Concept note
GEF-7 Dental Amalgam Phasing-down Project:
African sub-regional and global closure meeting
Building on lessons learned and results advance the phase-out of dental amalgam under the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Dakar, Senegal

1. BACKGROUND

Dental amalgam has been a widely used filling material in dental restorative care for over 175 years. It consists of a mixture of metals: approximately 50% elemental mercury combined with a powdered alloy of silver, tin, and copper. Mercury pollution can occur throughout the amalgam lifecycle—during production, supply, cavity placement, removal of fillings, and disposal.

To address these concerns, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds caused by human activity, entered into force on 16 August 2017. Provisions related to dental amalgam—amended during the fourth, fifth, and sixth meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP)—are outlined in Annex A, Part I and II of the Convention. These provisions include restrictions on the use of dental amalgam, except for when its use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient , with a phase-out date set for 2034, as agreed at COP-6 in 2025.

In parallel, integration of oral health into the broader noncommunicable diseases and universal health coverage agendas have accelerated. Following the World Health Assembly's adoption of the Oral Health Resolution (WHA74.5) in 2021, a Global Strategy and a Global Oral Health Action Plan and its African Regional Framework were adopted in 2022, 2023 and 2025, respectively. Among the Strategy's 11 global targets, one relates to the Minamata Convention: by 2030, 90% of countries should have phased down or phased out dental amalgam. As of 2024, 31% of countries globally had met this target, compared with only 13% in the WHO African Region. Furthermore, growing interest in the environmental sustainability of oral health care is also evident, reflected in the Bangkok Declaration on Oral Health adopted during the WHO Global oral health meeting in 2024, which calls for environmentally sound oral health practices.

To advance further progress, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded the project *"Accelerate implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen country capacities in the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention"* (GEF-7 Phasing Down Dental Amalgam Project). Implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) with targeted technical assistance of the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), the project runs from March 2023 to October 2026. Its objective is to protect human health and the environment from mercury's harmful effects by promoting policies and practices that phase down the use of dental amalgam and improve the environmentally sound management of amalgam and mercury waste. Senegal is one of the project countries in the WHO African Region, alongside Thailand and Uruguay.

During implementation, Senegal established a multisectoral coordination mechanism involving the Ministries of Health and Environment and conducted a comprehensive evaluation. The country is applying the evaluation recommendations, including developing a good practice guide and piloting the use of amalgam separators. Additionally, Senegal leveraged the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (SIP)—in collaboration with Burkina Faso and Togo—to draft a mercury decree that includes provisions on dental amalgam.

2. AIM, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Aim:

As the GEF-7 Phasing Down Dental Amalgam Project concludes, a joint African sub-regional and global closure meeting will be convened with participating and neighboring countries, and key partners to review results and lessons learned from the GEF-7 project and advance coordinated regional and global actions to accelerate the phase-out of dental amalgam under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The meeting will also provide a platform to identify opportunities to sustain progress, advance concrete next steps, and maintain momentum beyond the project's closure.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To review and synthesize key results, good practices, and lessons learned from the GEF-7 project.
- To facilitate the exchange of country experiences and approaches for phasing down dental amalgam and managing mercury waste, while identifying common challenges and solutions, and strengthening alignment between health and environmental sectors under the Minamata Convention, including the COP-6 amendment.
- To support participating countries, particularly in the African Region, in identifying and prioritizing actions to phase-out of dental amalgam, in alignment with the Minamata Convention, the Global Oral Health Strategy and Action Plan (2023–2030), and its African Regional Framework.
- To foster collaboration, partnerships, and coordinated follow-up actions at national, regional, and global levels to sustain momentum beyond the project period.

Expected meeting outcomes:

- Consolidated key national, regional and global results and lessons learned from the GEF-7 project are shared and synthesized.
- A regional and global approach and commitment to transitioning from phase-down to phase-out of dental amalgam, and to the environmentally sound management of related waste, is fostered through the collective identification of common challenges and solutions, including strengthened integration of health and environmental strategies, in line with the COP-6 amendment.
- Prioritized actions to phase out dental amalgam from participating countries are advanced or refined in alignment with the Minamata Convention, the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Oral Health 2023-2030, and its African Regional Framework.
- A comprehensive communication and visibility strategy is implemented to amplify the meeting's outcomes and sustain the dialogue on the phase-out of dental amalgam.
- Priority follow-up actions, partnerships and opportunities are identified to sustain momentum beyond the project's end at global and regional levels.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The joint African subregional and global closure meeting will bring together a balanced group of national, regional and global stakeholders (maximum 75 participants).

- Government representatives from Senegal, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment, alongside representatives from key national institutions such as universities and research centers
- Two representatives (National Oral Health Lead and National Focal Point for the Minamata Convention on Mercury) from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, and Togo in West Africa
- Representatives of project countries, Thailand and Uruguay, including the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- WHO representatives from the Country Office, Regional Office, and Headquarters

- UNEP
- Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- GEF Secretariat
- UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
- Co-financing partners of the project: FDI World Dental Federation, The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR), Sheffield University, Metasys and SDI.
- WHO Collaborating Centres in Africa, including the University of the Western Cape (Oral Health)
- Private-sector partners (insurance companies, manufacturers, distributors, waste management companies) engaged in the Region
- Civil society organizations, technical experts, and other relevant national or regional institutions, as identified by the National Project Steering Committee, WHO, and UNEP

4. DATE AND LOCATION

- 19 – 22 October 2026
- Location and venue: Azalaï Hôtel, Dakar, Senegal

5. FORMAT

The meeting will be held as 4-day in-person event, conducted in English and French, with interpretation services available. Selected sessions may allow online participation.

The workshop will include:

- Presentation of consolidated national and global results by project components, including technical sessions to showcase project outcomes and share lessons learned from participating countries and partners
- Interactive workshop to identify and prioritize actions to advance phasing out dental amalgam (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo)
- Field visit to oral health care and waste management facilities
- Closing ceremony recognizing contributions of countries, partners, and stakeholders

6. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Morning 9:00- 10:30 (90 min)	• Opening ceremony • Understanding the health and environmental impacts of mercury across the lifecycle of dental amalgam	• Policy and system-level measures: How can countries create the enabling environment to transition away from dental amalgam? (Component 1)	Field visit *Time and location to be confirmed • Visit to health facility and waste management facility	• AFR subregional workshop report back and presentation of prioritized actions to phase out the use of dental amalgam • Guided discussion to identify common challenges, opportunities, solutions and commitments to accelerate phasing out in the African region and beyond
Healthy break 10:30 to 11:00				
Morning 11:00-12:30 (90 min)	• Implementing the Minamata Convention: Pathway towards the phase-out of dental amalgam • Advancing oral health and environmental agendas: The contribution of the GEF-7 Dental Amalgam Project	• What are effective approaches to improving the management of dental amalgam waste, from safe handling at health-care facilities to environmentally sound final disposal? (Component 2)	Continuation of field visit	• Knowledge management and dissemination (Component 3) • Sustainability and scale up beyond the project:
Lunch 12:30 to 13:30				
Afternoon 13:30-15:00 (90 min)	• Presentation and consultation of draft guidance for the development of national action plans to phase out dental amalgam **concludes at 14:30*	[AFR subregional session] • Component 2 (dental amalgam waste management)	[AFR subregional session] • Recap and reflection on the field trip • Which actions should be prioritized to phase out the use of dental amalgam? **From 14:00 to 16:00*	• Joint reflection on commitments and opportunities for the future • Event and project closure ceremony
Healthy break 15:00 to 15:30				
Afternoon 15:30-17:00 (90 min)	[AFR subregional session] **starts at 15:00 pm.* • Component 1 (regulations, insurance, trade/supply chain, workforce and curricula)	• Which actions should be prioritized to phase out the use of dental amalgam?	[GEF7 Global PSC meeting] UNEP, WHO, Global Mercury Partnership, Minamata Convention Secretariat *From 16:30 to 17:30	• Informal networking **concludes at 16:00*

Detailed agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Proposed speakers	Objective
DAY 1 - MORNING **Co-Chairs: Mady Ba**, WHO Senegal and **Assane Diop**, Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (METE) of Senegal			
8:00-9:00	**Registration**		
9:00-10:00	**Opening ceremony** - Opening and welcome remarks (40 min): Overview of workshop and objectives and housekeeping notes (20 min)	**Verbal statements by:** - Michel Yao, WHO Senegal - Grace Halla, UNEP - Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal - Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of Senegal **Presentation by:** - Yuka Makino, WHO AFRO	Officially open the meeting through brief remarks from key stakeholders and present the objectives, structure and practical arrangements of the event, including plenary sessions, African subregional discussions and field visit.
10:00-10:30	**Understanding the health and environmental impacts of mercury across the lifecycle of dental amalgam** - Presentation (20 min) - Q&A (10 min)	**Presentations by:** - Aminata Touré, Toxicologue Centre Anti Poison - Pathé Dieye, Ministry of Environment, Senegal	Present the effects of mercury on human health, including biomonitoring and exposure approaches, and explain mercury releases and emissions from the dental amalgam life cycle and their environmental implications, setting the scene for the Minamata Convention and GEF-supported initiatives
10:30-11:00	**Healthy break and group photo**		
11:00-11:30	**Implementing the Minamata Convention: Pathway towards the phase-out of dental amalgam** - Presentation (20 min) - Q&A (10 min)	**Presentation by:** - Eisaku Toda, Minamata Convention Secretariat	Present progress made by countries in phasing down and moving towards the phase-out of dental amalgam, based on national reporting at global and African regional level, including key indicators used to monitor progress. The session will also provide an update on the development of guidance for national action plans and clarify the expectations and requirements for Parties to prepare and submit these plans under the Minamata Convention.

			Link dental amalgam waste management with Article 21 reporting under the Minamata Convention.
11:30-12:25	**Advancing oral health and environmental agendas: The contribution of the GEF-7 Dental Amalgam Project** - Global and regional frameworks on oral health and environment, with an overview of the GEF 7 project key results (Presentation – 20 min) - Panel discussion with GEF-7 project countries, and Q&A (35 min)	**Presentation by:** - Benoit Varenne, WHO HQ & Yuka Makino, WHO AFRO **Panel discussion** - **Moderated by:** Benoit Varenne, WHO HQ - **Panellists:** o Codou Badiane, Ministry of Health, Senegal o Nanmanas Yaembut, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand o Nawarat Apichainan, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand o Agustin Cataldo, Ministry of Public Health, Uruguay o Judith Torres, Ministry of Environment, Uruguay (virtual)	Present the broader global and regional context in which the project was implemented, connecting the Minamata Convention implementation with the Global Oral Health Action Plan (GOHAP), the Global Coalition on Oral Health, the Bangkok Declaration, Political declaration on UNHLM on NCDs, and the WHO African Regional Framework, as well as the broader planetary health goals and Sustainable Development Agenda. The session will highlight the contribution of the GEF-7 Dental Amalgam Project by showcasing its key measurable results, impact, and lessons learned, and will bring country perspectives to illustrate how implementation has translated into tangible outcomes at national level.
12:25-12:30	**Wrap up – Plenary session**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Synthesize the key messages from the morning plenary, highlight common

			themes emerging from the presentations and panel discussion, and provide guidance on logistical arrangements for lunch and the afternoon session.
12:30-13:30	**Lunch break**		
DAY 1 - AFTERNOON **Co-Chairs: Youssouph Tine,** Ministère de la Santé et de L'hygiène Publique of Senegal and **Ould Sidi Mohamed,** WHO AFRO			
13:30-14:30	**Presentation and consultation of draft guidance for the development of national action plans to phase out dental amalgam** - Presentation (20 min) - Moderated discussion and feedback (30 min) - Wrap up and next steps (10 min)	**Presentation and moderation by:** - Eisaku Toda, Minamata Convention Secretariat - Florian Schulze, European Network for Environmental Medicine	The Minamata Convention Secretariat will present the draft guidance for the development of national action plans to phase out dental amalgam. Participants will be invited to provide technical feedback, share country perspectives and experiences, so that it can be considered in the final version that will be submitted to COP7.
14:30-15:00	**Healthy break**		
15:00-16:55	**AFR Subregional session: Component 1 (regulations, insurance, trade/supply chain, workforce and curricula)** - Objectives and tour de table (10 min) - Ice-breaking exercise: interactive activity (20 min) - Deep dive into the GEF-7 Senegal experience – Component 1: o Presentation and Q&A (30 min)	**Presentation by:** - Co-Chairs **Ice-breaking exercise moderated by:** - Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership **Presentations by (8 min each):** - Samba Ndiaye Directeur des Affaires Juridiques, Ministère de la Santé et de L'hygiène Publique of Senegal (Ministry of Health Regulations)	This session aims to build relationships among participants and foster a collaborative environment for peer learning and regional cooperation throughout the workshop. Through an interactive networking exercise and a deep dive into Senegal's GEF-7 experience, participants will explore progress, lessons learned, and key achievements related to Component 1, including regulations, insurance mechanisms, trade and supply chains, workforce development, and curricula. It will be followed by a moderated exchange among participating countries from the region on these themes. To support preparation for the regional

	o Panel discussion: Perspectives from key stakeholders in Senegal (25 min) - Regional experience sharing on Component 1 (30 min)	- Khadijatou Dramé, Ministry of Environment (Mercury decree development) - Abdoul Wahab Kane (Personnel de santé et curricula) **Panel discussion** - **Moderated by:** Mame Ndioro Faye, WHO Senegal - **Panellists:** o Farmata Elimane Ly Agne, Directions du commerce intérieur o Ndeye Seynabou Ndiaye, Directions du commerce extérieur o Ndiambé Diagne, CMU o Fatou Gaye Ndiaye, International Dental School of Senegal o Babacar Faye, Institut d'odontologie et de stomatologie **Regional experience** - **Moderated by:** Lylia Oubraham, WHO AFRO - **Countries:** Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal	experience sharing segments, a set of guiding questions will be shared with countries in advance of the meeting.
16:55-17:00	**Wrap up – African subregional workshop session**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Summarize the key highlights and close the session.
DAY 2 - MORNING **Co-Chairs: Mady Ba,** WHO Senegal and **Grace Halla**, UNEP			

9:00-9:05	**Welcome and reflections from Day 1**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Highlight key outcomes and reflections from Day 1, and to introduce the agenda and key themes for Day 2.

9:05-10:30	**Policy and system-level measures: How can countries create the enabling environment to transition away from dental amalgam? (Component 1)**
	
	- Integrating oral health into PHC and UHC frameworks and benefit packages Presentation (15 min)
	
	- Improving access to oral health services at the primary care level through policy, public procurement of essential dental preparations, and workforce development (15 min)
	
	- Rapid showcase of Component 1 project achievements from Senegal, Thailand, and Uruguay (25 min; joint presentation)
	
	Panel discussion:
	What will it take to achieve the phase out of dental amalgam? Stakeholder perspectives on the pathway forward
	(30 min)
		Presentation by:
		- Benoit Varenne, WHO HQ
		
		Presentation by:
		- Yuka Makino, WHO AFRO
		
		Rapid showcase
		- **Moderated by:** Gabriela Sardon, WHO HQ
		- **Joint presentation by:**
		  o **Senegal:** Ndiambe Diagne
		  o **Thailand:** Nanmanas Yaembut
		  o **Uruguay:** Agustin Cataldo
		
		Panel discussion
		- **Moderated by: Carolina Hommes,** WHO PAHO
		- **Panellists:**
		  o Wane Ndeye Maimouna Diene, World Alliance for Mercury Free Dentistry/PAN Africa representative
			Explore how countries can create the enabling environment for transitioning away from dental amalgam through coordinated policy, health system, workforce and partnership approaches.
			
			The session will examine the integration of oral health into primary health care (PHC) and universal health coverage (UHC), strategies to improve access to WHO-recommended mercury-free dental preparations, and the role of regulation, financing, procurement and market factors in supporting their availability and uptake.
			
			Drawing on global perspectives, achievements from GEF-7 project countries, and reflections from key stakeholders, discussions will highlight practical approaches to workforce development, education, multi-stakeholder collaboration and implementation of environmentally friendly and less invasive oral health care. Participants will identify lessons learned, remaining challenges, and opportunities to accelerate the transition away from dental amalgam in diverse country contexts.

		○ Enzo Bondioni, FDI World Dental Federation ○ Chris Fox, International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (IADR) ○ Eisaku Toda, Minamata Convention Secretariat	
10:30-11:00	**Healthy break**		
11:00-12:25	**What are effective approaches to improving the management of dental amalgam waste, from safe handling at health-care facilities to environmentally sound final disposal? (Component 2)** - UNEP Guidance on mercury waste from healthcare settings and global mapping of waste treatment facilities (20 min) - Rapid showcase of Component 2 project achievements from Senegal, Thailand, and Uruguay (30 min; joint presentation): ***Panel discussion*** *From Collection to Final Disposal: Stakeholder Perspectives on Strengthening Amalgam Waste Management Systems* *(35 min)*	**Presentation by:** - David Hunter, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership **Rapid showcase** - **Moderated by:** Gabriela Sardon, WHO HQ - **Joint presentation by:** ○ **Senegal:** Mame Ndioro Faye ○ **Thailand:** Nawarat Apichainan ○ **Uruguay:** Agustin Cataldo and Judith Torres (virtual) **Panel discussion** - **Moderated by:** Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP GMP - **Panellists:**	Explore practical approaches to improving the management of dental amalgam waste across the health-care system, from safe handling and collection at the point of generation to environmentally sound treatment and final disposal. Drawing on UNEP guidance, country experiences from Thailand, Senegal and Uruguay, and perspectives from international organizations, academia and the private sector, the session will examine the systems, technologies, partnerships and enabling conditions needed to support effective mercury waste management. Discussions will highlight lessons learned in strengthening waste traceability, regulatory compliance and cross-sectoral coordination, while considering the feasibility, sustainability and cost implications of different approaches in diverse national contexts. Particular attention will be given to identifying practical and scalable solutions for low-

		○ Malick Ndoye, SEPCO representative ○ Carola Auer, Metasys ○ Abdoul Wahab Kane, USSEIN (Université du Sine Saloum El-Hâdj Ibrahima NIASS), Senegal	and middle-income countries, and to opportunities for adapting and replicating successful models in support of the Minamata and Basel Conventions.
12:25-12:30	**Wrap up – Plenary session**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Summarize the key highlights of the session and provide guidance on logistical arrangements for field visit on the next day and the afternoon African subregional workshop.
12:30-13:30	**Lunch break**		
DAY 2 - AFTERNOON **Co-Chairs: Assane Diop**, Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (METE) of Senegal and **Malgorzata Stylo**, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership			
13:30-15:00	**AFR Subregional session: Component 2 (dental amalgam waste management)** - Opening and recap (10 min) - Deep dive into the GEF-7 Senegal experience – Component 2: presentation and Q&A – 30 min - How can amalgam separators contribute to an effective management of dental amalgam waste? (10 min) - Technical session by waste management company (in preparation for field visit) (10 min) - Regional experience sharing on Component 2 (30 min)	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs **Presentation by:** - Amadou Dieng, university researcher **Presentation by:** - Carola Auer, Metasys **Presentation by:** - Malick Ndoye, SEPCO **Regional experience** - **Moderated by:** David Hunter, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership	This session aims to deepen understanding and facilitate exchange on Component 2 by building on key messages from the plenary and subregional discussions. It will provide a detailed examination of Senegal's experience in implementing dental amalgam waste management systems, including practical insights on the piloting of separators, traceability mechanisms, engagement with waste management operators, and challenges and solutions identified. The session will also introduce technical session from the waste management operator about the solution applied (using diagrams, factsheet and visuals to illustrate the followed), as well as aspects relevant to the upcoming field visit.

		- **Countries:** o Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal	It will conclude with a moderated regional exchange, allowing participating countries to share experiences, reflect on common challenges, and identify opportunities to strengthen and further develop environmentally sound mercury waste management systems.
15:00-15:30	**Healthy break**		
15:30-16:55	**Which actions should be prioritized to phase out the use of dental amalgam?** - Introduction to the session - Table discussion (group activity) to identify top priority actions, key barriers and enabling factors - Reporting from tables and guided discussion - Countries refine their presentations	**Interactive session:** - **Moderated by:** Yuka Makino, WHO AFRO and Eisaku Toda, Minamata Convention Secretariat - **Countries:** Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal	This part will expand on the requirement under the Minamata Convention for countries that have not yet phased out dental amalgam to develop national action plans for its phase-out. Based on the draft guidance discussed on the prior day, this session aims to provide a structured platform to support countries to present and refine prioritized actions for the phase-out of dental amalgam, informed by existing national oral health roadmaps or national oral health action/strategic plans, and to identify common regional needs and opportunities. A template will be shared for countries to report comparable information. Note: a pre-meeting online webinar with participating countries will be organized to support preparation for this session if necessary.
16:55-17:00	**Wrap up - Afternoon session**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Summarize the key highlights and close the session.

FIELD VISIT - DAY 3 Attendees: participants with prior registration			
8:00-12:00	**Field trip – visit to health facility and waste management facility** *Time and location to be confirmed Participants will be divided into two groups to facilitate the field visits. One group will visit a health facility, while the other will visit SEPCO's waste management facility. Participation in the field visit is limited due to site capacity constraints. A maximum of 30 participants (15 per group) can be accommodated and advance registration is required.	The field visit aims to provide participants with practical, first-hand exposure to two complementary components of Senegal's approach to phasing down dental amalgam: oral health service delivery and environmentally sound waste management. To accommodate site capacity and operational considerations, participants will be divided into two groups, with each group visiting one of the sites during the morning. **Group 1** will visit a health-care facility (and/or university setting) to observe oral health services in practice, including the use of mercury-free alternatives, preventive and minimally invasive approaches, workforce training, and selected elements of Senegal's implementation of the GEF-7 Dental Amalgam Project. **Group 2** will visit SEPCO, a licensed waste management facility, to gain insights into the collection, transport, interim storage and management of amalgam waste prior to its shipment abroad for environmentally sound treatment and final disposal. **Logistical information for participants** - Participation is limited and subject to prior confirmation and registration. - Participants will be assigned to one of the two groups in advance, taking into account site capacity (15 people per group) and logistical arrangements. - As the visit will take place during the rainy season and periods of high temperatures are expected, participants are advised to wear comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes, and bring appropriate rain protection if needed. - Any required personal protective equipment (PPE) will be communicated in advance and provided where necessary. - Transportation arrangements, meeting points and final schedules will be communicated closer to the date of the visit.	
12:00-14:00	**Lunch break and return to the venue of the workshop**		
DAY 3 - AFTERNOON **Co-Chairs: Grace Halla**, UNEP and **David Hunter**, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership			
14:00-14:40	**AFR Subregional session: Recap and reflection on the field trip** - Opening and recap (5 min)	**Verbal statement by:**	This session aims to consolidate learning from the field visit by reflecting on observed practices in both oral health care

	- Reflection on field trip to health facility and waste management facility. Discussion on regional solution for the mercury waste management, including dental amalgam waste (35 min)	- Co-Chairs **Reflection moderated by:** - Co-Chairs	delivery and dental amalgam waste management, and discuss how these practices compare to their national contexts, and identify common regional challenges and opportunities for strengthening the transition to environmentally friendly oral health care and the sound management of mercury-containing waste.
14:40-15:55	**Which actions should be prioritized to phase out the use of dental amalgam? (continuation):** - Continuation from previous day [countries can stay longer if needed to finalize and prepare for their presentation on Day 4]	**Interactive session:** - **Moderated by:** Yuka Makino, WHO AFRO and Eisaku Toda, Minamata Convention Secretariat - **Countries:** Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal	Continuation from the previous day. Countries will finalize their presentations that they will deliver to plenary during Day 4.
15:55-16:00	**Wrap up - Afternoon session**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Summarize the key highlights and close the session.
16:00-16:30	**Healthy break**		
16:30-17:30	**GEF-7 Global Project Steering Committee [invited only]:** - Open exchange: Lessons, Ideas and Next Steps	Global PSC: WHO, UNEP, Senegal, Thailand and Uruguay, GMP. Observer: MC Secretariat	This session will provide an opportunity for project countries to reflect on the overall implementation of the GEF-7 project, drawing on collective experiences to identify key lessons learned and areas for improvement. Discussions will explore implementation challenges, coordination/engagement with partners, as well as the strengths and limitations of the project design across different country contexts.
DAY 4 - MORNING			

Co-Chairs: Yuka Makino, WHO AFRO and **Carolina Hommes**, WHO PAHO			
9:00-9:05	**Welcome and reflections from Day 2 and 3**	**Verbal statement by:** - Co-Chairs	Highlight key outcomes and reflections from Day 2 and 3 and introduce the agenda and key themes for Day 4.
9:05-10:30	**AFR subregional workshop report back and prioritized actions to phase out dental amalgam** - Reflection from subregional sessions (10 min) - Country presentations on prioritized actions to phase out dental amalgam (45 min) - Guided discussion amongst all participants, bringing perspectives from African partners and from other regions, to identify common challenges, opportunities, solutions and commitments to accelerate phasing out in the African region and beyond (25 min)	**Verbal statement by:** - AFR country (to be nominated during AFR subregional workshop) **Presentations by:** - Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo **Guided discussion moderated by:** - Co-Chairs	This session will provide an opportunity for the plenary to learn from the outcomes of the African subregional sessions, including highlights, lessons learned and key actions to phase out dental amalgam at national and regional levels. The session will conclude with a facilitated discussion to identify common challenges and opportunities across countries, explore practical solutions and areas for sub-regional collaboration especially waste management; and highlight potential commitments and next steps to accelerate the phase-out of dental amalgam in the African sub-region and other regions.
10:30-11:00	**Healthy break**		
11:00-11:30	**Knowledge management and dissemination (Component 3)** - Presentation (15 min) - Discussion and Q&A (15 min)	**Presentation by:** - Gabriela Sardon, WHO HQ and Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership	This session aims to strengthen the visibility, accessibility and use of project results by showcasing approaches to knowledge management and dissemination across platforms. It will present key project outputs (e.g. case studies, dashboards and awareness-raising materials); highlight platforms for sharing and exchange, including WHO, the GMP and country-specific channels; and support the uptake and replication of lessons learned across countries and regions.

11:30-12:30	**Sustainability and scale-up beyond the project** - Panel discussion with GEF-7 countries on post-project transition strategy to sustain and scale up project achievements (30 min) - Panel discussion with cofinancing partners on sustainability, accountability and maintaining momentum beyond project closure (30 min)	**Panel discussion:** - **Moderated by:** Malgorzata Stylo, Global Mercury Partnership - **Panellists:** o **Senegal:** Pathe Dieye and Codou Badiane o **Thailand**: Nanmanas Yaembut and Benjawan Buanum o **Uruguay:** Agustin Cataldo and Judith Torres (virtual) **Panel discussion:** - **Moderated by**: Benoit Varenne, WHO HQ - **Panellists:** Cofinancing partners online and in-person: o Enzo Bondioni, FDI World Dental Federation o Carola Auer, Metasys o Ray Cahill, SDI (virtual) o Nicolas Martin, Sheffield University (virtual)	This session will bring together GEF-7 project countries and key partners to reflect on pathways for sustaining momentum and scaling up achievements beyond project completion. It will begin with presentations from Senegal, Thailand and Uruguay outlining their national exit strategies, including approaches to ensure continuity of actions, maintain capacities and embed activities within existing systems. This will be followed by a moderated discussion with co-financing partners and stakeholders on mechanisms to sustain progress towards the Global Oral Health Action Plan targets for 2030 and the target date of 2034 for the phase out of dental amalgam.
12:30-13:30	**Lunch break**		
DAY 4 - AFTERNOON **Co-Chairs: Gabriela Sardon**, WHO HQ and **Mamadou Moustapha DIOP,** Ministère de la Santé et de L'hygiène Publique of Senegal			
13:30-14:20	**Joint reflection on commitments and opportunities for the future** - Joint reflection: lessons and key takeaways from GEF-7 project experience and the event (35 min) - Brief statements by GEF, UNEP, Minamata Convention and WHO to advance toward	**Joint reflection moderated by:** - Co-chairs **Verbal statements by:** - Anil Sookdeo, GEF (recording)	Representatives from project countries and participants share key lessons, breakthroughs and insights emerging from the project and workshop. Brief statements by GEF, UNEP, WHO and the Minamata Convention Secretariat on priorities, opportunities and partnerships

	the phasing out dental amalgam in the region and global level (15 min)	- Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, - Benoit Varenne, WHO - Eisaku Toda, Minamata Convention Secretariat	to support continued progress towards phasing out dental amalgam.
14:20-15:00	**Event and Project closure ceremony** - Acknowledgements, official closure and group photo	**Verbal statements by:** - Michel Yao, WHO Senegal - Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of Senegal - Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal	The closure ceremony will include remarks from WHO WR Senegal and the host country to acknowledge the collaboration, achievements and contributions made throughout the project. The session will formally mark the conclusion of the workshop and highlight key takeaways and future directions. It will conclude with a group photo, followed by an invitation for participants to continue discussions during an informal networking session.
15:00-16:00	**Informal Networking with coffee break**		