

## MINAMATA CONVENTION

### MERCURY IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

## ST.LUCIA SITUATION

- INITIAL STAGE OF RATIFICATION
  - HOW TO PURSUE THAT PROCESS
  - POLICY
  - LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS
  - GAPS

## NEXT STEP TOWARDS RATIFICATION

- COMMISSION GEF PROJECT – APPROVED IN JULY 2016
  - STEERING COMMITTEE TO DRIVE PROJECT
  - PROJECTED START DATE FEBRUARY 2017
  - ESTABLISH INVENTORY

## MERCURY IN ST.LUCIA

- ST. LUCIA DOES NOT MANUFACTURE MERCURY OR MERCURY BASED PRODUCTS
- ST.LUCIA DOES NOT MINE HEAVY METALS THEREFORE;
  - INSTRUMENTS OR EQUIPMENT USED IN THE HEALTH INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE MERCURY ADDED ARE ALL IMPORTED
  - PRIMARILY USED IN DENTISTRY AND THE HEALTH INSTITUTIONS (THERMOMETERS AND BP APPARATUS)

## MERCURY USE IN THE HEALTH SERVICE

### SITUATION

- NINETY PERCENT OF APPARATUS USED ARE MERCURY FREE (THERMOMETERS)
- ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF BP APPARATUS ARE MERCURY BASED
  - ALL NEW SUPPLIES ARE DIGITAL
- MERCURY IS USED IN DENTISTRY (AMALGAM)
  - SMALL SCALE PHASING OUT

## CHALLENGES

- MAIN CHALLENGE IS THE THE EFFECTIVE DISPOSAL OF THOSE MERCURY ADDED PRODUCTS