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**Global Mercury Partnership
Partnership Advisory Group, Seventh meeting**
Jordan, 8 March 2016

Feedback on the regional consultations of the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP)

Note by the Secretariat

The Overarching Framework of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership outlines that the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) 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. As of February 2016, the Partnership consists of 150 partners: 27 governments, 8 intergovernmental organizations, 61 non-governmental organizations and 54 others.

Given the opportunities for greater involvement of Governments and other stakeholders in the GMP and in order to enhance communication and outreach, UNEP secretariat took the initiative of organizing “An Awareness Raising and Knowledge Sharing Event in the Margins of the Minamata INC 7 Regional Consultations” in four regions: Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and in Africa. Participants were given an opportunity to respond to survey questionnaire on their expectation for the Partnership. Results of the event are summarized in the Annex 1. Summary notes from individual events are attached as Annex 2.

The Partnership Advisory Group, in discussing the future of the Partnership, may wish to take into consideration the needs, interests and expectations from stakeholders expressed at the regional events, and use lessons learned for further communication and outreach.

Annex 1

The Global Mercury Partnership Awareness Raising and Knowledge Sharing Event in the Margins of the Minamata INC 7 Regional Consultations

a) Background and Objectives

1. The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) has been facilitating on-the-ground actions to reduce the environmental and health risk of mercury as a contribution to assist governments and stakeholders in implementing the Minamata Convention. Over the years, the Partnership has provided technical assistance and capacity building by implementing demonstration projects and providing guidance documents and toolkits, as well as awareness raising materials that helped governments take immediate action to reduce mercury pollution.
2. A survey done among Partners in 2014 identified the need for enhanced communication and outreach about the work of the GMP to Governments and stakeholders in order to catalyze action towards the implementation of the Minamata Convention.
3. In order to increase awareness and identify expectations of governments and stakeholders, as well as raise support for the GMP, UNEP secretariat organized “Global Mercury Partnership Awareness Raising and Knowledge Sharing Events” in the margins of the Minamata INC 7 Regional Consultations.
4. Specific objectives were to:
 - Inform the governments and stakeholders on the activities of GMP
 - Foster understanding of the value of the partnership approach in addressing the risks of mercury
 - Identify immediate needs of governments and stakeholders to enable them to reduce mercury pollution in relation to the 8 partnership areas
 - Develop recommendations on how the GMP can possibly assist governments towards early implementation of the Minamata Convention
 - Encourage governments and stakeholders to participate in and engage in GMP activities.
5. Four GMP regional events took place in the margins of the INC 7 Minamata Convention regional consultations on the following dates and venues :

Asia-Pacific Region: 21 January 2016, Jakarta, Indonesia
Africa Region: 3 February 2016, Lusaka, Zambia
Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Region: 3 February 2016, Brno, Czech Republic
Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) Region: 10 February 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay

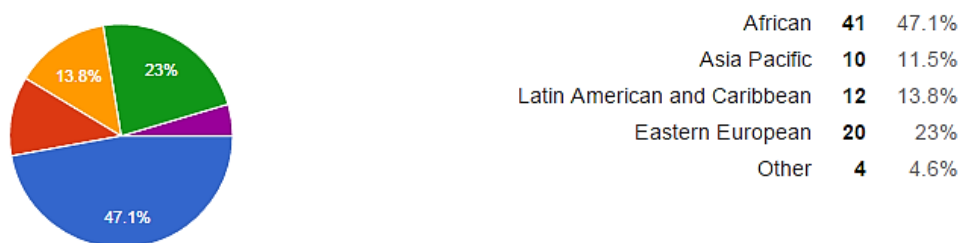
b) Methodology

6. All participants at the regional consultations for INC 7 were invited to participate at the GMP event. The number of participants were approximately 60 for Asia Pacific; 60 for Africa, 50 for GRULAC, 30 for CEE
7. Each event started with a brief presentation from the UNEP Secretariat on the principles of GMP, highlights, achievements and challenges. The presentation was followed by interactive discussion either by open forum style or by small “buzz” group discussions. An on-line survey was filled in by most participants while others preferred to fill in hard copies of the questionnaire. The questionnaire included the following questions:
 - a. Familiarity of the participants with GMP
 - b. Specific needs of the respective governments and other organizations for assistance in the field of eight partnership areas and other areas where GMP is not yet active (e.g. non-ferrous metal production).
 - c. Opportunities of the respective governments and other organizations to participate in the activities of specific GMP areas.

c) Compilation of survey responses and analysis

8. The total number of respondents was 87 with representation from the 4 regions. (Figure 1). The lack of survey responses relative to the total number of participants in the Asia Pacific and GRULAC regions does not necessarily reflect the lack of interest of regions but rather on the methodology employed where most of the responses were obtained only after the event.

Figure 1. Survey respondents/participants per region at the event



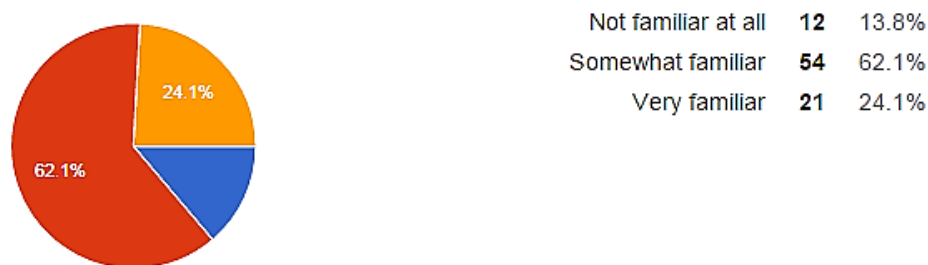
9. Of the total respondents, **almost all were Government representatives** (Figure 2). This confirms that majority of participants at Minamata regional consultations are from funded government representatives. Government response is good indication of regional needs and priorities that will inform PAG leads and the GMP secretariat.

Figure 2. Organizations represented at the event



10. In terms of familiarity with the Global Mercury Partnership, a little over half the **the total respondents were somewhat familiar**, one-fourth very familiar, and the rest not familiar at all (Figure 3). This reflects the need for more outreach and communication to countries about the work of the Global Mercury Partnership. *The partnership area leads and the UNEP GMP secretariat may wish to consider more outreach and communication and inform Governments about how the GMP can assist Governments in the ratification and early implementation of Minamata.*

Figure 3. Familiarity with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership



11. Of the total respondents, only one-fourth are “Partners” or members of the Partnership, **half are not**, and the rest are not aware if they are Partners (Figure 4). The response confirms the lack of membership from Governments in the Partnership. *The partnership area leads and the UNEP GMP secretariat may wish to consider more outreach and communication and engage Governments to become Partners of the GMP.*

Figure 4. Membership with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership



d) Survey responses and proposals from regions by partnership area

12. This section summarises the survey responses and the discussion at regional events on the needs and expectations for the activities of eight partnership areas. *Partnership Areas may wish to consider these suggestions as well as the willingness of some governments and organizations to co-lead the activities.*

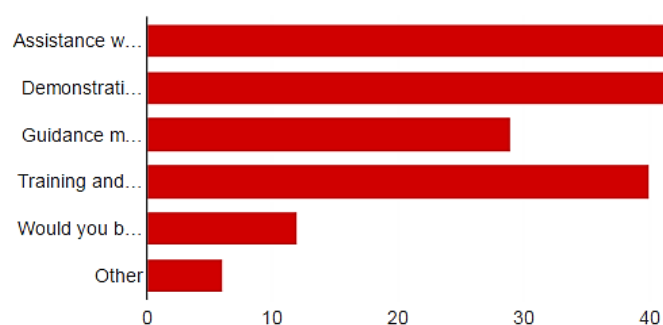
ASGM

13. Of the total 87 respondents 49 % expressed **a great need** in terms of reducing mercury emissions and releases from ASGM. There were 172 total responses on ASGM. Of the total 87 respondents, 61 % need assistance in demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods, 59% are interested in inventories and baselines, while 56% need training and technical expertise. Twelve respondents are interested in co-leading this partnership area (Figures 5 and 6).
14. Specific needs expressed are guidance on a) addressing illegal ASGM activities b) addressing illegal trade of mercury being used in the sector c) dealing with socio-economic issues d) addressing the issue of contaminated sites e) addressing amalgamation practised in gold shops. Other countries also expressed needs for expertise to develop national regulations and training on alternatives.

Figure 5. ASGM: Assessment of country needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 6. ASGM: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



Assistance with inventories and baselines	42	59.2%
Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods	43	60.6%
Guidance materials	29	40.8%
Training and access to technical expertise	40	56.3%
Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	12	16.9%
Other	6	8.5%

Coal combustion

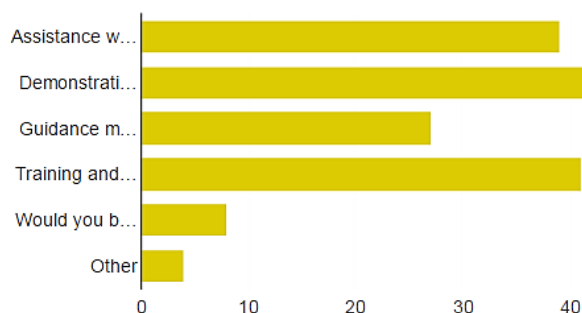
15. : Of the 87 respondents, 38 % expressed a **moderate need** for assistance. There are 168 total responses on Coal. Of the 87 respondents, 69% need demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods 58 % need training and technical expertise and 55% need assistance on training and inventories. Eight respondents are interested in co-leading this partnership area (Figure 7 and 8)

16. Specific needs expressed are technical expertise in a) the characterization of mercury in coal b) technologies to reduce mercury emissions, given that coal is an inexpensive energy source c) low carbon technologies d) addressing not only emissions but also releases to the environment through fly ash and slag as well as fertilizer production from slag e) ambient and stack emission of mercury

Figure 7. Coal Combustion: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 8. Coal Combustion: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



Assistance with inventories and baselines	39	54.9%
Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods	49	69%
Guidance materials	27	38%
Training and access to technical expertise	41	57.7%
Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	8	11.3%
Other	4	5.6%

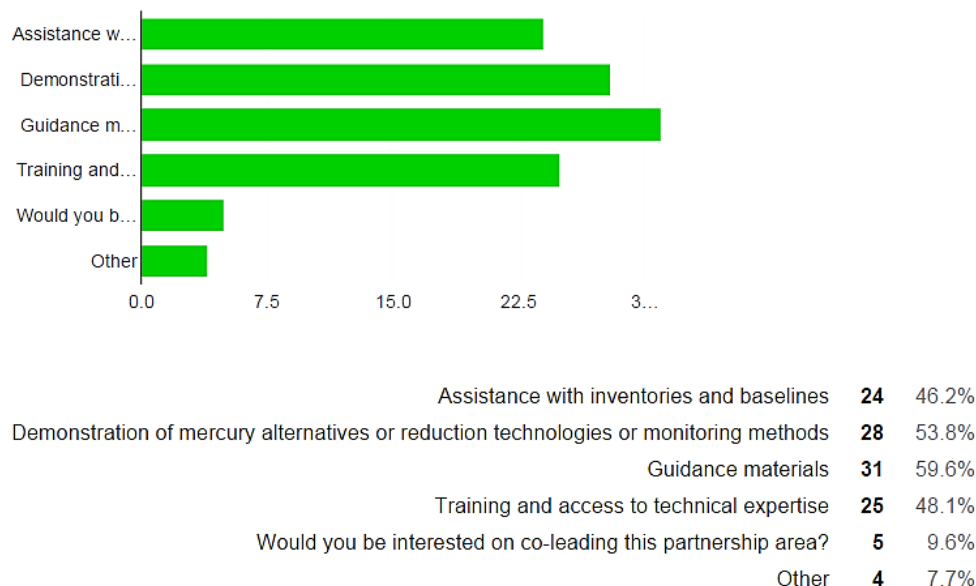
Chlor alkali

17. Out of the total 87 respondents, 55% expressed **minimal need** for assistance. There were 117 actual responses on chlor alkali. Of the total 87 respondents, 60% expressed the need for guidance materials, 54% demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods while 48 % need training and technical expertise. (Figure 9 and 10)
18. Specific needs in this sector are guidance in a) identifying existing facilities b) estimating mercury stockpile at chlor alkali sites c) engaging industry and government together in the change out to membrane cell technology d) being a non WCC member, technologies and financing in the transition to membrane cell technology e) technologies in the environmentally sound storage and disposal of mercury after decommissioning

Figure 9. Chlor Alkali: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 10. Chlor Alkali: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



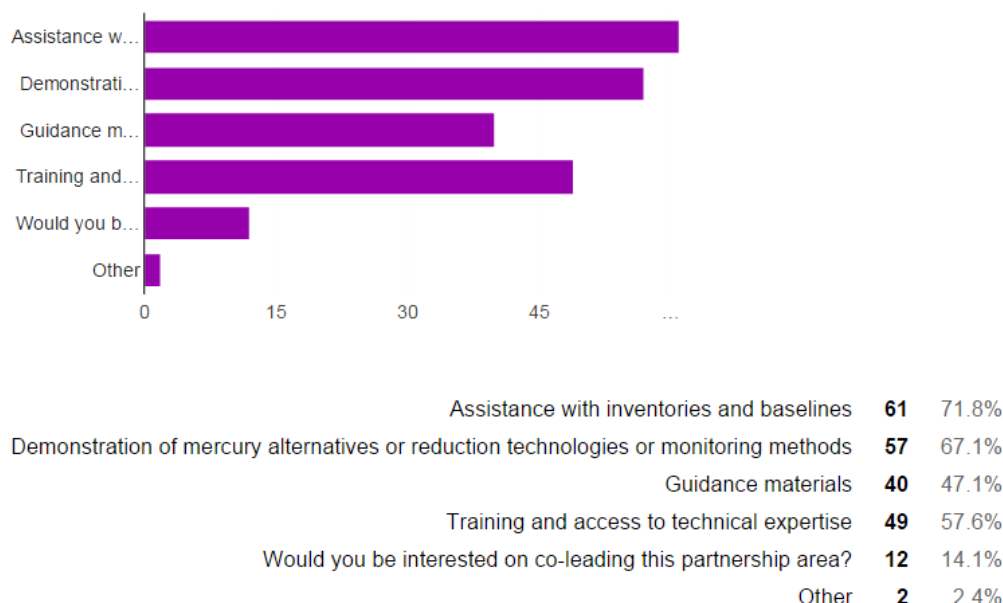
Products

19. Of the total 87 respondents, 55 % expressed **a great need** for assistance on mercury added- products. There are 270 responses on products. Of the total 87 respondents, 72 % need assistance on inventories and baselines, 67% need demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods while 57 % need training and technical expertise. (Figures 11 and 12)
20. Specific needs expressed on mercury-added products are a) information of mercury content (product labelling such as through the Globally Harmonized System of Labelling and Classification), number of products produced and sold b) alternatives to mercury-added products c) financial support to small and medium enterprises promoting alternatives d) quantification and trade flows of mercury- added products e) need to trade customs

Figure 11. Mercury-Added Products: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 12. Mercury-Added Products: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



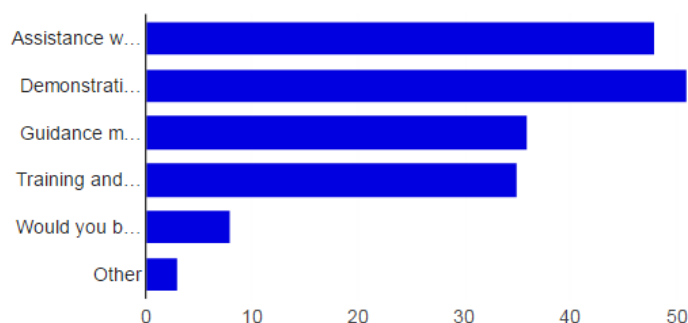
Cement

21. Of the total 87 respondents, 43% expressed **a great need** for assistance. There were 253 responses on cement. Of the total 87 respondents, 71 % need demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods, 67% need assistance on inventories and baselines, while 50% need guidance materials. (Figures 13 and 14)
22. Specific needs expressed in this sector are guidance on: a) monitoring mercury in cement kilns b) technologies on the reduction of mercury emissions and releases

Figure 13. Cement: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 14. Cement: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



Assistance with inventories and baselines	48	66.7%
Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods	51	70.8%
Guidance materials	36	50%
Training and access to technical expertise	35	48.6%
Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	8	11.1%
Other	3	4.2%

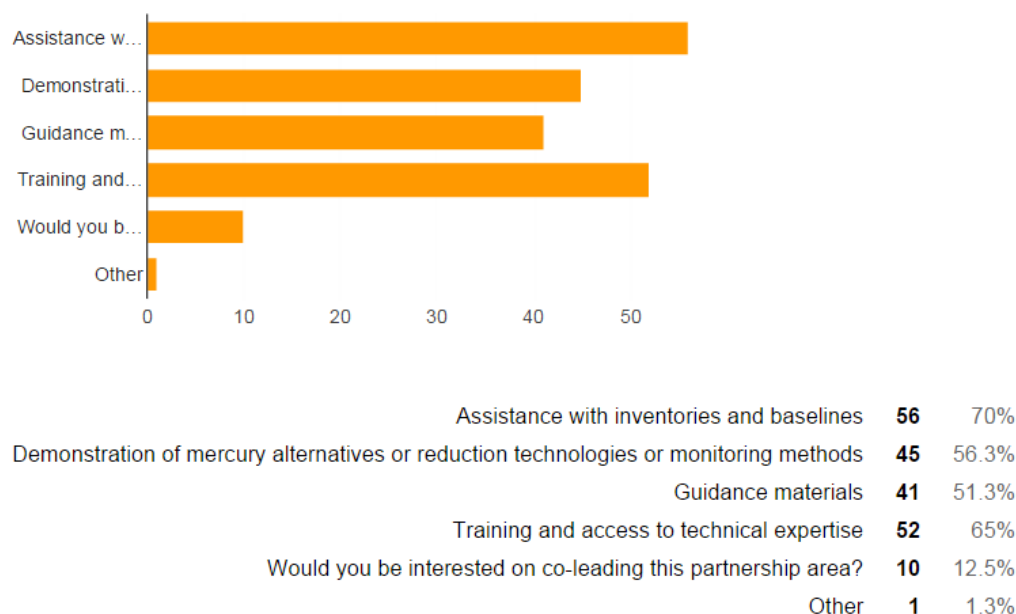
Supply and Storage

23. Of the total 87 respondents, an equal 44% each expressed **a great need, and a moderate need** for assistance. There were 205 total responses on supply and storage. Of the 87 total respondents, 70% need assistance on inventories and baselines, 65% training and technical expertise, while 56% need demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods. (Figures 15 and 16)
24. Specific needs expressed on supply and storage are a) quantification of by-product mercury from large scale gold mining b) dealing with primary mining and plans of closure c) need to revisit the UNEP publication on “Analysis of Options for the Environmentally Sound Storage of Surplus Mercury in Asia and the Pacific”

Figure 15. Supply & Storage: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 16. Supply & Storage: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



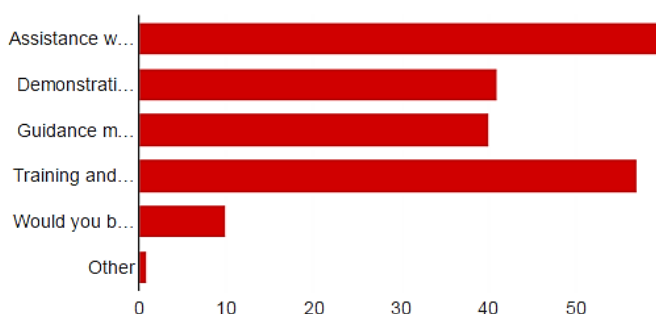
Fate and Transport

25. Of the total 87 respondents, 46 % expressed a **great need** of assistance. There were 209 responses on fate and transport research. Of the total 87 responses, 75% need assistance in inventories and baselines, 71% on training and access to technical expertise and 51% need demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring method. (Figures 17 and 18)
26. Specific needs expressed are: a) monitoring activities in different regions in addition to the EU-GMOS project b) enhancing the development of a globally coordinated mercury observation system including air and water ecosystems c) capacity building for monitoring not only human matrices but also contaminated sites

Figure 17. Fate and Transport: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 18. Fate and Transport: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



Assistance with inventories and baselines	60	75%
Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods	41	51.3%
Guidance materials	40	50%
Training and access to technical expertise	57	71.3%
Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	10	12.5%
Other	1	1.3%

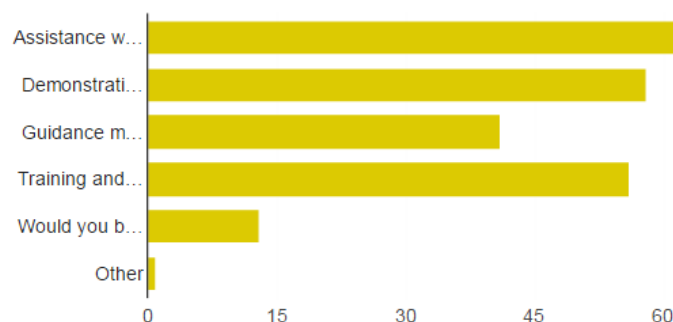
Waste

27. Of the total 87 respondents, 76 % expressed a **great need** for assistance on waste management. There were 232 responses on waste. Of the total 87 respondents, 74% need assistance on inventories and baseline, 68% demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring method while 66% need training and access to technical expertise. (Figure 19 and 20)
28. Specific needs expressed on waste management are a) environmentally sound disposal of mercury-added products b) capacity building for customs personnel in dealing with transboundary movement of mercury waste c) best practices, technologies on waste management; an assessment as to whether such technologies comply with the Minamata Convention

Figure 19. Waste: Assessment of country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions



Figure 20. Waste: Type of activity of most interest by the organizations



Assistance with inventories and baselines	63	74.1%
Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies or monitoring methods	58	68.2%
Guidance materials	41	48.2%
Training and access to technical expertise	56	65.9%
Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	13	15.3%
Other	1	1.2%

e) Priorities identified by the 4 participating regions

29. **Asia and Pacific (AP):** The discussion at the event in AP region focused on coal combustion, ASGM, chlor-alkali (including the associated supply and storage issues) and products. Some countries were interested in waste and fate and transport as well. These interests may reflect the importance of these emission sources in the region.
30. **Africa:** End-of-life mercury added products and waste are a priority in the African region. The participants noted that mercury-added products are not manufactured in Africa but are abundantly used in the continent. Overall, the participants feel there is still need for awareness raising on mercury toxicity preferably in the local dialects. Environmentally sound management (ESM) of mercury waste is a challenge with the lack of infrastructure in Africa.
31. **Central and Eastern Europe (CEE):** Mercury- added products especially lamps and medical devices (thermometers) as well as the ESM of mercury waste are priority in the CEE region. The CEE also expressed need for assistance on contaminated sites: identification and assessment of sites, as well as for management and remediation technologies. Other needs are how to address mercury emissions from cement, paper production and acetaldehyde production.
32. **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC):** Much of the discussion at the regional event focused on ASGM. Concerns on newly emerging primary mining were also expressed. The Region still has existing chlor alkali facilities and has identified this as a priority as well. Supply and storage issues associated with these sectors also attracted attention. Caribbean countries were more interested in activities on products and waste, since they do not have large industrial emission sources. Polluted contaminated sites are also a concern of the LAC region. The region also wants to be engaged in mercury monitoring activities.

f) Additional Information relevant to the GMP

33. The 87 respondents identified other sources of mercury pollution covered by the Minamata Convention but not currently covered by the GMP partnership area. There were a total of 115 responses expressing interest on 3 key issues. Sixty one respondents were interested in a new partnership area on contaminated sites, 23 in a new partnership area on non-ferrous metals smelting, and 23 in a new partnership area on processes that use mercury (other than chlor-alkali). *The GMP may wish to establish partnership areas that will address these needs.*
34. The survey included a question as to **how the GMP could assist in the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention**. Various responses were obtained, several of which are listed:
 - a) assistance to the development of inventories, legislation and policy assessment, and other components of Minamata Initial Assessment
 - b) enhanced awareness raising about mercury toxicity to human health and the environment preferably in local dialects and languages
 - c) assessment of countries' priorities and comprehensive inventory of emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds
 - d) developing human (in house) and laboratory capacities for monitoring
 - e) developing projects for every energy sector
 - f) developing projects on products and waste especially those in the health sector and on lamps
 - g) sharing information on all aspects of mercury management including legal, policies, guidelines and technological issues among the signatories/parties to the Convention
 - h) providing expertise and financial support in the development of mercury policies.
35. The survey also included a question as to **how Governments and organizations can contribute to the GMP**. Responses included the following:
 - a) jointly developing guidance documents
 - b) sharing experiences about mercury pollution reduction such as inventories, awareness raising, policy development
 - c) developing project proposals
 - d) co-financing projects by providing in-kind contribution such as organizing workshops, providing transport office space, staff time and other resources

- e) providing technical expertise in the fields of fate and transport research, coal and cement partnership areas; expertise in laboratory testing and data banking
- f) share experiences on Minamata Initial Assessments
- g) collaborating with other countries on joint projects
- h) mobilization of stakeholders and setting up institutional arrangements
- i) national coordination of projects
- j) mutual assistance and information exchange at sub-regional and regional levels
- l) becoming a partner to the GMP

g) Conclusions and recommendations on the way forward

- 36. The GMP events in the margins of the INC 7 regional consultations provided very useful and timely information which the partnership area leads may wish to consider in their planning for activities that will assist countries in the early implementation of Minamata Convention. The event raised the profile of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and created awareness about the benefits and strengths of the Partnership.
- 37. Though survey responses may not be comparable across the 4 regions due to differences in language and the methodology employed, the responses provided an insight into needs and priorities of countries in relation to the GMP. Governments and stakeholders have affirmed that the GMP can provide a) a pool of technical experts per partnership area b) a role in donor coordination and resource mobilization through GEF and other financing mechanisms c) gathering and sharing best practices especially from industry technologies to be shared with the countries.
- 38. Countries recognize the complementarity of the GMP and the Minamata Convention and request both secretariats to collaborate closely. Some countries have expressed interest to become a Partner to the GMP.

ANNEX 2

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Event at the INC7 Regional Consultations (Asia and the Pacific) Jakarta, 21 January 2016, 17:00 – 19:00

Summary Notes

UNEP made a presentation to overview the activities of the Global Mercury Partnership. A buzz group discussion was suggested, but participants preferred a plenary-style discussion since several participants wished to discuss more than one partnership areas. Coal combustion and ASGM attracted greater attention. Several countries emphasized the importance of Chlor Alkali and products. Following suggestions were made on partnership areas.

Coal combustion

- As one of the most inexpensive energy source, important to address technologies to reduce mercury emissions
- Should showcase technologies to reduce emission.
- In addition to air emissions, important to address releases to the environment through fly ash and slag
- May address fertilizer production (from slag and coal chemical process)
- May address low-carbon technologies

ASGM

- Expect guidance on how to estimate illegal ASGM activities
- Should showcase specific mercury-free or reduction technologies
- Should address illegal trade of mercury for the use in ASGM
- Should address socio-economic issues
- Should address the issue of contaminated sites
- Expect assistance in addressing the amalgamation in gold markets

Chlor-Alkali

- Expect assistance in identifying existing facilities
- Should address how to finance the technology transfer
- Should address the mercury storage/disposal after decommissioning
- Should address technologies to reduce emissions and releases
- Governments may offer information on the use of licensing system

Products

- Should showcase information on alternatives of mercury containing products
- Should address the financial support to SMEs
- Interested in fluorescent lamps (mercury reduction, collection and recycling)
- Interested in how to quantify the trade in mercury containing products

Waste

- Should address the capacity building of customs

Supply and storage

- Should revisit the 2011 report “Analysis of Options for the Environmentally Sound Management of Surplus Mercury in Asia and the Pacific”

Fate and transport

- Should encompass monitoring activities in different regions in addition to EU- GMOS project

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Event at the INC7 Regional Consultations
(Africa)**

Lusaka, 3 February 2016, 17:00 – 18:30

Summary Notes

The Partnership event began with the delivery of a presentation by the secretariat on the history, objectives, and activities of the Partnership. Participants were then offered the chance to break into discussion/buzz groups by partnership area of interest. After break-out/buzz group discussion, the rapporteurs reported the results of the group discussion to the plenary.

PRODUCTS AND WASTE

Countries: Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda, Swaziland and Zambia.

NGOs: CREPD (IPEN) , JVE (IPEN – ZMWG – WAMFD), GAPROFFA (IPEN – WAMFD)

Products and Wastes are considered as a priority for these countries because of the following reasons:

- Mercury containing products are not manufactured in Africa and are abundantly used within the countries;
- There is no safe labelling of products entering into the continent and that constitutes a serious concern for customs when it is about identification and classifying mercury containing products;
- No information is given to populations about mercury toxicity and its content in various products;
- Lack of safe system of waste collection and segregation , as well as mercury stabilization in waste;
- People working on chemicals or for environmental protection lack capacity on mercury analysis to confirm the mercury content in imported or manufactured products;
- After the implementation of pilot projects, some specific issues related to products and wastes include mercury in health sector; other sources of mercury emissions such as cement plants, non-ferrous metals extraction, etc., need to be addressed as priority for some countries; and
- Lack of specific regulations, standards, or guidelines related to mercury in order to help administration to find adequate solution on mercury pollution.

For these reasons, we strongly wish the mercury partnership to assist us in:

- Identifying and promoting mercury-free alternatives in all products where it is possible;
- Organizing awareness activities especially in local languages;
- Developing and implementing waste management system and safe storage of mercury waste;
- Monitoring of mercury in environment and in crops, cattle and population surrounding dumping sites;
- Enforcement of safe labelling of products through GHS and capacity building of customers, environmental workers and all stakeholders involved in mercury activities;
- Developing and implementing specific projects for specific country addressing specific topic such as cement plant emissions, non-ferrous metals, health care sector, etc.;

ASGM

Countries: Sudan, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Eritrea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Cameroon, Zambia, Chad, Central African Republic

NGO: AGENDA (Tanzania)

IGO: GEF secretariat

Type of assistance	Reason
Inventories and baselines	In order to establish the country status whether there is a problem on mercury or not
Awareness raising on mercury	Limited knowledge about mercury and its effects on human health and environment
Training and access to technical expertise	Limited skills among affected countries
Access to financial resources	Limited internal financial resources required to implement the obligations under the Minamata Convention
Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies and monitoring methods	In order to replace the existing technology
Management of contaminated sites	To protect human health and the environment and control further contamination and avoid further emission and release of mercury
Develop a national regulations/guidelines	To ensure sound management of mercury through the life cycle (use, storage, transport and waste disposal) including illegal trafficking

Chlor alkali/Supply and Storage

Based on UNEP survey of chlor alkali plants in 2013, there are only 4 remaining countries with mercury chlor alkali plants in the African region namely: Algeria, Angola, Libya and Morocco.

At the African regional consultation, only Libya was present. UNIDO was also present in the buzz group. Discussion with Libya included the following:

- Libya has 2 Chlor-alkali sites which have not been functional in the past 2-3 years. They may even be abandoned.
- The Environment Ministry is not engaged with the industry in this matter and has little information in this regard e.g. they don't know the quantity of the mercury stockpile, nor whether the plants have been recently maintained.
- The sites may be secure
- The Environment Ministry has not engaged with the World Chlorine Council on this matter
- The Environment Ministry need to make a site assessment and whether they have the capacity for sound storage of waste
- The Environment Ministry has expressed a need for technical assistance from the partnership
- The Environment Ministry is happy for the partnership to engage proactively with them in this regard
- A key issue is how to make the transition to membrane technology

Coal/Cement

Countries: Egypt, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia

The countries expressed the need for technical assistance in

- the inventories of emissions from both coal and cement
- monitoring mercury in cement kilns
- characterization of mercury in coal
- developing action plans in order to reduce mercury emissions and releases

Fate and Transport

Countries: Kenya, Mauritius, Zambia

NGO: African Institute

The countries expressed the need for

- Technical assistance and training on ambient and stack emission of mercury
- Enhancing compilation and sharing of such information among stakeholders
- Enhancing the development of a globally-coordinated mercury observation system, including air and water ecosystems

The African Institute is interested to collaborate with the Global Monitoring Observation System

The group recommended to eventually integrate monitoring of mercury in the POPs Global Mercury Project

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Event at the INC7 Regional Consultations
(Central and Eastern Europe)
Brno, 3 February 2016, 17:00 – 18:30**

Summary Notes

The Partnership event began with the delivery of a presentation by the secretariat on the history, objectives, and activities of the Partnership. Participants were then instructed to complete an online survey on their needs, capacity, and interest in the Partnership and its eight areas. A total of 20 governments, IGOs, and NGOs completed the survey (close to 100% response rate). Participants were then offered the chance to break into discussion groups either by partnership area of interest, or by language. They overwhelmingly choose to break into two groups: one English-speaking and the other Russian-speaking. Each group selected a rapporteur. After 20-30 minutes of discussion, the rapporteurs reported the results of the group discussion to the plenary.

English-speaking group:

- This was a diverse group with varying levels of capacity and national priorities, so it was difficult to answer specifically for each partnership area.
- For example, in Latvia there is only one cement factory, and mercury emissions are well-controlled and regulated. However, in Albania mercury emissions from cement are of significant concern and the sector is national priority.
- The group emphasized agreement that the Partnership should strive to compliment, not duplicate, the Minamata Convention. This will require strategic thinking as well as close cooperation with the Convention.
- The group expressed agreement that expert support was an area of need. It can be hard to find well-regarded experts in many sectors/areas. The Partnership can plan an important role in providing expertise, for example in creating expert rosters for different sectors.
- Another priority task for the Partnership is resource mobilization and donor coordination. This can help develop more impactful projects and also assist in meeting GEF and other co-financing requirements.
- The group expressed a desire for more capacity-building activities to strengthen in-house experience.
- Finally, the Partnership can assist my gathering and sharing best practices, especially those from relevant industry groups. Countries may know about best practices domestically, but may not have all the information available from the global partnership network.

Russian-speaking group:

- The group consisted of countries with different situations and different priorities, and the participants attempted to identify common issues of importance for the region.
- Mercury-added products was identified as a priority area. Lamps and thermometers were specifically mentioned.
- Mercury-containing waste was also identified as a priority, especially management and disposal of mercury-containing products.
- Another issue of importance was contaminated sites. There is a need for assistance with identification and assessment of sites, as well as for management and remediation technologies.
- Other issues identified were emissions from cement, paper production and acetaldehyde. [Note that acetaldehyde production is not known to be occurring anywhere in the world. This was likely an error on the part of the group or rapporteur]
- Chlor-alkali was identified as lower priority, perhaps reflecting the Convention's 2025 phase out date (5 years later than for products).

- Of course countries have their own specific priorities. For example chlor-alkali is a higher priority for Russian, while emissions from coal-fired power plants are more important for Ukraine.
- For Products, the group requested information resources on the mercury content and number of products produced and sold. This would make waste management easier.
- For Waste, the group requested materials on best practices, technologies, and methods for mercury waste management and disposal. They also requested assessments of various waste management technologies, with a specific interest in whether their use complies with the Convention.
- Finally, the group noted that materials available in Russian would be very useful.

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Event at the INC7 Regional Consultations
(Central and Eastern Europe)
Montevideo, 10 February 2016, 18:30 – 20:00**

Summary Notes

UNEP made a presentation to overview the activities of the Global Mercury Partnership. Buzz group discussion was suggested, but participants appreciated discussion in a plenary format, and no time for left for breakout discussion.

URUGUAY provided examples of projects undertaken in the Supply and Storage Partnership Area.

NRDC provided an overview of the on-the-ground activities undertaken in the ASGM Partnership Area.

ISDE stressed the importance of promoting regionally based technology solutions. The participant provided examples of pilot projects on mercury storage and disposal, and point to the need for capacity building to use these technologies.

WCC informed about the history of the Chlor-Alkali partnership area including workshops in the region, and expressed its expectation on the partnership to address financing issues. Also, informed WCC is tracking a number of waste treatment and disposal solutions in addition to the practice of stabilization and final safe storage. The following companies which are under evaluation for waste treatment and mercury stabilization were listed:

- NQR – Remondis from Germany
 - o Has bought the assets of DELA
 - o Has been audited by WCC
- ECON Industries from Germany
- The Japanese company Nomura
- A Swiss company that has entered the market

Finally, that the Chlor-alkali partnership area is planning to explore joint activities with Mercury Supply/Storage and Waste Management Partnership Areas.

CHILE agreed and informed about the mercutreat project on technologies for stabilization of mercury wastes arising from mining activities.

JAMAICA: considering that many countries in the region are consumers rather than producers of mercury projects, the delegate pointed out the importance of public awareness initiatives at national, sub-regional and regional level.

MEXICO: informed about the challenges they are facing with child labor in primary mercury mining. The delegate also stressed the importance of identifying and sharing good practices within the region.

BAHAMAS considered that the lessons learnt from pilot projects in Caribbean (e.g. mercury storage project) and SIDS are relevant for the rest of countries and should be disseminated. Also suggested the possibility of conducting clinical tests to research on potential health impacts.

REGIONAL CO-CHAIR observed that some issues that are very important for the region, such as polluted sites, are not clearly covered by the GMP.

PERU informed about the problem of mercury storage produced as a by-product by large scale gold mining. Also considers that it is time to take pilot initiatives to an industrial scale projects, and wonders how the GMP could support this transition.

BRAZIL suggested the GMP to address mercury monitoring and support capacity building on this area, not only for human matrices but also for contaminated sites.

NRDC, responding to the questions above, agreed to the importance of the emerging issue of artisanal mercury mining in Mexico and Indonesia. The participant also expressed expectation on the activities to address mercury trade that emerged from the regional discussion on ASGM.

Annex 3 – Summary Graphics of Survey Results

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership INC7 Regional Consultations Survey

Information About Participants

UNEP administered an online survey to participants at the INC 7 Regional Consultations

The objective was to gain insight into how the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership can better assist countries to ratify and implement the Minamata Convention.

A total of 82 participants responded.

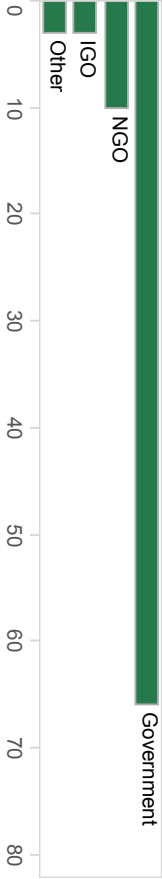
Countries Where Participants Came From



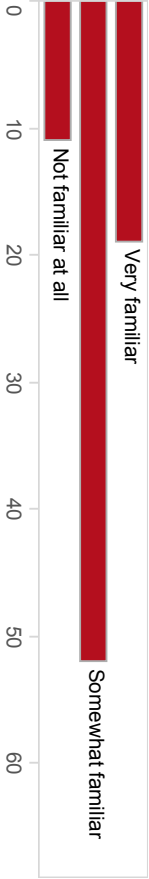
What Regional Group Do You Belong To?



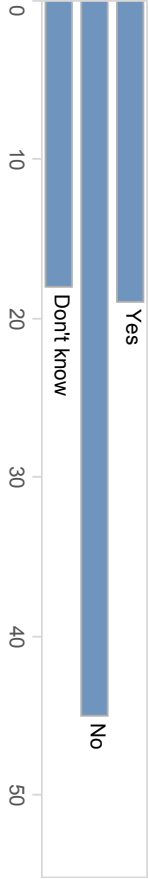
What Type of Organization Do You Represent?



How Familiar Are You with the Partnership?



Is Your Organization a Member of the Partnership?



UNEP Global Mercury Partnership INC7 Regional Consultations Survey

For each Partnership area, how would you assess your country's needs with respect to reducing mercury use and emissions?

Waste	Products	ASGM	Fate & Transport
A great need63 A moderate need16 Minimal or no need3	A great need48 A moderate need30 Minimal or no need4	A great need39 A moderate need9 Minimal or no need34	A great need40 A moderate need35 Minimal or no need7
Supply & Storage	Cement	Coal	Chlor-Alkali
A great need36 A moderate need35 Minimal or no need11	A great need33 A moderate need34 Minimal or no need15	A great need23 A moderate need29 Minimal or no need30	A great need12 A moderate need25 Minimal or no need45

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership INC7 Regional Consultations Survey

For each Partnership area, please select the types of activity your organization is most interested in

Waste	Assistance with inventories and baselines	56
	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	48
	Guidance materials	33
	Training and access to technical expertise	49
Products	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	10
	Assistance with inventories and baselines	56
	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	49
	Guidance materials	34
Fate & Transport	Training and access to technical expertise	43
	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	10
	Assistance with inventories and baselines	53
	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	37
Supply & Storage	Guidance materials	33
	Training and access to technical expertise	49
	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	8
	Assistance with inventories and baselines	49
Cement	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	38
	Guidance materials	45
	Training and access to technical expertise	33
	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	8
ASGM	Assistance with inventories and baselines	44
	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	45
	Guidance materials	30
	Training and access to technical expertise	31
Coal	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	6
	Assistance with inventories and baselines	39
	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	38
	Guidance materials	24
Chlor-Alkali	Training and access to technical expertise	36
	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	10
	Assistance with inventories and baselines	37
	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	42
Chlor-Alkali	Guidance materials	23
	Training and access to technical expertise	39
	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	6
	Assistance with inventories and baselines	20
Chlor-Alkali	Demonstration of mercury alternatives or reduction technologies..	22
	Guidance materials	26
	Training and access to technical expertise	22
	Would you be interested on co-leading this partnership area?	3