenos Aires and its surroundings has remained in quarantine. It is precisely for these reasons that some activities were delayed or modified.

B:	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS				
Overall Project Outcomes	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Milestones	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	If activity is not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken.
	<p>The project outcome is to switch to the use of alternatives to the products listed in Annex A, Part I of the Minamata Convention</p> <p>Meetings and agreement are taking place between actors and stakeholders, every step forward is verified by the environmental authority, especially with regard to draft regulations, such is that some of our projects are already in full force.</p>	<p>M1: National Strategy to improve the national capacity for the implementation of Article 4</p> <p>M2: Validation of the National Strategy with key Stakeholders</p> <p>M3: Follow up of the National Strategy and improvement of the Plan</p>	<p>Month 9/Year 1</p> <p>Month 12/Year 1</p> <p>Month 24/Year 2</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>	
Measures	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Milestones	Delivery date	Status of Activity (complete/ on-going/ delayed)	If activity is not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken.
M1. Improve the capacity to implement obligations under					

<p>Article 4 of the Minamata Convention.</p> <p>The objective of this measure is to carry on technical studies, to develop the necessary legal and administrative mechanisms and to implement awareness campaigns, in order to prevent the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added products (MAP).</p>	<p>1.1 Analysis of feasibility for substitute products, including barriers identification and socio-economic impact of prohibitions</p> <p>During this period, meetings and exchanges were held with different key stakeholders.</p> <p>Information was collected and analysed in relation to the products covered by Article 4, and the technical feasibility of replacement by other mercury-free products available on the market.</p> <p>Worked together with key stakeholders to correctly identify the tariff positions reached, in order to improve the regulatory mechanisms.</p> <p>In addition, challenges were identified to address the entire life cycle of products with added mercury, identifying a major challenge in the final disposal of these products.</p> <p>The information was collected and analysed. A Report entitled "Analysis of substitutes" was produced. The categories covered were: (i) lamps, batteries, switches and relays, (ii) non-electronic measuring instruments in the health sector, (iii) dental amalgams.</p>	<p>M1: Technical and economic feasibility for substitute products Studies developed</p> <p>M2: Plan of costs and activities to convert to alternative products developed</p> <p>M3: Results of studies shared with key sectors</p>	<p>Month 3/Year 1</p> <p>Month 6/Year 1</p> <p>Month 9/Year 1</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Delayed</p>	<p>A Short Report entitled "Analysis of substitutes" was produced.</p> <p>This activity will be carried out by a work group with a Socioeconomic profile. The Consultant will take as a baseline the document mentioned in M1, and will analyse the socioeconomic impact. Currently, we are working in the underway to select the work group to perform the service.</p> <p>The activity will take place once the socioeconomic report by the contractors has been completed.</p>
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	<p>1.2. Design of legal framework including administrative regulations, incentives and enforcement schemes.</p> <p>As new regulations in order to implement obligations under the Minamata Convention, we worked in six regulation projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolution on mercury added products worked jointly with the Directorate of Technical Standards of the Secretariat of Commerce. - Resolution on Storage of mercury and its compounds, and storage of wastes consisting of mercury or mercury compounds. - Resolution on the Guide for Municipalities for the Design and Implementation of Comprehensive Management Plans for Public Lighting Luminaires with Mercury. - Resolution on the permanent or temporary importation of primary cells and batteries, and of the devices or products that contain them inside or outside. - Resolution on management of mercury, its mixtures and compounds, and mercury- 	<p>M1 New regulations in order to improve the capacity to implement obligations under Article 4 of the Minamata Convention developed (Prohibition of MAP listed in Annex A, intervention of tariff positions, etc.)</p> <p>M2 Legal and economic instruments to facilitate the enforcement of the new regulations designed</p> <p>M3 Meetings with Key stakeholders to validate the legal drafts conducted</p>	<p>Month 3/Year 1</p> <p>Month 6/Year 1</p> <p>Month 9/Year 1</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>This activity is already completed.</p> <p>This activity is already completed.</p> <p>This activity is already completed.</p>

	<p>added products in relation to foreign trade and prohibited uses.</p> <p>- Resolution of exemptions to art. 4 and 5 of the Minamata Convention, including industry reversion plans and industry closure plans.</p> <p>As an administrative procedure associated with the previous draft regulations are:</p> <p>Document with the form and list of documentation required for the import and export applicable to mercury, its mixtures and compound. These are completed and available on the national administrative system: TAD (abbreviation of "trámite a distancia", in english: remote procedures)</p> <p>- Document with the form and list of documentation required for the import and export applicable to mercury-added Products.</p> <p>Document with the form and list of documentation required for the exemptions to art 4 and 5 of the Convention.</p> <p>Document with the form and list of documentation required for the import and export applicable to batteries.</p> <p>As part of administrative legal processes implementation of the Convention (article 3,4, 5 6 and 18), we carry out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of the importation of mercury to INDUPA. 				
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responses to inquiries within the framework of the Resolution N°75/2019 about importation of mercury-added products (PMA). Also, evaluation of mercury-added products importation solicitation. - Exemption to art 4 for FITE company. - Exemption to art 3 for UNIPAR INDUPA company. - Requests for access to public information on the status of the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the SIP Argentina project. 				
	<p>1.3. Awareness campaigns with for local governments and other stakeholders The key actors were identified and the map was drawn up. The key actors were identified and worked on together with them.</p> <p>Various activities were carried out to raise awareness of the environmental and health effects of mercury. In addition, the existence of the Minamata Convention was disseminated.</p> <p>Three webinars were held, in partnership with different stakeholders: -The "Webinar: Chemicals and International Conventions" was held, aimed at students in environmental careers and the academic and university sector. It was held on 25 August 2020, in conjunction with the National University</p>	<p>M1: Design of local stakeholder's map</p> <p>M2 Implementation of Training activities with municipalities</p>	<p>Month 3/Year 1</p> <p>Month 12/Year 1</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>On going</p>	<p>This activity is complete. Map available.</p> <p>In order to plan training courses for different Municipalities, a survey was designed to identify the needs and the situation of the municipalities with regard to mercury. The documents are in a draft state and are being reviewed by all the stakeholders. For this activity, we worked together with the National University of Avellaneda and the Environmental Health Area of the Ministry of Health.</p>

	<p>of Hurlingham (UNAHUR) and the National Directorate of Chemicals (DNSyPQ).</p> <p>-The "Webinar: Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Hazardous Substances and Waste" was held for the scientific-academic sector. It was held on 13 October 2020, jointly with SETAC Argentina and the National Directorate of Chemicals (DNSyPQ).</p> <p>- The "Webinar: Use of Mercury in the Health Sector" was held for the staff of public and private health facilities. It was held on 11 December 2020, in conjunction with the Technical Area of Environmental Safeguard of the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>An awareness campaign was developed for the general public, in which diverse content was disseminated. The material was produced together with the Ministry of Health and published on the various social networks of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The topics were: What is mercury? Which products can contain it? What to do in case of a mercury spill or a product breakage that contains it? What is the Minamata Convention?</p> <p>In addition, this content was published on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>M3 Implementation of Training Plan for other key stakeholders</p> <p>M4 Implementation of Awareness campaigns for specific different stakeholders</p>	<p>Month 18/Year 2</p> <p>Month 24/Year 2</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>	<p>This activity is in process. Some activities were carried out. However, others are planned for next year.</p> <p>We are currently developing content for the general public, about the use of dental amalgams.</p>
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<p>M2. Enhance capacities for research and mercury surveillance, in accordance with article 12 and 19 of the Minamata Convention.</p> <p>This measure aims to build the necessary basis for the country to generate local data and statistics on mercury emissions and releases, exposure and contaminated sites as well as to monitor mercury management activities.</p>	<p>2.1. Strengthening technical capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, local governmental entities, Laboratories, Academia and research centres.</p> <p>Updated plans of different activities are already developed. On the one hand, several webinars were carried out with different stakeholders:</p> <p>-The "Webinar: Chemicals and International Conventions" was held, aimed at students in environmental careers and the academic and university sector. It was held on 25 August 2020, in conjunction with the National University of Hurlingham (UNAHUR) and the National Directorate of Chemicals (DNSyPQ).</p> <p>-The "Webinar: Multilateral Environmental Agreements on Hazardous Substances and Waste" was held for the scientific-academic sector. It was held on 13 October 2020, jointly with SETAC Argentina and the National Directorate of Chemicals (DNSyPQ).</p> <p>- Another seminar is currently ongoing. It will be carried out jointly with the National University of Avellaneda (UNDAV) and will be intended for municipal workers. The topics of this seminar will be about the Mercury management in municipalities. On the other hand, a Mercury network has been founded jointly with different laboratories and academic institutions. Several working groups have been developed in order to organize the activities. Within this mercury network,</p>	M1 Training plan developed	Month 3/Year 1	Completed	Different seminars have been carried out. The Integral Mercury Seminar proposal has already been presented to the authorities and has been approved by them. The proposal of Monitoring Mercury Plan has also been presented to authorities and is currently under revision.
		M2 Interlaboratory and calibration activities implemented	Month 18/Year 2	On-going	This activity is on-going according the timeline of the Project.
		M3 Training plan implemented	Month 24/Year 2	On-going	This activity is on-going according the timeline of the Project.

	<p>two activities are currently in development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Integral Mercury Seminar, whose proposal has been shown in the Interministerial Meeting - Proposal of a Monitoring Mercury Plan which is being evaluated by the authorities of the Ministry. Regarding the inter-laboratory activities, they had to be postponed because of the pandemic situation. <p>2.2. Equip a local unit to support sampling, processing and other mercury surveillance activities</p> <p>After a deep evaluation considering current capacities and necessities, two public researching institutions have been chosen as receivers of the equipment which will enhance their analytical capacities.</p> <p>Budget and information of those equipment and services are already approved, and we are currently working on the purchase and shipping terms.</p>	<p>M1 Mercury surveillance unit operations manual designed</p> <p>M2 Mercury surveillance unit equipped</p> <p>M3 Mercury surveillance unit under functioning</p>	<p>Month 9/ Year 1</p> <p>Month 12/ Year 2</p> <p>Month 24/ Year 2</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>	<p>This activity is on-going according to the new approach of measure 2 (selection of two public laboratories as receivers of the equipment)</p> <p>This activity is on-going. It was delayed because of administrative issues.</p> <p>This activity is on-going according the timeline of the Project.</p>
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**M3.: Monitoring and
Evaluation Plan and financial
audit**

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C:	BEST PRACTICES, INNOVATIONS AND/OR LESSONS LEARNED
<p>It is important to highlight that the new way of work in the context caused by the pandemic has been a great challenge when it comes to articulating with other actors.</p> <p>However, not only did it not prevent progress being made in working together with other organisations, it also showed a way in which it is possible to work partnership with actors from different places of the country.</p> <p>Also, through the webinars, it was possible to reach people who might not have had access to them in person.</p>	

D:	COMMUNICATION-RELATED MATERIAL
<p>An awareness campaign was developed for the general public, in which diverse content was disseminated. The material was produced together with the Ministry of Health and published on the various social networks of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.</p> <p>In addition, this content was published on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.</p>	

E:	LIST OF ATTACHED DOCUMENTS
<p>Please find attached the following documents:</p> <p>✓ Report of the detailed activities from July to December (extension of the Table B: Project Implementation Status)</p> <p>Pictures, presentations or/and agendas from the following events:</p>	

Signature:



Date:12 /12/2020

Name and title of signing officer: Dra. Leila Devia