**Reducing Mercury Use in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining**

**Why is it wise to formalize the sector?**
- **Lack of access to finance**
- **Regional and national economic benefits**
- **Environmental and health improvements**
- **Promotes safer and cleaner practices**

**Challenges of the sector**
- Small-scale operators often lack technical knowledge and resources
- Mercuric compounds are associated with soil and water contamination
- Mining practices generally are informal
- High level of settler pocket mining, requiring effective policy interventions

**Why is mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining?**
- **Lack of awareness**
- **Low-cost technology**
- **Unsustainable mining methods**
- **Economic necessity**

**Alternatives to mercury**
- **Biological and biotechnological methods**
- **Physical methods**
- **Chemical methods**

**How the Minamata Convention applies to artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector?**
- **Mercury pollution**
- **High-level mining activities**
- **Formalization**
- **Safe alternative processes**

**Governments to ban mercury**
- **National and regional policies**
- **Awareness campaigns**
- **Incentives for adopting alternative methods**

**Governments to promote safe practices**
- **Training and education**
- **Regulatory frameworks**
- **Technology development and dissemination**

**How will reducing mercury use unlock opportunities for local development in your country?**
- **Economic benefits**
- **Environmental improvements**
- **Health and safety**
- **Sustainable development**