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UNEP(DTIE Chemicals) /WHO(PHE) GAELP/1/INF/2
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United Nations Environment Programme

World Health Organization

First meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints
Initial organizational meeting of contributors
Geneva, 26–28 May 2010
Item 4 of the provisional agenda *
Background/overview of the Global Alliance

United Nations Environment Programme: Review of Global Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Global Mercury Partnership

Information note by the Secretariat

1. Annex I to the present note includes a review of five selected global multi-stakeholder partnerships prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2. Annex II to the present note includes information specific to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, including: the Overarching Framework that governs the work of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, information on becoming a partner and an example of a business plan.

3. All annexes are provided for information to the first meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints and are presented without formal editing.

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* UNEP(DTIE Chemicals) /WHO(PHE) GAELP/1/1/Add.1

Annex I

Review of Global Multi-stakeholder Partnerships[1]

Background

Multi-stakeholder (or cross-sector) partnerships[2] for sustainable development first began to emerge in the late 1980s and early 1990s when various environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) initiated dialogue with private sector companies and industry associations to develop collaborative responses to various local, national and international environmental challenges. These included initiatives related to waste minimization, sustainable natural resource management and the development of environmental certification and labeling schemes, among others. The focus of many of these business-NGO partnerships was the development of new market-based solutions to global-local environmental sustainability challenges. These voluntary partnerships were largely seen as complementary to national and international regulatory measures.

During the period between the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and beyond, various UN agencies have also played key roles in brokering new partnerships to strengthen the efforts of the UN system. For example, since 1992 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been actively partnering with the private sector. The UNEP Finance Initiative is a global partnership between UNEP and the financial sector that was established in 2003 through the merger of two existing UNEP partnerships with the banking sector (est. 1992) and the insurance industry (est. 1997) respectively. UNEP also has bilateral partnerships with individual companies such as the UNEP-Bayer Partners for Youth and Environment that was formalized in 2004 following a period of cooperation on youth environmental projects in Asia dating back to the late 1990s.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships bring together actors from the three main sectors: public/government, private/business and civil society/NGO, as well as others such as labour, media, academia, etc. that may be defined as separate sectors depending on political, geographic and/or cultural contexts.

Partnership governance and management range from decentralized arrangements shared between partners to the establishment of new stand-alone membership organizations with their own full-time staff and infrastructure.

[1] This document is an updated version of Document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/INF.7 that was drafted in March 2008 to support the development of the Overarching Framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. This 2010 update includes relevant information from the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, but it is not a comprehensive update of the original 2008 document.

[2] Defined in UN General Assembly Resolution A/C.2/60/L.38/Rev.1 as: “voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits” (Sixtieth session, Second Committee, Agenda item 59, Towards global partnerships, 14 December 2005).

This paper outlines a number of key implementation issues in global multi-stakeholder partnerships based on a review and analysis of five existing initiatives from two different sectors (environment and health):

- Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Stop Tuberculosis Partnership (Stop TB)
- Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD)
- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP)

Brief descriptions of these five global initiatives are outlined in Attachment I.

This paper aims to facilitate the development of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints by providing insights, lessons learned and background related to the five partnerships outlined above in terms of set-up/formation, resourcing issues, review processes and partner participation and commitment.

1. Partnership Formation

As voluntary initiatives, multi-stakeholder partnerships often emerge spontaneously when a number of individual organizational representatives begin to work together informally on a shared concern. Such forms of inter-organizational or cross-sector cooperation sometimes evolve into more formalized partnership arrangements whereas in other cases they may retain a more ad hoc nature such as found in information-sharing networks or other coordination mechanisms.

When collaborating organizations move towards more concrete joint plans, actions and clearly-defined deliverables, they tend to develop and adopt more formal arrangements for bringing new partners on board. These include the development of partner selection criteria, guidelines and procedures, which may also outline partner requirements or expectations.

The five partnerships reviewed reveal the following key lessons about the formation stage and issues related to partner selection, roles and responsibilities:

- All five partnerships emerged from pre-existing collaborative arrangements between groups of organizations and individuals working on the issue concerned. In some cases, the partnerships brought together disparate or competing initiatives. One of the key drivers for formalizing their cooperation into partnerships was to ensure better coordination between overlapping activities and to promote more effective use of resources.

- In the early stages, some of the partnerships adopted a flexible approach to membership “making the hurdle low” to promote participation. Others tended to be more exclusive initially to ensure clarity of partnership purpose and to prevent certain interests from predominating.

- Formal partner selection criteria and procedures are publicly available on the partnership website. All four of the partnership websites provide this information in varying levels of detail with online application forms or standard application letter formats also offered online.

- All of the initiatives have different categories of membership or participation to avoid certain groups from having over-representation or undue influence. In some cases, individuals or entities are offered associate partner or adviser status (e.g., PCFV, GARD & Mercury Partnership). The FSC and the GMP allow individuals to become full members whereas Stop TB does not accept individual members. Some of the partnerships have special conditions for the participation of commercial organizations. GARD only grants observer status to commercial enterprises and private sector entities (including industry bodies representing manufacturers of products and services relevant to chronic respiratory diseases). Some commercial enterprises are excluded given to an obvious disconnect between their business focus and the aims of the partnership (e.g., PCFV and lead additive manufacturers).

- It is clear that overly bureaucratic and lengthy member selection procedures can prevent or discourage participation. The FSC, for example, has reviewed its application process and have taken measures to strengthen the FSC Membership system.

- The existence of formal partner selection procedures and related partnership governance and management rules helps to provide public assurance even if they may rarely need to be used in practice. Investing time for this at the early stages helps to avoid potential conflict that could emerge later in their absence.

Table 1 on the following page summarizes some of the main formative aspects of the five partnerships studied.

Table 1: Key Features of Partnership Participation [3]

Partnership	Organizational Form	Forms of Participation	Total Nos.	Application Process	Selection Process	Member Requirements/Fees
Partnership for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles	Centralized global partnership with Clearing House based at UNEP Secretariat in Nairobi	Two categories: - Organizational Partners - Associate Partners (individuals & organizations)	110	Online application form plus letter to UNEP & supporting documents	Advisory Board review based on Governance Rules	Endorsement of Mission Statement No fees but some partners make voluntary contributions
Forest Stewardship Council	Independent, non-profit international organization based in Bonn	Three chambers (Economic, Social & Environmental): - Organizational members - Individual members External Partners (e.g., Government agencies)	700	Letter of application & supporting documents	Membership Committee review against requirements & Board approval	Support Principles & Criteria Specific sector requirements: - Business applicants to state "Commitment to get FSC-certified" & submit information on commercial activities, relations & parent company - NGO applicants to provide non-profit evidence & information on funding Annual fee based on organizational size/turn-over & geographical location
Stop TB Partnership	Decentralized global partnership with Secretariat based at WHO in Geneva	Organizational members Individuals not eligible	500	Online application form (includes 'Declaration of Interests')	Partnership Officer review	Endorsement of Values, Principles, etc. Partners also encouraged to participate in working group(s) No fees but encouraged to make cash or in-kind contributions
Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases	Centralized global alliance based in Geneva at WHO, which provides technical leadership & secretariat support.	Three categories: - Participants - Observers - Individual Advisers	80	Formal participant application & supporting documents	Secretariat review against specific criteria	Declaration of intent to attend meetings on regular basis. No fees but encouraged to make cash or in-kind contributions
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership	Centralized global partnership with Clearing House based at UNEP Secretariat in Geneva	Two levels: - Partner: Individuals and organizations - 25 Partners serve the Partnership Advisory Group: organizational members	62	Online registration form and letter to UNEP signifying support and commitment	Partnership Officer review	Submission of partnership support letter with commitment to achieving the goal of the partnership. No fees but some partners (mainly government partners to date) make voluntary contributions.

[3] This table reflects information gathered in the original report (March 2008) with the exception of the GMP (May 2010).

2. Resourcing Issues

One of the key principles of multi-stakeholder partnerships is that all partners make complementary resource contributions including financial and/or in-kind contributions (i.e., technical expertise, staff time, assistance with marketing, media or networking, etc.). While all partnerships have to meet certain funding requirements, "one of the real benefits of working cross-sectorally is the potential access to a wide range of non-cash resources that the partners can bring to the partnership."[4] A key challenge is to ensure that all resource contributions (financial and in-kind) are valued equitably.

Undertaking a formal resource mapping process in the early stages of a partnership (and as needed on a regular, ongoing basis), helps to build "respect, understanding and teamwork between partners – all important pre-conditions of successful collaboration."[5] An appropriately documented resource mapping exercise also offers a useful reference point for any future partnership review process and helps to build partner accountability.

The five partnerships reviewed illustrate the following points about resourcing issues:

- Most of the partnerships reviewed have relied on voluntary financial and in-kind contributions from members with only the FSC having a formal annual membership fee requirement.

- None of the partnerships have been able to rely solely upon partner resource contributions. For example, membership fees only comprise 10% of the FSC's total annual revenue. All have largely relied on external funding from multilateral or bilateral donors, foundations, companies and other sources to support their projects and activities. A proven track record and the achievement of targets are usually required in order to attract adequate ongoing project funding both from internal and external sources.

- In order to avoid undue reliance on a particular sector, GARD seeks to ensure that there is a 50-50 balance in financial contributions from public vs. private sources. Furthermore, GARD is accountable to WHO on all financial matters and the WHO Committee on Private Sector Collaboration must approve all prospective donations to GARD from commercial enterprises.

- All FSC financial supporters (including bilateral donors, foundations and individual companies) enter into a partnership relationship with the organization. The FSC is currently considering a new income generation strategy based on the marketing of its trademark/logo. This would be additional to the accreditation fees it currently receives from FSC-accredited forest certification organizations.

3. Monitoring & Review Processes

The Partnering Initiative's work[6] to date has led them to see the 'evaluation' of cross-sector partnerships as a multi-dimensional phenomenon involving (at least) five different elements – summarized in Table 2 below.

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[4] R. Tennyson (2004) *The Partnering Toolbook,* London: International Business Leaders Forum and the Global Alliance to Improve Nutrition, p. 11.
[5] Ibid, p. 11.
[6] Established in January 2004, The Partnering Initiative (TPI) is a global programme of the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) in association with the University of Cambridge. The Partnering Initiative undertakes hands-on action research and provides tailored learning programmes, professional skills development and partnership review and evaluation.

Table 2: The Partnering Initiative's Five-fold Approach to Partnership Evaluation

Element	**Focus**	**Result**
Monitoring	Ensuring partners are fulfilling commitments and contributions	Understanding of project progress, equity between partners
Reflecting	Decision making process, communication, partnership management	Improved efficiency and effectiveness of the partnership
Reviewing	Looking at partnership value for each individual or organization	Sustainability Captures added value of the partnership beyond project impact
Assessing Impact	Activities, outputs, outcomes	Project delivery, increased capacity
Evaluating Partnership Approach	Comparison of achievements & transaction costs. Is this still the best or only approach?	Assessment of appropriateness of methodology to aims

The Global Public Policy Institute[7] argues that a major impediment to more effective global partnership building is the lack of systematic and comparable impact assessment. While the standard evaluation practices of UN agencies and their partners may be effective in measuring the impacts of their joint activities, these practices may not be able to cope with the complexity inherent in multi-stakeholder partnerships, for example:

- Comprehensive management and governance arrangements
- Diverse partner expectations and success criteria
- Changing individual and joint objectives as the partnership's needs evolve

The development and use of more strategic evaluation approaches is not only important for partnership accountability purposes, but also has the potential to provide the UN and its partners with "the basis for higher-level strategy development and appropriate resource allocation as well as for learning."[8]

[7] J.M. Witte & W. Reinicke (2005) Business UNusual: Facilitating United Nations Reform Through Partnerships, New York: UN Global Compact Office in association with the Global Public Policy Institute.

[8] Ibid, p. xii.

The five partnerships studied reveal the following lessons about the review and evaluation:

- Whereas most of the partnerships have effective project monitoring and evaluation procedures as part of their reporting to donors, none have adopted a comprehensive approach to date. There has been limited attention to reflecting on decision-making processes, reviewing partnership value for individual partners or to evaluating the partnership approach per se.

- GARD has a stated commitment to undertaking a formal review of both partnership governance/management and to the monitoring/evaluation of partnership activities. WHO has responsibility for monitoring and evaluating all GARD activities as outlined in GARD's strategic plan for 2008-13. A monitoring report will be prepared every two years and an evaluation report will be due at the end of the strategic plan period.

- The FSC is currently developing an M&E Unit that will be expected to examine the overall functioning of the institution. This will include a review of the FSC's standards (including impact indicators). The FSC recognizes that effective M&E processes should provide the organization and its members with the information flows required to meet the FSC's strategic objectives. The FSC is also undertaking a review of its governance arrangements that is exploring ways of increasing the participation of the organization's network components globally.

4. Partner Commitment and Participation

An ongoing challenge facing all multi-stakeholder partnerships is the need to mobilize and maintain the active involvement of all partners in the development and implementation of the partnership and its activities. The following points capture important lessons learned from the five partnerships in this regard:

- All of the partnerships reviewed have varying levels of participation globally with certain regions and countries under-represented and others over-represented. For example, the FSC has historically had limited African participation beyond South Africa.

- The levels of participation across the five partnerships fluctuate depending on both the activity and the geographical focus. Smaller numbers of partners tend to be active at in global-level meetings with greater participation in country-level initiatives. For example, only 30 of the PCFV's 100 partners are active at the global level with most of the others engaged in national or regional initiatives.

- Only small numbers of 'free riders' appear to have joined global partnerships primarily to seek funding for their own activities.

- Global partnerships need to ensure that there are opportunities for partners to undertake local partnership activities (e.g., country or regionally focused activities). Some of the partnerships studied have or plan to develop national partnerships under the global partnership umbrella. This helps to enhance partner participation, ownership and sustainability.

- There is considerable related activity that does not necessarily take place under the global partnership umbrella. While it may be beneficial for global partnerships to promote and disseminate the results of such related initiatives, individual partners should be empowered to develop their own projects independent of the global partnership.

Attachment I: Profiles of Five Global Partnerships Reviewed

- **Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV):** is a global initiative of 110 diverse organizations and individuals cooperating to more efficiently and successfully address cleaner fuel and vehicle issues in developing countries for improved air quality. PCFV operates towards the implementation of two identified priority areas: the elimination of lead in gasoline and the phase down of sulphur in diesel and gasoline fuels, and the adoption of cleaner vehicle technologies. Launched at the WSSD in 2002, the partners met for the first time in New York on 14 and 15 November 2002 to discuss and develop the implementation arrangements for PCFV. There are over 90 PCFV partners, which include Governments, Civil Society Organizations, International Organizations and Institutions of Higher Learning. The PCFV Clearing House is housed by UNEP's Secretariat in Nairobi.

- **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC):** is an international association of some 700 members consisting of a diverse group of representatives from environmental and social groups, the timber trade and the forestry profession, indigenous people's organizations, responsible corporations, community forestry groups and forest product certification organizations from around the world. An independent, international non-profit organization, the FSC promotes responsible management of the world's forests through developing standards and a system that accredits independent third party organizations to certify forest managers and forest product producers to FSC standards enabling wood and paper products to carry the FSC trademark. There are currently more than 700 FSC members from the environmental, social and economic sectors. Since the FSC's founding assembly in 1993, almost 100 million hectares in more than 70 countries have been certified according to FSC standards while several thousand products are produced using FSC-certified wood and carrying the FSC trademark. FSC operates through its network of National Initiatives in 45 countries. Its governance structure is based on principles of participation, democracy, equity and transparency.

- **Stop Tuberculosis Partnership (Stop TB):** is a network of more then 500 international organizations, countries, donors from the public and private sectors, and nongovernmental and governmental organizations that are working together to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health problem and ultimately to realize a world free of TB. The World Health Assembly endorsed the establishment of a Global Partnership to Stop TB in 2000 and agreed on two targets for 2005: to diagnose 70% of all people with infectious TB, and to cure 85% of those diagnosed. The partners came together at the First Stop TB Partners' Forum held in Washington D.C. in October 2001 to launch the Global Plan to Stop TB - the overarching framework of the Stop TB Partnership's combined actions. Its Secretariat is housed within the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariat in Geneva.

- **Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD):** is a voluntary alliance of 80 national and international organizations, institutions, and agencies working towards the common goal of improving global lung health by adopting a comprehensive approach to fight chronic respiratory diseases. Officially launched in March 2006 in Beijing, GARD is part of the WHO's global work to prevent and control chronic diseases with its Secretariat located in Geneva. The focus is specifically on the needs of low- and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations, and fosters country-specific initiatives that are tailored to local needs. GARD also seeks to improve coordination between existing governmental and nongovernmental programmes in order to avoid duplication of efforts and wasting of resources.

- **Global Mercury Partnership (GMP):** is open to any government, non-government, public and private partners that agree to work together to meet the goal of the Partnership. The GMP was endorsed by global governments at UNEP's 25th Session of Governing Council in February 2009. The overall goal of the Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury by minimizing and, where feasible, eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to the environment. The GMP delivers on its goal by working to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition as well as through sharing and exchanging relevant information. Seven individual partnership areas have been formed that reflect the main sources and concerns related to mercury, including: mercury release from coal combustion, artisanal and small scale gold mining, mercury cell chlor alkali production, mercury in products, mercury waste management, mercury air transport and fate research, and mercury supply and storage. A Partnership Advisory Group has been established to encourage the work of the GMP and review overall progress. The first meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group took place in April 2009. The Clearing House is housed by UNEP's Secretariat in Geneva. There are currently 62 registered partners.

Appendix II: Forest Stewardship Council Chambers

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a membership association, which is open to a wide range of organizations and individuals representing economic, environmental and social interests. All members should demonstrate an active commitment to the FSC and its Principles and Criteria.

FSC membership consists of three chambers: Economic, Environmental and Social:

Economic chamber: includes organizations with a commercial interest in responsible forestry. Certification bodies, industry and trade associations (whether profit or non-profit), wholesalers, retailers, traders, and consulting companies with demonstrated support of the FSC Principles and Criteria are all potential members of the Economic Chamber.

Applicants with economic interest must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing the FSC Principles and Criteria in their operations. It is expected that:

- Certification bodies be in the process of being accredited by FSC,
- Traders have made a commitment to have a significant percentage of their sales in certified timber by a set date in the reasonable future,
- Producers have a significant part of their production forests certified by an FSC accredited certification body or be certified within a reasonable time frame, usually two years.

Environmental chamber: includes non-profit, non-governmental organizations, as well as research, academic, technical institutions that have an active interest in environmentally viable forest stewardship.

Social chamber: includes non-profit, non-governmental organizations, as well as research, academic, technical institutions that have a demonstrated commitment to socially beneficial forestry. Organizations in this chamber support forest management and believe in delivering forest products to the market in a way that does not infringe on the rights of other stakeholders.

Annex II: Information specific to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

- **The Overarching Framework that governs the work of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**
- **Information on becoming a partner**
- **Example business plan**

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

Overarching Framework UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Version of June 2009

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INTRODUCTION

The attached document, which explains the ongoing work of existing partnerships, responds to the call of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in its decision 24/3, paragraph 27 (a), for an overarching framework for strengthening the Global Mercury Programme. It has been developed under the auspices of the Executive Director in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders. The document was forwarded to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session where progress made by the Partnership was welcomed and the continued involvement of UNEP in the Partnership was endorsed.

PREAMBLE

UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9 called for mercury partnerships between governments and other stakeholders as one approach to reducing risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment. This call is consistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/215 "Towards Global Partnerships" that defines partnerships as "...voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits" (Paragraph 2). In response to UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9, five partnership areas were identified in 2005: mercury release from coal combustion, artisanal and small scale gold mining, mercury cell chlor alkali production, mercury in products, and mercury air transport and fate research.

In Decision 24/3 part IV, UNEP Governing Council recognized "that current efforts to reduce risks from mercury are not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury" and concluded, therefore, "that further long-term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and the environment and that, for this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue."

In Paragraph 27 of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 part IV, UNEP was tasked with working in consultation with Governments and stakeholders in strengthening the UNEP mercury programme partnerships by:

"... *(a) Developing an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership through, among other means, organizing a meeting of partners and other stakeholders, including:*

(i) Development of business plans;
(ii) Identification of partnership goals;
(iii) Development of operational guidelines;

(b) Expanding the number and scope of partnerships to include new, growing or related sectors such as vinyl chloride monomer production, non-ferrous metals mining and cement production and waste combustion;

(c) Enhancing the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership through, among other things, increased cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, exploration of innovative market-based approaches and dissemination of alternative capture and recycling technologies;

(d) Endeavouring to secure adequate funds for the Global Mercury Partnership efforts."

Furthermore, the UNEP Mercury Programme is guided by the seven priorities set out in Paragraph 19 of the UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 part IV:

" *(a) To reduce atmospheric mercury emissions from human sources;*

(b) To find environmentally sound solutions for the management of waste containing mercury and mercury compounds;

(c) To reduce global mercury demand related to use in products and production processes;

(d) To reduce the global mercury supply, including considering curbing primary mining and taking into account a hierarchy of sources;

(e) To find environmentally sound storage solutions for mercury;

(f) To address, considering the results of the analysis referred to in paragraph 24 (d) below[1], *the remediation of existing contaminated sites affecting public and environmental health;*

(g) To increase knowledge on areas such as inventories, human and environmental exposure, environmental monitoring and socio-economic impacts."

The development of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will complement and support the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3. It has been developed in consultation with governments and other stakeholders. It should be viewed as a dynamic document that will be reviewed and updated in the light of experience with its application.

[1] UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 Part IV Paragraph 24.d:
Requests the Executive Director to prepare a report, drawing on, among other things, ongoing work in other forums addressing: … Site-based contamination '*(d) An analysis of information on the extent of contaminated sites, the risks to public and environmental health of mercury compound releases from such sites, environmentally sound mitigation options and associated costs and the contribution of contaminated sites to global releases.*'

1. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Goal

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

The partnership areas should support the overall goal of the Partnership through contributing to the following objectives, consistent with the priorities set out in paragraph 19 of Governing Council Decision 24/3:

- Minimization and, where possible, elimination of mercury supply considering a hierarchy of sources, and the retirement of mercury from the market to environmentally sound management.
- Minimization and, where feasible, elimination of unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land from anthropogenic sources.
- Continued minimization and elimination of global use and demand for mercury.
- Promoting the development of non-mercury technologies where suitable economically feasible alternatives do not exist.

To achieve these objectives the partnership areas should also:

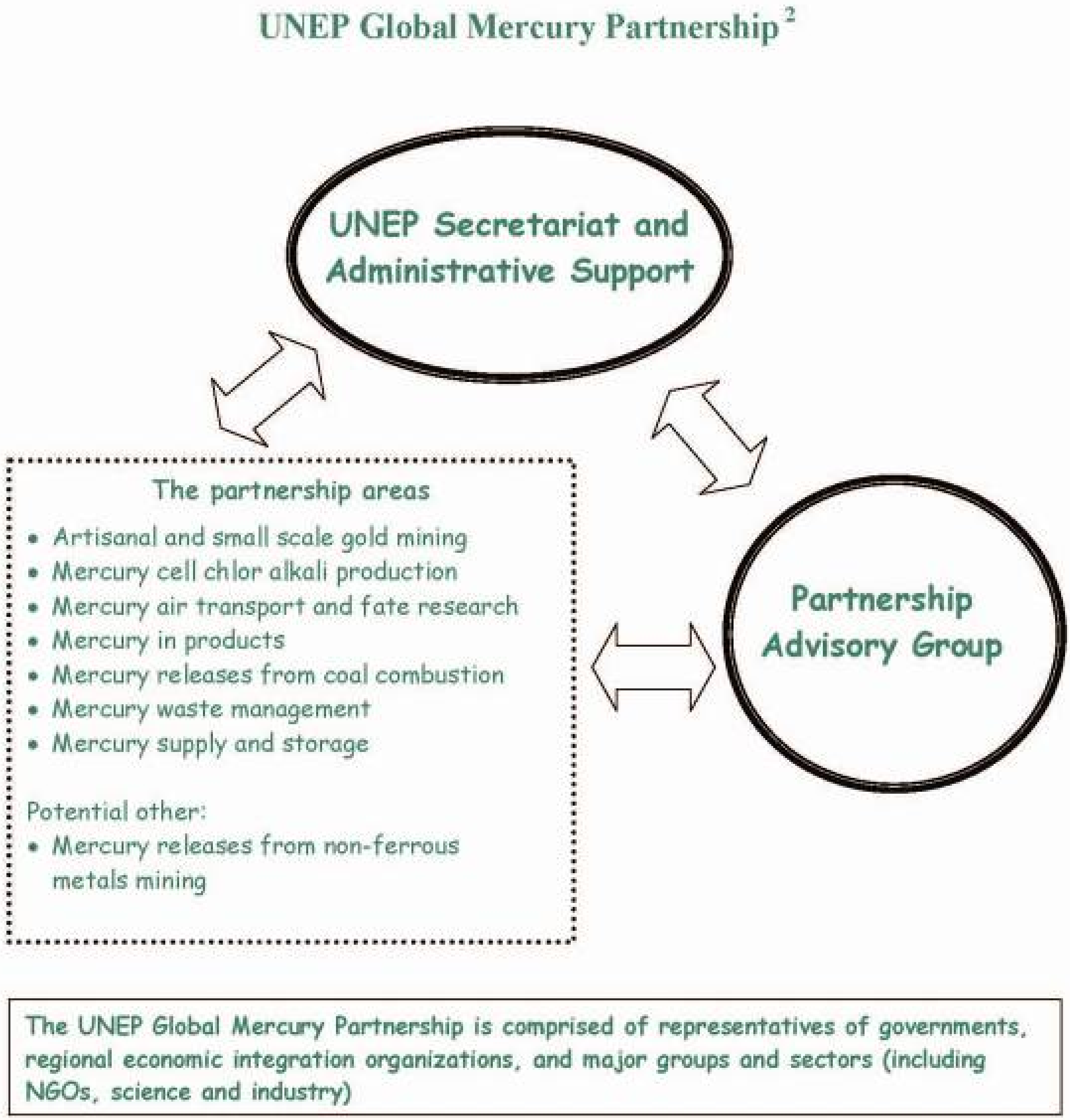
- Strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- Share and exchange information.

2. Organizational Structure

The organizational structure will facilitate meeting the overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the objectives of the partnership areas in a transparent, inclusive, flexible and effective way.

The organizational structure set out in Figure 1 below will provide broad oversight, coherence, direction and facilitation. It will assist partners in coordinating objectives and serve as a body for deliberation on cross-cutting issues. It is designed to be accountable and sustainable in nature and allow for effective monitoring and review.

Figure 1 - Organizational Structure



[2] As of May 2009, seven partnership areas were established. Other areas were in the process of being considered and initiated.

3. Operational Guidelines

The Operational Guidelines set out in Annex 1 accommodate the wide scope of issues under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, maintaining flexibility in undertaking the partnership area activities in a transparent, accountable and inclusive way. The Operational Guidelines are to be applied to all aspects of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, including the proposed Partnership Advisory Group and the partnership areas.

4. Business plans

Business plans are called for under UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3.
The structure for the plans is outlined in Annex 2 to provide guidance to the partnership areas.

The business plans should have the flexibility to allow for perspectives of new partners to be considered and included within them. Business plans should also be periodically reviewed. While the goal and objectives would largely remain the same over time, priorities and timelines will need to be updated regularly in the light of progress in implementation and changing circumstances.

5. Information Exchange

UNEP will share and disseminate information on relevant issues, develop and disseminate outreach materials and support partners as requested in addressing responsibilities.

6. Financial Resources

Financial resources are required to operate the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The partnership area objectives and business plans should provide clarity for potential donors and finance institutions and assist in mobilizing resources in a systematic, focused and harmonized way to meet the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

7. Evaluation

The partnership areas will report biennially to UNEP in accordance with the UNEP reporting format[3]. UNEP will facilitate reporting of progress to governments, including the UNEP Governing Council or its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.

Reporting will include tracking partnership activities and partner contributions as well as assessing effectiveness, and measuring the impact of partnership activities on the achievement of the overall goal. The reports will enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The reports will be made available through the Partnership Secretariat's web site.

[3] UNEP will develop a systematic reporting format and timeline for the partnership areas.

ANNEX 1 - OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

The present guidelines govern the operations of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

1. THE PARTNERSHIP

(a) The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, consistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/215 "Towards Global Partnerships" and will support the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

(b) The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership operates through partnership areas[4] that address issues of priority as identified by Decision 24/3 paragraph 19 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

2. PARTICIPATION

(a) The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is open to any government, regional economic integration organization, international organization, industry or business organization, non-governmental/civil society organization or academic institution that supports the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership goal. It is open also to any other entity or an individual who agrees to work towards the goal of the Partnership.

(b) Each entity or individual, upon becoming a participant of the Partnership (hereinafter referred to as a "partner"), will contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.

(c) To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Such letters of intention should be submitted to:

[4] As of May 2009, seven partnership areas were established. Other areas were in the process of being considered and initiated.

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Such letters of intention will be made public through the Partnership Secretariat's web-site.

3. PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY GROUP

(a) A Partnership Advisory Group, composed of up to 25 members, is established to serve the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

(b) The Partnership Advisory Group will be comprised of representatives of governments, regional economic integration organizations, and major groups and sectors (including NGOs, science and industry). The Partnership Advisory Group membership shall include participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and shall take into account geographical representation and gender balance.

(c) UNEP Executive Director shall invite the following representatives to serve as members of the Partnership Advisory Group:

(i) The partnership area leads.
(ii) Partners nominated from the partnership areas.
(iii) Other representatives, as may be needed to meet the compositional requirements of paragraph b.

The Executive Director may invite additional representatives to participate on an intermediate basis in the Partnership Advisory Group when new partnership areas are established.

(d) The Partnership Advisory Group members will select a Chair who will serve for a two year term. The Chair may be re-elected and may serve a maximum of two terms.

(e) UNEP will be represented as ex-officio in the Partnership Advisory Group and will provide the Secretariat.

(f) The functions and responsibilities of the Partnership Advisory Group will include the following:

(i) To encourage the work of the partnership areas consistent with the overall goal and operational guidelines of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
(ii) To review the partnership area business plans in order to advise the partnership areas on the consistency of their business plans with the overall goal and the operational guidelines of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
(iii) To report to the Executive Director of UNEP on overall progress.
(iv) To communicate overarching issues and lessons learned while promoting synergy and collaboration across partnership areas.
(v) To report on activities undertaken within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

4. MEETINGS

(a) Partnership Advisory Group

(i) The Partnership Advisory Group will meet at least on an annual basis and at such other times as deemed necessary.
(ii) Meetings may be in person, by conference call or by any other means.
(iii) The Partnership Advisory Group will act by consensus of its members.
(iv) Observers may attend meetings of the Partnership Advisory Group.
(v) Members and observers are expected to cover the costs of their participation. Nevertheless, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through its Secretariat shall undertake efforts towards obtaining funding to assure the participation of members from developing countries and countries with economies and transition and NGOs.
(vi) Reports of the meetings of the Partnership Advisory Group will be made available through the Partnership Secretariat's web site.

(b) The partnership areas

(i) Partners will meet at least on an annual basis and at such other times as deemed necessary.
(ii) Meetings may be in person, by conference call or by any other means.
(iii) The partnership areas will act by consensus of the partners thereof.
(iv) Observers may attend meetings of the partnership area upon its invitation or the invitation of its partnership area lead, provided that there is no objection from a partner taking part in that meeting.
(v) Partners and observers are expected to cover the costs of their participation. Nevertheless, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through its Secretariat shall undertake efforts towards obtaining funding to assure the participation of members from developing countries and countries with economies and transition and non-governmental organizations.
(vi) Each of the partnership areas will designate a lead who will serve for a two year term. The lead may be re-elected.

5. AMENDMENT TO THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Any Partner may propose changes to previously approved Partnership operational guidelines. Partners proposing any such amendment should submit a written explanation regarding the proposed amendment to the Partnership Secretariat. Proposals for amendments to the operational guidelines will be submitted to the Partnership Secretariat who would review them and submit them to the Partnership Advisory Group for consideration.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities are consistent across partnership areas and consistent with the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, while recognizing the unique contributions of individual partners.

(a) Role of the partners

The partners in the partnership areas will, *inter alia*:

(i) Initiate and undertake activities under the partnership area, conferring with other partners as needed.
(ii) Share information within their respective organization on the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the partnership areas.
(iii) Report to partnership leads on their activities within the partnership areas in terms of progress and results, in a timely manner, that can be used to monitor and review partnership progress and assess partnership results against agreed objectives.
(iv) Be proactive in identifying additional activities, strategies, and resources that would contribute to achieving the partnership objectives.
(v) Agree on a lead for the individual partnership areas.
(vi) Be active in fundraising on behalf of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
(vii) Provide guidance and technical assistance to the partnership areas.
(viii) Help bring new partners to participate in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, as appropriate.

(b) Role of the partnership area leads

The lead for each of the partnership areas will:

(i) Convene and chair the business planning and other meetings.
(ii) Facilitate the development of business plans.
(iii) Encourage input and the sharing of information and strategies among all individual partners in the partnership area.
(iv) Share and disseminate information regularly including providing reports on progress, lessons learned, and best practices to UNEP for wider public dissemination.
(v) Act as representative of the respective partnership area on the Partnership Advisory Group.
(vi) Report to UNEP on behalf of the partnership area.

(c) Role of UNEP

UNEP, subject to the availability of resources, will:

(i) Provide administrative and secretariat support.
(ii) Facilitate the reporting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to governments, including, where appropriate, the Governing Council or its subsidiary bodies.
(iii) Be proactive in fundraising on behalf of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
(iv) Provide guidance and technical assistance to the partnership areas.
(v) Help bring new partners to participate in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, as appropriate.
(vi) Serve as ex-officio on the Partnership Advisory Group.

(d) Included in its role under (c) above, UNEP shall provide the following support for information exchange activities:

(i) To disseminate information to the Partners on relevant issues.
(ii) To operate and maintain a website to provide easy access to information, partner activities, and resources.
(iii) To maintain a list of contacts.
(iv) To help to gather appropriate information for countries.
(v) To develop and disseminate public outreach materials about the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
(vi) To develop and disseminate technical materials for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
(vii) To make meeting reports and other relevant materials publicly available.

ANNEX 2 - BUSINESS PLAN TEMPLATE

I. Summary of the Issue (max of 250 words)

The summary highlights why this particular issue is important in the context of the overall UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. It provides the reader with some context of the issue.

II. Objective of the partnership area

The objective should reflect desired outcomes of the partnership area. Objectives are to be clear, measurable, target-oriented and realistic while at the same time being clearly linked to the ambitious goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Objectives will contribute to concrete results in a systematic way.

III. Priority actions

This section identifies the key priority activities for the partnership area (suggest three to five priority actions). The partnership area priority actions link to the objective.

IV. Partner efforts and timelines

This section delineates the major contributions of the partners for each of the priority actions, including overarching, bilateral and collaborative efforts:

- Efforts must be clearly link to the partnership area objective(s).
- Brief specific descriptions of efforts are provided, with costs, timeframes, targets and milestones, as appropriate and available.
- Contact information is provided for all efforts.

V. Opportunities

This section notes other concepts and ideas that are of potential interest to the partnership area in terms of meeting the partnership area objectives but that are not being pursued in the current time frame. This allows the partners to log 'good ideas' that may need more scoping and/or are currently unfunded. It also allows partners to communicate with each other on interesting efforts for future business plans and may generate interest of new partners and enhanced transparency.

Opportunities should clearly link to the partnership area objectives and be as specific as possible.

VI. Evaluation

COMMON TO ALL OF THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS:

The partnership areas will report biennially to UNEP in accordance with the UNEP reporting format[5]. Reporting will include tracking partnership activities and partner contributions as well as assessing effectiveness, and measuring the impact of partnership activities on the achievement of the overall goal.

IN THIS SECTION, THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS SHALL:

- Outline the indicators of progress in meeting the partnership area objective(s).
- Describe how the partnership area will undertake performance measurement and reporting.

VII. Resource Mobilization

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the associated partnership area business plans are a way of mobilizing resources in a systematic, focused and harmonized way. The partnership area objectives and business plans should provide clarity for potential donors and finance institutions. If partners wish to leverage funding for particular projects, details should be outlined within this section for partner consideration.

The partners are encouraged to contribute financially and also to offer in-kind assistance.

Partners can develop specific initiatives, work with non-partners, or pursue projects consistent with partnership objectives. It is hoped that the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will serve as a mechanism to consolidate and leverage funding for large, strategic projects.

Partners are encouraged to apply for funding to relevant funders and regional organizations. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition can submit requests for funding to UNEP under the UNEP Mercury Small Grants Program (see www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Overview-&-priorities.htm). UNEP and other partner implementing agencies stand ready to assist countries to develop proposals addressing mercury issues under the SAICM Quick Start Programme (see www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp.htm).

VIII. Business Planning Process

The process in developing and reviewing business plans will be outlined in this section. Partnerships will take stock of efforts and test direction and productivity in moving forward and will adjust planning accordingly.

[5] UNEP will develop a systematic reporting format and timeline for the partnership areas to follow.

IX. LINKAGES

It is understood that the partnerships undertake cross-cutting work. Key related activities should be listed in this section, including:

- Cross-cutting activity internal to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership efforts
- External to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership efforts.

X. PARTNERS

This section is a list of partners, and the key points of contact.
It also identifies the partnership are lead and any other relevant information.

Further information is available at http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/ .

UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme

About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) helps governments, local authorities and decision-makers in business and industry to develop and implement policies and practices focusing on sustainable development.

The Division works to promote:

> sustainable consumption and production,
> the efficient use of renewable energy,
> adequate management of chemicals,
> the integration of environmental costs in development policies.

The Office of the Director, located in Paris, coordinates activities through:

> The International Environmental Technology Centre - IETC (Osaka, Shiga), which implements integrated waste, water and disaster management programmes, focusing in particular on Asia.
> Sustainable Consumption and Production (Paris), which promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns as a contribution to human development through global markets.
> Chemicals (Geneva), which catalyzes global actions to bring about the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety worldwide.
> Energy (Paris), which fosters energy and transport policies for sustainable development and encourages investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
> OzonAction (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to ensure implementation of the Montreal Protocol.
> Economics and Trade (Geneva), which helps countries to integrate environmental considerations into economic and trade policies, and works with the finance sector to incorporate sustainable development policies.

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of knowledge and information, fostering technological cooperation and partnerships, and implementing international conventions and agreements.

see www.unep.org

www.unep.org

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UNEP

For more information, contact:
UNEP DTIE
Chemicals Branch
International Environment House
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Tel: +41 22 917 81 92
Fax: +41 22 797 34 60
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch
www.chem.unep.ch

The attached document, which explains the ongoing work of existing partnerships, responds to the call of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in its decision 24/3, paragraph 27 (a), for an overarching framework for strengthening the Global Mercury Programme. It has been developed under the auspices of the Executive Director in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders. The document was forwarded to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session where progress made by the Partnership was welcomed and the continued involvement of UNEP in the Partnership was endorsed.

DTI/1132/GE

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP
INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address:
http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm

WHAT IS THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP ?

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership complements and supports the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 25/5.

As of April 2009, the following partnership areas have been initiated:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining;
- mercury cell chlor alkali production;
- mercury air transport and fate research;
- mercury in products;
- mercury releases from coal combustion;
- mercury waste management; and
- mercury supply and storage.

Other partnership areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

WHAT IS THE OVERALL GOAL OF THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP ?

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

WHAT DOES JOINING THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP MEAN FOR PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS ?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

HOW DOES AN ORGANIZATION JOIN THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP?

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Such letters should be submitted to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form.
Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP through a letter of confirmation.
Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals web site.

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP
REGISTRATION FORM*

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:

- ☐ artisanal and small scale gold mining
- ☐ mercury cell chlor alkali production
- ☐ mercury air transport and fate research
- ☐ mercury in products
- ☐ mercury releases from coal combustion
- ☐ mercury waste management
- ☐ mercury supply and storage

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME	
NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE	
ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION	
TEL. No.	
EMAIL	
FAX No.	
WEBSITE/URL	

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- ☐ Government
- ☐ Regional economic integration organization
- ☐ Non-government Organization
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Scientific community
- ☐ Other, please specify: ____________________

*UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal.
The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Draft Business Plan of the
Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Partnership Area

7 August 2008

This Business Plan describes the activities of the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) partnership area of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership. It serves as a planning and communication vehicle both for Partners and others.

The purpose of the business plan is to provide a framework for developing and implementing projects. The business plan is to serve as a resource for providing a common, cohesive structure for implementing the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The partnership is open for government and stakeholder participation. In UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 part IV paragraph 27, UNEP is tasked with working in consultation with Governments and stakeholders to strengthen the UNEP Global Mercury Partnerships. New activities and partners are encouraged within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

I. SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

- The artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector remains the largest demand sector for mercury globally (best global estimates put mercury use in the range of 650-1000 tonne/year in 2005). Virtually all of the mercury used is released to the environment.
- This sector produces 20-30% of the world's gold (approximately 500-800 tonnes in 2005), and involves an estimated 10-15 million miners, including 4.5 million women and 1 million children. With the price of gold rising to $900 oz in December 2007, a gold rush involving additional poverty-driven miners is currently underway in many countries and the number of miners using mercury could increase in the coming years.
- Serious long-term environmental health hazards exist for populations associated with or downstream/wind from mining operations, often including indigenous peoples.
- ASGM sites are usually remote and scattered. The practice is informal and in some countries illegal. Reaching out to individual miners is challenging. Encouraging sustained behaviour change of miners requires understanding and overcoming social and cultural barriers.
- Mercury amalgamation is currently the most commonly used method to extract gold in artisanal and small-scale gold mining due to its ease of use, low cost, and abundant supply. Whole ore amalgamation dramatically increases the potential for the excess mercury in use to be released to the environment. In some cases, this excess mercury approaches 90% of what is used. This practice accounts for a growing portion of the more than 1/3 of all mercury demand in ASGM. Preferred techniques involve many options for concentrating the ore prior to amalgamation, greatly reducing the amounts of mercury used.
- Alternatives to mercury use in artisanal gold mining exist, but at present most are not widely known and are generally ore -specific in their applicability. Cyanide chemical extraction, the only other widely-practiced method, also presents risks to human health and the environment, and its use can create additional problems. When used with or after mercury, the production of methylmercury is enhanced.
- Higher mercury prices can act as an economic incentive for miners to reduce mercury releases and can create demand for alternative technologies.
- A niche market for fair trade artisanally mined gold is emerging. Associated with this niche market is the opportunity to generally raise awareness on this issue and promote cleaner ASGM practices. Supply of fair trade gold to the market remains limited. At present there is no independently certified ASGM gold available in the market. It should be available in 2009. The only certified mercury free gold is the Green Gold of Colombia, which is a registered trademark.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The objective of this partnership is continued minimization and elimination of mercury uses and releases in artisanal and small scale gold mining. The Partnership aims to complement and supplement existing programmes in key, strategically selected ways that ensure that mercury reductions on the ground are globally significant. Consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the partnership area will meet its objectives by:

- Providing assistance to developing countries and countries with economic in transition to formalize / regulate the ASGM sector.
- working with governments to address financial, policy and regulatory options which can improve the ability of mining communities to achieve significant reduction of mercury use and emissions.
- providing economic, technical, and educational information / guidance to miners and mining communities.
- working within supply chains to promote environmentally sound gold products.

Target: The Partnership promotes a target of a 50 percent reduction in mercury demand in ASGM by the year 2017. To achieve this, the Partnership seeks to eliminate the practice of whole ore amalgamation. Additionally, the Partnership will work to promote other changes in ASGM mining and processing techniques to achieve measurable reductions in mercury releases.

III. PRIORITY ACTIONS

1. Support government efforts in setting national objectives/reduction targets for ASGM, including:
   - Facilitate the development of 'Strategic Country Plans'.
   - Provide tools to assist in understanding and addressing the issue, including formalizing the ASGM sector.
   - Characterize extent of mercury consumption and emission, as required, building on existing information.

2. Eliminate the practice of whole-ore mercury amalgamation and achieve additional reductions in mercury use and emissions throughout the artisanal gold mining sector through the following:
   - Document and make available, in a way that is helpful and convincing to miners, ways to increase gold yield from alternative practices compared to existing practice.
   - Encourage and implement use of best available technology and best environmental practices, including non-mercury technologies, to reduce or eliminate mercury consumption and releases into the environment.
   - Encourage legislators to make the use of retort compulsory.

3. Promote awareness and adoption of clean ASGM practices and technologies among governments, NGOs, miners, cyanide manufacturers and other stakeholders. Priority activities include:
   - Promoting and adapting, based on site specific needs, non-mercury technologies, through activities such as disseminating information about the applicability and availability of non-mercury mining technologies and practices, including information and stewardship on cyanide use. This will include information of the incompatibility between cyanidation and almalgamation.
   - Increasing the availability and the dissemination of user-friendly information to communities and community-based groups regarding mercury risks to reduce occupational/ environmental exposures and environmental contamination.
   - Increasing cadres of trained local specialists to work in communities on a long-term basis to foster behaviour change among miners, through for example regional training centres.
   - Implementing projects that:
     - Create opportunities to locally manufacture affordable ore concentrating equipment.
     - Expand the use of mercury vapour control technologies and retorting in small-scale gold processing with amalgam processing throughout the chain of custody between gold miner and end-user.

4. Explore innovative market-based approaches, including:

- Support the development and implementation of fair trade standards, such as the Association for Responsible Mining's (ARM) Standard Zero.
- Promote environmentally sound gold products locally, regionally and globally through, for example: raising awareness of gold consumers, building capacity among miners to meet mercury management components of fair trade programs and building organised miners' capacity to access micro-credit.

IV. EVALUATION

The Partnership areas will create a mechanism to allow interested parties to monitor on-going efforts and will report annually, and upon request, to UNEP Governing Council through UNEP on progress under the Partnership[9]. Partners will also provide periodic reports to UNEP upon completion of priority activities. Results will be reported in terms of measurable results related to the Partnership objectives, consistent with the targets and milestones identified in the Partnership efforts. Results can be captured in various dimensions, such as:

- Achievement of long-term reduction goals.
- Was there less mercury purchased and used in the communities where technical activities are carried out?
- How much less mercury is now used in the target countries compared to before the project was undertaken? (baseline is the 2005 data from the 2006 UNEP Trade Report)
- What are the emissions reductions achieved?
- Where available and where feasible, number of kilograms of gold produced by ASM for one kilogram of mercury used in the sector.
- Availability of guidance tools to build capacity at the local level.

V. PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS AND TIMELINES

UNIDO Global Mercury Project (GMP)

The UNIDO GMP has been focused on this important problem in six pilot countries for the past five years in UNIDO's GMP Phase I: Brazil, Sudan, Indonesia, Lao's People's Democratic Republic, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Phase II is being planned on a global scale. Funding is currently being scoped for UNIDO GMP Phase II. Limited funding is secured.

Many lessons were learned from the first round of UNIDO's GMP efforts with relevance to future application:

There is no single solution that can be applied to all sites.
Identifying the needs of the miners proved helpful but other issues may have prevented a complete solution.
artisanal miners will only implement any process if they feel that there is economic advantage associated with environmental practices.
Creating a greater presence in the field allowed for better implementation.
Solutions happen with a continued, not short-term, presence.
Flexibility in implementation and connectivity to other projects are essential.
Mercury replacement will take time, in the interim promoting better operations will achieve substantially reduced releases.

Within the UNIDO GMP context, after an analytical survey of needs, a prescriptive approach involving one or more of the following activities will be initiated. In brief summary, a menu of the activities planned under the GMP include:

- Field-level technical activities such as inventories of project sites, environmental and health

[9] UNEP will develop a systematic reporting format and timeline for the partnership areas to follow.

assessments and demonstrations of affordable and local technologies for improved gold processing.
- Awareness campaigns related to the danger of mercury use.
- Training of local trainers to disseminate information on technology to artisanal miners.
- Assisting in the improvement of national and international policy.

More information, including an extensive database of related publications is available on the project website: http://www.globalmercuryproject.org/

Association for Responsible Mining – Standard Zero

- Under the Association for Responsible Mining (ARM) standard zero, responsible mercury and cyanide use are allowable for certain certification levels but mercury-free gold would meet a premium "green gold" standard.
- The standard zero of ARM proposes a process to support the miners organizations to minimise the use of mercury and cyanide over an agreed upon period of time, through implementation of responsible practices and technologies to mitigate impact on the environment and human health.
- ARM is working on field-testing the Standard Zero in four countries in Latin America: Bolivia (2 cooperatives in Cotapata), Colombia (Choco – 2 community councils, and Nariño – 2 cooperatives), Ecuador (Bella Rica), and Peru (Central Peru – 3 community miners companies). Both Nariño and Peru have important progress to show in mercury reduction. Choco does not use it at all. These are key showcases for dissemination, which can be reinforced through a miner` exchange program to induce horizontal learning.
- Pilot projects will be implemented in Africa in 2008-2 and 2009 (Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda).

More information on http://www.communitymining.org/

Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM):

The Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM) initiative was launched in 2001, in response to a critical need for integrated, multi-disciplinary solutions to the complex social and environmental challenges facing ASM communities, and improved coordination between those working in this sector.

CASM is a global networking and coordination facility with a stated mission to "to reduce poverty by improving the environmental, social and economic performance of artisanal and small-scale mining in developing countries." CASM is currently chaired by the UK's Department for International Development and is housed at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Resourced by a multi-donor trust fund, CASM can provide support to, and mobilize practical expertise from, its global network of members. Its activities range from ASM initiatives in many countries—working with companies, governments, civil society and miners themselves—through to engagement in international development policy dialogues. CASM's engagement in capacity building and community level projects with country partners and miners has helped CASM in its important advocacy role to communicate to international forums and development agencies the potentially positive development influence that ASM can have, based on evidence provided by practical experience.

The United States has partnered with the World Bank's CASM Program to develop a mercury web page on the CASM website, with links to UNIDO, UNEP, and other resources. The intent is to reach those stakeholders who use CASM's services but who may not be aware of the mercury issue or its solutions. Next steps include developing a process for updates and improvements to the site, and collection of public awareness documents and tools which can be readily accessed from the site and adapted for local languages and situations.

More information available on http://www.artisanalmining.org/index.cfm (click on right-hand "of interest" button)

Small-scale Gold Processing Project:

The United States, local governments in Brazil, UNIDO and UNEP have partnered to reduce mercury emissions from gold processing shops in the Amazon. The Partnership has verified baseline measurements in the Amazon, and developed options for locally-manufactured appropriate technology solutions for the capture of mercury vapours in the gold shops. A prototype technology was installed in 6 gold shops in 2 cities in the Brazilian Amazon and tested at over 80% efficiency of mercury vapour capture. The total estimated mercury reduction to date is 78.75kg.

The project is engaging other partners to disseminate the technology further in Brazil, and into other countries. A report of the Brazil technology demonstration is available online, including case study information and a manual for building and installing the technology. A site assessment for gold refining shop applications in the Peruvian Amazon was undertaken in May 2008, with a return visit and pilot mercury capture system installation anticipated in September 2008. An outreach workshop in Brazil will occur in the September/October timeframe.

More information on http://www.artisanalmining.org/index.cfm?page=page_disp&pid=4264

Senegal Improved Artisanal Mining Technology and Training Project:

Senegal has partnered with the United States, UNIDO, the Blacksmith Institute, and local NGOs to reduce the use, emissions, and health effects of widespread mercury use in the gold mining region of eastern Senegal, near Tambacounda. Beginning with a baseline assessment of mercury use by field miners, partners developed and implemented a plan to train community-based NGOs and health workers on appropriate technologies for mercury capture and reuse, and safe mercury management techniques. Over 800 miners have been trained in the use of hand-held retorts as a mercury collection device for use during gold amalgamation in the field. Over 250 miners have purchased retorts and about 94% report that they use these retorts consistently in the amalgamation process, with mercury release reduction to date of over 38.5kg.

To ensure buy-in and sustainability of cleaner technology approaches, USEPA is planning a meeting to be hosted by the Government of Senegal, in mid-September, 2008, where government officials, academics, and representatives from the artisanal gold mining community will develop and agree to promote a model strategy for the remaining 8,000 miners to ensure mercury reduced exposure.

Next steps include a regional approach to encourage neighboring mining countries to develop action plans for dramatic reductions in mercury use, emissions and exposure throughout the artisanal gold supply chain.

More information on http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Sector-Specific-Information/Artisanal-small-scale-mining.htm

Mongolia Mining Project:

Mongolian NGO Sans Frontiers Progress (SFP) and PACT partnered with the United States on an awareness and education and training campaign about mercury use, harm reduction strategies, and alternative technologies including a non-mercury sluice in the South Gobi mining region. A data collection component assisted in assessing the national mercury picture. Key results include broad dissemination of public awareness materials, development and dissemination of guidance on mercury free extraction methods, completion of baseline data survey.

More information on http://pact.mn/mercury_awareness.html

National Strategies:

Partners will help stakeholders in key countries to adopt reduction goals and to create a strategic plan that describes a specific timeline of activities to achieve specified mercury reductions. The purpose would be to bring stakeholders together to build on what is being done and develop an integrated strategy and synergies.

The national strategy would, amongst other things, consider:

1. What will it take to achieve significant reductions?
2. Which communities need to be worked in?
3. How much mercury do they use now?
4. What practices do they need to convert to?
5. What would an educational/community-based initiative look like?
6. How many people would need to be involved?
7. What would be the timeline?
8. What kind of government resources would be required?
9. What role could NGOs play? What role would the private sector play?
10. What information do we need to gather to set these priorities? Who can do that? Who can provide the resources?

UNEP Quick Start Project in South East Asia (focus in Cambodia and the Philippines):

This is an 18 month project targeted to start in September 2008. The project initially focuses on activities in the Philippines and Cambodia while including a broader regional element towards the end of the project. Cambodia and the Philippines will have the main coordination at a national level (i.e. planning, organization of work and workshops, national plan), and an inception workshop is planned for November 2008. Other stakeholders from environment, health, and mining ministries, local authorities, NGOs, etc. will be taking part in the project and its relevant activities. Similar projects in South America and Africa are planned.

Expected outcomes of the project:

National Working Group is formed. National workplan prepared.

Guidance on the development of a national strategic plan is developed.

Multi-stakeholder national strategic plan for ASGM is developed for Cambodia and the Philippines.

Regional collaboration and coordination is enhanced through exchange of experiences and lessons learned on a regional level. Awareness of governments and stakeholders is raised. A regional action plan will be developed within the region as a result of the regional conclusion workshop.

Stakeholders identified. Coordination of national stakeholders as well as public participation in activities is improved.

Harmonization System for responsible artisanal and small scale metals production

The Madison Dialogue Metals Working Group is working to develop an information-sharing and harmonization system for responsible artisanal and small-scale metals production. This group is building on existing activities and initiatives and is being facilitated by EARTHWORKS.

Contact Person: Scott Cardiff scardiff'at'earthworksaction.org"

Completed Projects

Suriname Training Project:

University of Bremen, UNIDO, Suriname and UNEP have partnered to train small-scale gold miners in clean technology, training of personnel to quantify atmospheric mercury emissions and its impact on health.

The project was funded (US$ 39,000) through the UNEP Mercury Trust Fund. Results are expected by the end of 2007 and will be posted on the UNEP web-site.

VI. OPPORTUNITIES

High profile Fair Trade Gold Campaign

There is an opportunity for a government or other stakeholders to launch a high profile 'Fair Trade Gold' campaign with gold consuming populations (industry and individuals) to increase marketing of 'Fair Trade Gold', work to streamline existing initiatives and develop international standards and to build profile.

'Standard Zero for Fair Trade Artisanal Gold' is a set of draft principles and standards produced under the coordination of the Association for Responsible Mining, ARM in partnership with FLO and FTF. They are an adaptation of the Fair Trade Labelling Organization (FLO) standards for small producers to the situation of ASGM, and follow the characteristic Fair Trade grouping of social, economic, labour and environmental development standards.

An associated capacity building project would be integrated into any campaign in order to build continued and assured supply of 'Fair Trade Gold' to consumers. Such a campaign could begin sometime in 2009 when it is believed that Fair Trade Gold will be available on the market.

Micro-finance initiative

There is an opportunity to scope out activity in the context of microfinance. Partners are encouraged to consider this aspect.

VII. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Partnerships and the associated business plans are a way of mobilizing funding in a systematic, focused and harmonized way. The Partnerships' objectives and business plans should provide clarity for potential donors and finance institutions. The business plans should encourage and facilitate donors to support activities and provide a tool to leverage funds. Working with UNEP, the overall Partnership lead would help to facilitate communication and provide administrative and management support (see Table on the following page) to ensure that individual activities or projects are supported and connected to the larger, overall strategic goals of the Partnership.

Funding for Partnership Activities:

Partners can develop specific initiatives, work with non-partners, or pursue projects consistent with partnership objectives. It is hoped that the Partnership will serve as a mechanism to consolidate and leverage funding for large, strategic projects. If partners wish to leverage funding for particular projects, details should be outlined within this section.

Partners are encouraged to apply for funding to relevant funders and regional organizations (seeking to collaborate regionally). Developing countries and countries with economies in transition can also submit requests for funding to UNEP under the UNEP Mercury Small Grants Program (see www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Overview-&-priorities.htm).

UNEP stands ready to assist countries to develop proposals addressing mercury issues under the SAICM Quick Start Programme (see www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp.htm) and is currently exploring possibilities with interested countries in South America and Asia.

Administration [10] and Management Support		**Value**	**Source of Support**
Partnership Lead[11]	Facilitation and support of the partnership.	¼ person year	UNIDO (supported by donors)
Organization Point of Contact	• Preparing Annual Business Plan. • Preparing for meetings. • Logging meeting notes, tracking action items. • Collaborating with partners to strategically link to overall partnership goals and objectives.	¼ person year	UNIDO (supported by donors)
UNEP Secretariat Support	• Managing the clearinghouse/website. • Taking in funding from multiple sources to fund projects. • Developing activity proposals in collaboration with partners. • Assisting the lead in following up activities by partners. • Other tasks as requested.	¼ person year	In-kind support from UNEP (efficiencies of UNEP time will be gained when pulling some of these tasks out into the overarching activity of the partnership)
Face to face meetings	Estimated one per year. All attempts will be made to host face to face meetings of the partnerships in the most cost effective way (e.g. back-to-back with other related meetings and have the ability to call in).	Teleconference lines Travel support	In-kind support from USA UNEP will support some limited travel of developing countries/NGOs in face to face meetings, rest is in-kind support from partners for their own travel.
Teleconferences	Estimated 3 per year	Teleconference lines	In-kind support from USA
Other	Communication materials		In-kind support from Partners.

VIII. BUSINESS PLANNING PROCESS

The partners and interested stakeholders will need to establish how the future business planning process will operate. It is assumed that the business plan will be reviewed regularly and adjusted accordingly by the partners.

Ideas and thoughts for improving efforts would be welcome on means to identify and establish priorities, how best to take stock of efforts, determine whether the direction of the Partnership or the various projects needs to be reconsidered, and measure the productivity of the efforts under the Partnership.

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[10] Administrative support doesn’t cover the cost of administering individual projects.

[11] For the ASGM Partnership, the lead is UNIDO. The partner lead and the point of contact may be merged, pending the case

All partners will have an equal voice in participation. When possible, financial support should be provided to partners from developing countries to attend Partnership meetings.

IX. LINKAGES

Development of Emission Inventories.

UNEP is undertaking field testing of the 'Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases' in the Asian region (with five countries: Cambodia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen). Initial results from this project will start coming forward in early 2008 and will help provide valuable insights to these countries and to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in strategic activities in moving forward. Potential efforts under the Mercury in Products Partnership could be identified and developed as a result of this activity. UNEP will report on this activity to the ASGM Partnership. In particular, the Philippines and Cambodia expect to gain insights in the ASGM sector. Partners are also asked to feed known information to UNEP from these countries. Contact person: Brenda Koekkoek, UNEP Chemicals.

Mercury Fate and Transport Partnership.

The ASGM Partnership has a strong interest in improving emissions monitoring, data collection and reporting of mercury use in ASGM; including contributing to published data dissemination to support modelling efforts assessing extent of problem, and against which to demonstrate progress. The ASGM Partnership will link closely with the Fate and Transport Partnership. The process will need to be established.

Mercury in Waste Partnership.

The ASGM Partnership has a strong interest in reducing the amount of mercury present in tailings. Close links will be established with the Mercury in Waste Partnership.

Mercury Supply.

Currently, mercury is easily available with abundant supply from withdrawal from chlor-alkali plants, release of stockpiles, and production as by-product. Market forces are working against the development and adoption of alternatives to mercury use. Greater limitation on trade is likely to increase the price of mercury, resulting in increased financial viability of alternatives, an incentive for research into alternatives, and pressure on mercury users to ensure that it is used in the most efficient and effective manner, with minimal environmental releases. In comparison to an increased mercury price, the cost of technology to minimise or prevent releases to allow re-use also becomes more financially attractive. The Partnership will liaise with the Mercury Supply partnership area.

Contaminated Sites

In accordance to the UNEP Governing Council (GC) decision of 24/3, a report on contaminated sites will be prepared for GC 25 in February 2009. The report will draw upon existing information and provide an analysis on the extent of contaminated sites, the risks to public and environmental health of mercury compound releases from such sites, environmentally sound mitigation options and associated costs and the contribution of contaminated sites to global releases. The partnership may wish to make a contribution to this report - be it in terms of a list of relevant references (required by February 2008) or drafting a section of the report in consultation with the drafting team (required by Mary 2008). Contact: Gunnar Futsaeter, UNEP (gfutsaeter@chemicals.unep.ch)

X. CURRENT PARTNERS

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17.	Quicksilver Caucus	Matthew JONES mjones@sso.org
Determine whether these groups are partners.		
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