Closing Global Workshop

Lessons Learned from the GEF 10810 Project Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products 2022–2026

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Closing Global Workshop: Lessons Learned from the GEF 10810 Project "Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products" (2022–2026)

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Organized by: Pan America Health Organization (PAHO) in coordination with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI), the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Panama.

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Day 1 - 26 February 2026

Opening Remarks

Dr. Heather Brown, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica, delivered the opening remarks, warmly welcoming all the participants and setting the tone for an engaging opportunity for learning and reflection during the workshop. Dr Brown reflected on the highlights of the project in Jamaica, Gabon and Sri Lanka which included regulatory strengthening, analytical testing of products, awareness raising, and understanding behavioural changes needed, among other priorities for eliminating mercury-added skin lightening products. She also noted that the work would continue beyond the project's closure to address this serious issue of skin lightening.

Ms. Grace Halla, UNEP, followed by highlighting the significance of the GEF 10810 *Eliminating Skin Lightening Products* project as being the first of its kind in breaking new ground in addressing harmful cosmetics. She stressed that mercury-added skin-lightening products (SLPs) are not only a compliance issue, but also a human health and environmental issue, grounded in the principle that no one should risk their health and safety in pursuit of beauty. Ms. Halla emphasized that the initiative challenges not only toxic substances but also the harmful beauty standards and mindsets associated with them. Through this project, key components included laboratory training, improved customs controls, supply chain analysis, strengthened legislation, and community empowerment, with a focus on gender equality to ensure sustained impact. Ms. Halla closed by expressing that this project ultimately aspires to create lasting change by encouraging communities to embrace diversity, before acknowledging and thanking participating project countries for their continued dedication and commitment.

Dr. Emilie Van Deventer, WHO Headquarters (HQ), closed the opening remarks by expressing that over the past four years, this initiative has brought together governments, civil society organizations, and scientists to collaboratively address this critical issue. She expressed that this workshop marks an important milestone for the three participating countries, reflecting the strength of their partnership and sustained collaboration. The project has demonstrated clear added value by promoting evidence-based policies while keeping public health at the center of all efforts. The late inclusion of behavioural insights (BI) has proven to be both highly useful and impactful, further strengthening the initiatives' outcomes. Dr. Van Deventer

closed by congratulating the progress achieved and underscored the importance of shared responsibility amongst all partners.

GEF 10810 Project: global achievements and reflections; presentation of final deliverables

Dr. Elena Jardan, WHO HQ, presented on the countries' achievements under the project. The GEF 10810 project, co-executed by BRI, and UNEP as the implementing agency, has been carried out over the past four years and will conclude in March 2026. This project has also been supported by co-financing from civil society organizations, Ministries of Health, the UNEP Global Mercury Programme, and other partners. The project is structured around three components: (1) national capacity building, (2) reducing production and trade; and (3) knowledge management. Key milestones include the development and strengthening of legislation and regulatory frameworks, including timelines and penalties. Dr. Jardan discussed the central role behavioural research has played, culminating in the launch of a behavioural insights (BI) tool based on quantitative and qualitative data, as well as a user journey map template and discussion guide to inform interventions. Through a systematic review and evidence gathered under the project, higher usage was noted among women than men, though there were variations across countries. BI findings have complemented Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey results, with data collection ongoing in Sri Lanka (findings expected in March), activities completed in Gabon, and Jamaica preparing for implementation.

Dr. Jardan highlighted that remaining activities and funding under Component 1 of the project include finalizing the current workshop outcomes, regulatory toolkit and model law, BI outcomes and other tools, and publishing remaining outcomes from Gabon and Jamaica. Under Component 2, led by BRI, remaining efforts include Customs Training workshops to be carried out in Gabon and Jamaica, laboratory testing of samples in Gabon, and finalization of a global database. Components 2 and 3 also involve stakeholder meetings, updates to the knowledge hub, dissemination of an awareness raising video, finalization of infographics, and completion of a supply chain report.

Dr. Jardan provided an overview of some key lessons learned under this project including the importance of flexibility to integrate decisions from the Minamata Convention Conference of the Parties (COP), incorporating waste management in future projects, ensuring access to accurate information, and strengthening collaboration

with laboratories, customs authorities, and informal producers for a more holistic approach. She pointed out that in Gabon for example, current regulations in place are being expanded to address additional toxic substances, offering a potential model for other countries.

Dr. Jardan expanded on the latest COP decision, and expressed that a nationwide public health strategy to reduce harmful SLPs is being developed and will be submitted to the Minamata Secretariat by December 2026. For this project, next steps include finalizing remaining activities, reporting to the GEF, documenting lessons learned, and submitting the national health strategy outline to the Secretariat as mentioned.

Overall, Dr. Jardan expressed that this project has laid a strong foundation for continued global action and offers a model approach for country-level assistance on combatting the use and sale of mercury-added SLPs. The WHO, BRI, UNEP, European Environmental Bureau/Zero Mercury Working Group (EEB/ZMWG), national governments, and the Minamata Secretariat, continue to advance legislation, behavioural research, enforcement, public awareness, and global advocacy.

Ms. Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (UNEP GMP) briefly presented on Component 3 Knowledge Management under the project and demonstrated where to find relevant documents and resources on the GMP Knowledge Hub website. She mentioned that the partnership gathers every six months to share knowledge, and encouraged participants to attend the final meeting which will soon be scheduled.

Interactive session: Mapping countries overall achievements, lessons learnt and challenges and laying foundation for in depth thematic discussions (mind map)

Ms. Stylo led a session which invited participants to write short notes on the key achievements, challenges and lessons learnt during the project overall as well as for the main thematic areas: legislation, monitoring and surveillance, supply chain and awareness raising. The goal of this exercise is to promote discussions and reflections over the course of the workshop. A summary of notes recorded is provided in the table below.

Table 1: Summary of Mind Map Interactive Exercise

Thematic Area	Key Achievements	Challenges	Lessons Learnt
Overall	• Identifying relevant partners from ministries, agencies, NGOs, academia, informing them and establishing multistakeholder dialogue and community at national level	• Unclear KPIs, roles, mandates • Regulatory delays; political sensitivity • Limited capacity (HR, skills, time) • Data access, quality, and handling issues • Cost concerns and need for quick wins • Stakeholder engagement difficult to sustain	• Persistence and strong relationships matter • Early engagement of key actors • Plan early, especially technical aspects • Build on existing systems; support and training essential • Multilingual, creative, inclusive approaches improve uptake • Pilots, feedback loops, and flexibility increase success
Legislation	• Cosmetics act in development • Standards defined (labelling, safety, claims) • Clearer regulatory roles and models • GMP alignment and clarity on conformity processes • Drafting policies on online sales	• No harmonised approach; differing national practices • Limited references for authorities • Short timelines; insufficient government support • Complex transition and SME compliance burden • Penalties, sanctions missing • Difficulty in interministerial cooperation	• Laws and national standards enable enforcement • Scientific expertise and cooperation essential • Strong public control mechanisms needed
Monitoring and Surveillance	• Improved GMP alignment • Strengthened lab/testing capacity • Shared understanding of surveillance goals	• Limited training, equipment, and harmonisation • Insufficient testing capacity and sampling quality • Lack of data, resources, and clear institutional roles	• Share SLPS evidence; standard tools and SOPs needed • Risk-based surveillance more effective • Collaboration between customs, labs, regulators is critical
Supply Chain	• Mapping of supply chains,local	• Difficulty operationalising	• Online sales reshape control needs

	manufacturers and online marketplaces including social media. ● Better understanding of vulnerabilities ● Developed and adopted prohibited products lists ● Established contact with online platforms ● Initiating and strengthening enforcement of laws vis a vis manufacturing and trade of Hg/SLPs	findings ● Rapid market changes; informal sector; online sales ● Falsified documents; weak enforcement; fragmented data ● Lack of licensing, registration of manufacturers, importers, distributors, online marketplaces	● Strong traceability platforms required ● Mapping must link to enforcement ● Collaboration with all supply-chain actors essential
Awareness Raising	● Publicly available list of registered cosmetics ● Work with communities on harmful substances ● Engagement on safe cosmetic use ● Active involvement of project partners ● Knowledge hub established ● Context-appropriate communication tools ● Improved understanding of cosmetic risks ● Media, workshops, healthcare involvement	● List of banned substances unclear or inaccessible ● Very low awareness among consumers ● Difficulty reaching communities, especially informal groups ● Deeply rooted cultural perceptions of beauty ● Knowledge gaps on risks and regulations ● Difficulty tracking progress ● Sustaining momentum beyond short-term projects	● Awareness must be continuous ● Should be integrated into broader community programmes ● Victims' voices can be powerful ● Messaging must be tailored ● Ethical approval needed for personal stories ● Impact should be measured, not only outputs ● Community ownership increases sustainability ● Momentum is key to long-term change ● Messaging should link awareness to measurable health impact

Thematic Session: Legislation, regulations

Strengthening legislation, compliance and enforcement

Mr. John Lisman, Consultant with WHO HQ, moderated this session on the building blocks for effective cosmetics legislation. He began by explaining the objectives of legislation on mercury-added SLPs including preventing the import, manufacture and sale of mercury-added cosmetics; informing and raising awareness about their dangers; and prohibiting misleading advertising of these products. Mr. Lisman additionally noted the need for the development of a system with methods for compliance and enforcement, and the establishment of institutional responsibilities and arrangements for managing enforcement in mercury-added SLPs.

On the supply side, Mr. Lisman emphasized that cosmetics legislation should comprehensively regulate product safety and market practices including control of control of ingredients through positive and negative lists for specific types of cosmetics, clear labelling requirements, and prior notification of qualitative and quantitative product composition and/or licensing before being placed on the market. He highlighted that good manufacturing practices should also be mandatory, supported by laboratory control, and effective market surveillance.

On the demand side, Mr. Lisman stressed that regulations should prohibit the advertisement of unregulated cosmetics, including SLPs, and ban unproven or misleading claims—particularly those related to skin colour—across both online and in store sales channels. Clear consumer information, use of international nomenclature, and restrictions on false or exaggerated claims are essential to promote rational product use. For non-legal purposes, information and strengthening of awareness of health care professionals, beauty parlour staff and consumers regarding risks of using unregulated products, mercury and other heavy metals, and SLPs.

Mr. Lisman emphasized the need for strong enforcement, as SLPs can be a highly lucrative industry. Penalties must act as effective deterrents, including substantial fines and, where appropriate, imprisonment. Regional cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing can strengthen inspection authorities by ensuring adequate powers and staffing. He pointed out that legislation must clearly define the scope of regulated products and responsible persons, clarifying whether items fall under cosmetics, medical products, or medical devices, and under which authority. Competent authorities should be independent, impartial, and

science-based, and they should pre-market notification or certification approaches, even sanctioning, placing the burden of proof on manufacturers to demonstrate product safety before market entry. Production from starting materials to the finished product should be under the quality assurance system of good manufacturing practices, and release of batches if they are compliant. Adding to this, labelling and claims should use clear consumer information and international nomenclature, as well as prohibit claims that imply unproven or false characteristics, and lack truthfulness.

Mr. Lisman mentioned that online sales present particular challenges, including the role of paid and unpaid influencers, cross-border marketing, large e-commerce platforms, and informal sellers who can quickly rebrand and re-emerge. Platforms should bear legal responsibility for product safety. While there are no simple solutions, enhanced cooperation and information exchange between authorities are key to addressing these evolving risks.

Overall, Mr. Lisman's presentation showcased that effective regulation requires a balanced approach combining robust legal frameworks, active enforcement, public awareness efforts, and sustained collaboration to protect public health and the environment.

A representative from Sri Lanka provided a comment that certain SLPs, such as those classified under indigenous or traditional medicine (e.g., ayurvedic) are regulated by different authorities than conventional cosmetics. Mercury is used in medicinal products so more research is needed to help fully understand how to be regulated. This raises the need to consider how distinct product categories can be accommodated within a coherent regulatory framework. A harmonized approach - while maintaining clear definitions and mandates - would help ensure consistent safety standards, avoid regulatory gaps, and provide effective oversight across all relevant products. Mr. Lisman responded that a single regulatory framework could effectively cover both conventional cosmetics and products linked to indigenous or traditional medicine. For example, requiring pre-market certification and safety assessment for all relevant products would help ensure consistent standards before market entry. Such an approach would prevent regulatory gaps and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the legislation.

Invited expert, Dr. Terry Mohammed, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, mentioned that existing pharmaceutical legislation already included robust control mechanisms. This raises the question of whether SLPs could be

reclassified as pharmaceuticals, thereby bringing under strict regulatory oversight and leveraging established control systems. Mr. Lisman responded that this would work as a legal framework, however medicinal products often have the strictest criteria. A following comment was made that the pharmaceutical council in Antigua and Barbuda recently had consultations and it was determined that for them, SLPs will be categorized under pharmaceuticals.

Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, EEB/ZMWG, pointed out that while traditional use is exempted in the Convention, national legislation can adopt a broader scope. If no such exemption is incorporated into domestic law, medical and traditionally used products could also fall within the regulatory framework, ensuring comprehensive coverage. Dr. Elena Jardan provided additional insight on the WHO model law which consists of two components. She mentioned that the WHO is to provide a template for outlining the key elements required for a legislative framework, while individual countries will determine whether to regulate SLPs as cosmetics, medical products or other appropriate category. Regardless of the classification, Dr. Jardan highlighted that although they have a proposed definition for SLPs in the WHO model legislation, the overarching requirement is that all products placed on the market must meet the national safety standards.

Another question was raised regarding whether this legislation be added as a new act or amended to an existing one. The response advised that where there is an overarching framework, such as a national chemicals safety management or safety act, it may be more efficient to amend that legislation rather than develop a standalone law. However, in the absence of such a framework, a dedicated standalone act may be necessary. A voluntary approach was not recommended, as binding measures are considered essential for effective regulation and enforcement. Mr. Lisman added that while SLPs typically referred to those applied directly to skin, injectable SLPs should also be considered cosmetics and not drugs.

Documenting experiences and lessons learnt from project countries

Jamaica

Dr. Heather Brown presented an overview of the legislation governing trade of SLPs containing mercury in Jamaica which include a combination of international and national legislation. In Jamaica, the Trade Act governs the import and export of products, while the Food and Drug Act regulates the sale, manufacture, and import/export of drugs but does not cover cosmetics. For

cosmetics, the Standards Act is relevant to cosmetic manufacturing and includes provisions that could be enforced where products cause harm to users or are improperly labelled. However, only mandatory standards are enforceable, and establishing such a standard can take up to two years. The Customs Act allows for the prohibition of goods as directed by the responsible ministry and could support specific HS codes that include mercury in cosmetics. Dr. Brown emphasized that beyond the scope of this project, it will be critical for Jamaica to maintain a national steering committee, continued advocacy for enforcement and new legislation as well as enforcement of existing legislation, and sustained coordination between agencies. Regarding the use of Harmonised System (HS) Codes for categorizing mercury added SLPs, Mr. Eisaku Toda, Minamata Secretariat, suggested the alternative use of national banned lists unless there is national legislation that requires HS codes. In response, it was noted that since Customs Authorities primarily act based on HS Codes and recommendations from relevant standards bodies, the use of HS Codes may still be required in addition to national banned lists and other more practical enforcement measures. Developing and regularly updating a national list of banned substances—issued by the appropriate regulatory authority—could strengthen enforcement and provide clearer guidance to Customs. Lastly, ongoing monitoring is essential to address the frequent rebranding of prohibited products, emphasizing the need for a dynamic and continuously updated banned lists at the national level.

Following this discussion, Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, raised plans to revise or strengthen legislation beyond the lifespan of the project, as there are already a number of legislative pieces that can be applied. Additionally, she asked about extended HS codes as well as if the banned list will be publicly available to consumers so that they can be aware of banned products. Jamaica acknowledged that one of the main challenges is prioritization, as mercury is often overshadowed by other pressing national issues. Continued advocacy will therefore be necessary to keep mercury and SLP regulation high on the policy agenda. Regional efforts were also noted, including The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) standards addressing hazardous chemicals such as mercury. These standards have been well received by customs authorities and are being translated and distributed to support implementation.

Lastly, Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo made reference to both the model law under discussion and the Caribbean GEF-funded ISLANDS (Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small

Island Developing States) project model chemicals law, with the suggestion that elements from both could be combined and adapted to fit the national context.

Sri Lanka

Dr. Inoka Suraweera, Ministry of Health, presented on the regulatory framework for Sri Lanka and the focus on import/export control and market surveillance. She explained that the main laboratory engaged in testing mercury in SLPs was the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), who initially set a mercury threshold limit of 1 part per million (ppm) for SLPs, which was later revised following the 0 ppm revision by the Minamata Secretariat. A proposed reduction to 0.01 ppm was opened for public comment, but industry concerns - citing higher limits - led to the adoption of a 0.5 ppm standard, currently applicable to creams and lotions. She pointed out that the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) in Sri Lanka, involved in the market surveillance of SLPs, has brought this new standard into their regulations. However, Dr. Inoka advised that Sri Lanka would like to bring this standard down to 0.05 ppm in the future.

For imports, the products need to comply with national standards. The Ministry of Health, Cosmetics, Devices and Drugs Act provides regulatory power for manufacturing, sales, distribution and licensing. The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) are working on revisions for the Act to better address cosmetics regulation and close identified gaps. The CAA as mentioned earlier, is involved in the market surveillance, sampling products, and comparing them to national standards and can withdraw non-compliant products if needed. Dr. Inoka stressed that public disclosure of non-compliant products has increased awareness, including through social media coverage. Despite the progress, Dr. Inoka expressed that challenges remain, which include unregulated markets such as salon mixtures and injections, informal and illicit imports (including via fishing boats and personal luggage), limited testing capacity and financial resources, expanding online sales, persistent consumer demand, informal distribution networks, and the absence of a registration system for salons and spas. Regulatory agencies also face human resource and financial constraints.

The next steps for Sri Lanka include finalizing revisions to the relevant legislation, publishing updated standards, and ensuring that mercury-containing cosmetic waste is directed to appropriate intermediate waste management facilities. Efforts are underway to integrate SLP-related mercury control into broader chemical safety, environmental health, and medical waste management programmes, anchoring actions within

existing sustainable systems. She closed by discussing Sri Lanka's support in developing a clear, harmonized global (ISO) standard with a definitive mercury threshold.

A systematic and multifaceted approach is considered essential, combining regulatory enforcement, incentives and engagement, and awareness-raising. This includes shifting societal perceptions of beauty, targeting both women and men, integrating awareness into school health programmes, mapping and engaging stakeholders—including the private sector—and fostering early and sustained dialogue with consumers to promote diversity as a core value.

Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI, noted that engagement with SLSI is both strategic and important. She continued by pointing out that the removal of the 1 ppm mercury threshold was intended to assist countries by eliminating the need to demonstrate whether a SLP that was known to have mercury was above or below 1 ppm. However, for some countries, this introduced a challenge in terms of threshold development since trace levels of mercury are technically unavoidable - making a 0 ppm limit impractical due to the sensitivity of equipment - there is currently no clear definition of what constitutes "trace". Ms. Ali Shah noted that in this case, it would be up to the countries to determine a feasible threshold limit between 0-1 ppm and highlighted the need for harmonized global standards. Mr. Eisaku Toda, followed up on this comment by noting that the original text included a 1 ppm mercury threshold, which was amended at COP5 to remove the specific limit. Following this amendment, several African countries reviewed alternative regulatory approaches, including the EU framework, which does not maintain a 1 ppm threshold. While some Parties continue to apply specific limits, the intention behind removing the threshold was to avoid confusion between prohibited intentional use and unavoidable trace amounts. The discussion highlighted the value of information sharing between countries on how they have implemented their approaches, to support national decision-making and promote regulatory clarity.

Gabon

Mr. Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o, WHO Gabon, began the Gabon presentation by providing an overview of the regulatory limits of mercury in SLPs in Gabon. Initially, Mr. Allo'o Allo'o mentioned that without laboratory capacity, a binary regulatory approach was adopted, aligning with most countries aiming for 0 ppm mercury limits. He emphasized that Gabon has good government support across different agencies and various stakeholders for this project. The Ministry of Health, in coordination with L'Agence Nationale du

Médicament et des Autres Produits de Santé (ANMAPS), led to the development of the draft legislation addressing mercury in cosmetics, taking into account trade, export, manufacturing, and public health impacts. The draft text successfully targeted the elimination of mercury-added SLPs, with a commitment endorsed by the African Ministerial Conference to progressively lower limits.

Mr. Allo'o Allo'o continued by discussing pilot stakeholder activities which included consultations and awareness-raising campaigns through the Libreville Commitment. It was highlighted that a list of 57 prohibited mercury-added products was established, and high-level political support was mobilized, including engagement from the Prime Minister and First Lady, to promote natural skin and more inclusive beauty standards. Through Gabon's action plan, implementation of the project included coordination of government agencies.

Gabon conducted surveys to understand product use, revealing that the majority of users were young women. He noted that while the country lacks a local laboratory, information on mercury-added SLPs was compiled, monitored for market availability, and shared to support enforcement. Mr. Allo'o Allo'o touched on Gabon's participation in international events including side events at the COP, and the mandate of the Libreville Commitment to the WHO, who have provided ongoing technical support. Mr. Allo'o Allo'o closed by emphasizing Gabon's successful presentation of its first national law regulating mercury in cosmetics in 2023, demonstrating their progress toward both national public health goals and regional commitments.

Mr. Eisaku Toda congratulated Gabon on their work and noted that Gabon's legislation also restricts use which is not yet covered under the proposed model legislation. Mr. Allo'o Allo'o responded that the ultimate goal of the project was to eliminate mercury use in cosmetics and it was therefore prioritized. Following the project, ongoing market surveillance will be essential to ensure mercury is no longer present in SLPs. He also noted that there is a need to consider and address other product categories that may contain mercury as the next step.

Mr. Jean Hervé Mve Beh, Ministry of Forests, Oceans, Environment and Climate Change of Gabon, added that two complementary initiatives are underway. One focuses on supporting Central Africa in establishing a regional reference laboratory to strengthen analytical capacity under the Convention. Currently, Mr. Mve Beh highlighted that there is only one laboratory in the region equipped to conduct testing relevant to Convention priorities. Efforts to enhance laboratory capacity are ongoing, alongside continued work on monitoring and addressing mercury-

added SLPs. Representatives from Gabon also brought up that follow-up missions and activities are planned to ensure continuity beyond the current phase of the project.

In March, implementation will continue with scheduled activities including a workshop focused on online sales and digital platforms. A Customs Training workshop is planned, with dates to be confirmed. These efforts reflect a commitment to sustaining momentum and advancing new activities after the project closes. Mrs. Lymberidi-Settimo thanked Gabon for their initiative and emphasized the importance of sustaining efforts beyond the project's lifecycle. She highlighted the need to institutionalize achievements by integrating activities into the regular work of relevant agencies. ANMAPs should align with and build upon existing platforms to ensure continuity. This approach is essential for all countries, not only Gabon, to maintain progress and fully integrate project outcomes into ongoing national frameworks, as well as sharing knowledge at high level events.

Thematic Session: Testing, Monitoring, Surveillance

(a) Market surveillance, customs training and enhancement of monitoring and enforcement systems

Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI, began the session with a brief activity for participants to review a list of SLPs provided and, based on guidance provided, evaluate their likelihood of containing mercury using a risk-based matrix developed specifically for the exercise. Guidance provided was based on three factors: country of manufacture, product type, and labelling or marketing keywords assessed from SLP analysis conducted in project countries. The exercise demonstrated that further research-based evidence is needed to better determine how these products should be monitored and potentially banned, which is why continuous development of a global database on mercury-added SLPs can be of strong benefit to various stakeholders.

Ms. Ashley Bastiansz, BRI, then presented findings from the testing, monitoring and market surveillance of SLPs, beginning with the enhancement of enforcement systems. She provided a brief overview of the importance of managing mercury trade, more specifically the persistence of illicit mercury

trade, smuggling routes as well as concealed or mislabelled shipments, and the need for multi-agency response, international collaboration and strong national coordination. She pointed out that relevant enforcement stakeholders must be properly trained and equipped to effectively address the issue of mercury-added SLPs. A clear inter-agency protocol is needed to improve coordination in detecting, monitoring, and preventing the manufacture, import, and export of mercury-added SLPs. Ms. Bastiansz emphasized that this should build on key project outcomes, including strengthening regulatory and institutional capacity to enforce bans, establishing national and global baselines on the prevalence of mercury-added SLPs (including online sales), and mapping supply chains involved in their production and trade.

Ms. Bastiansz provided an overview of recommended tools for enforcement training such as risk profiling, analytical testing, extended HS codes, global database of mercury-added SLPs, and interagency collaboration.

Ms. Bastiansz then presented an example of the national follow-up actions undertaken by Sri Lanka and demonstrating how databases can support customs regulation. More specifically, the NMRA provided relevant information to the Customs Authority, which was then uploaded to the ASYCUDA system, an automated platform for managing customs data, showcasing the value of integrated digital systems in improving regulatory oversight and enforcement.

Ms. Bastiansz provided an overview of the completion of Sri Lankan enforcement activities under the GEF 10810 Project which included an in-person sub-regional training workshop involving Customs Officers, environmental regulators, and law enforcement agencies. Stakeholders were provided with the guidance to detect and control mercury trade. This activity was a joint initiative developed with funding from the Japan-funded “Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention” and the GEF 10810 Project.

Ms. Bastiansz then noted that the enforcement activities for Jamaica and Gabon are still in progress, and opened it up to the floor to receive their feedback on implementation. Ms. Alecia Hamilton, PAHO/WHO Jamaica, responded by confirming that the meeting will be held in March, virtually, which will allow them to reach a larger volume of Customs Agents. For Gabon, Ms. Bastiansz relayed that an official letter was recently sent to the Head of the Ministry of Health (Dr. Ange Mibindzou Mouelet) as well as the Head of Customs

(Directeur Général Hugues Modeste Odjangou) with stakeholders copied. She requested support to follow up and coordinate to ensure preparations are completed before the targeted workshop, scheduled for the beginning April 2026. Dr. Christiane Adjonga, ANMAPS, acknowledged the letters that had been sent and confirmed that they would assist with carrying out the Customs Training during the beginning of April. Dr. Adjonga also confirmed that the remaining SLP samples would be delivered to the CARMEN laboratory for analysis.

Ms. Bastiansz highlighted some resources that BRI has developed/are in development to assist with enforcement:

(1) Enhancement of Monitoring of Mercury Trade Guidance Document; and

(2) Customs Guidance Document on Mercury-Added SLPs Monitoring *(to be made available by the end of the project)*.

(b) Analytical methodologies for sampling and testing

Ms. Bastiansz provided recommended sampling considerations for mercury-added SLPs:

- **Source of Products Selected:** Both formal retailers and informal markets in project countries
- **Locations Sampled:** Recommended to expand beyond capital cities
- **Purposive Sampling:** Selecting products that were advertised or labelled using key word such as “lightening”, “whitening”, and products manufactured within the project country or region were prioritized
- **Use a standard sample log** to record key information on listed ingredients, manufacturer, batch numbers, photos, etc.

Ms. Bastiansz then handed the presentation to Mr. Mark Burton, BRI, who detailed the analytical methodologies for sampling and testing for mercury in SLPs and how these methodologies impact monitoring and enforcement efforts. This requires increasing capacity to monitor both local and online markets - including production, distribution channels, and consumer usage patterns and analytical capacity is central to that effort. He highlighted that monitoring mercury in SLPs is important to meeting obligations under the Minamata Convention and emphasized that implementation depends on the ability to reliably measure what is actually present in products and on the national market.

The analytical frameworks including equipment selection, calibration range, sample preparation, and technical analytical capacity all directly influence legislative language, enforcement, and regulatory agencies. Challenges of monitoring mercury-added SLPs include lack of capacity and technical expertise, lack of knowledge and practices of users, and mislabelled products. Mr. Burton outlined the recommended testing protocol developed by BRI to assist with SLP sampling in the field *(an updated version will be published in March)*. Mr. Burton explained that the project's testing protocol involves a two-step procedure involving an X-ray fluorescence Analyzer (XRF) as screening tool to identify high mercury SLPs followed by using a Direct Mercury Analyzer (DMA) to confirm and accurately quantify mercury concentrations for reporting. The, advantages, disadvantages and considerations in analysis with both instruments were noted. Mr. Burton, described the importance of the protocol and emphasized its adaptability to existing national laboratory infrastructure as it can be used for different analytical needs (e.g., customs/border screening, national laboratory confirmation).

He highlighted again that although funding is not available under the current project to procure equipment, BRI can provide technical assistance and assist with capacity building. Strengthening national laboratory capacity can be supported through inter-laboratory comparisons, cooperation, and standardized protocols that help ensure capabilities continue beyond the project. Ongoing refinements to DMA methodologies highlight the need for continuous knowledge sharing, technical support, harmonization, and coordinated testing and training for national teams. Under this project, Mr. Burton discussed the engagement between BRI and the labs in Sri Lanka (SLSI), Jamaica (ICENS), and Gabon (ANMAPS and CARMEN) which aim to encourage information exchange and capacity building. He closed with discussing future work which should assess better understanding of the effects of sample homogeneity within each container, quality assurance and control practices, inter-laboratory collaboration, and reliable analytical data to support regulatory enforcement and commitments under the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

(c) Presentation of global database

Ms. Bastiansz, returned to present on the global database that is under development to support regulatory enforcement and monitoring, improve global information sharing, protect public health, and support consumer awareness. She presented on the number of SLPs collected and tested under this project, not including duplicates:

- Jamaica (82)

- Gabon (222)
- Sri Lanka (179)

Ms. Bastiansz explained that the collation of the mercury-added SLP database includes the sampling data collected under this project, along with data that BRI gathered and compared existing validated data from more than 4,000 SLP samples reported in over 50 published journal articles and databases/reports from recognized entities, including 1,185 samples generated through EEB/ZMWG research.

Ms. Bastiansz presented some of the findings under this database such as global trends of product manufacturing companies, regional trade flows, and product trends. She then discussed limitations of the database, one of the main limitations being that data was primarily focused on previously identified regions of having mercury-added SLPs, as well as sample bias, instrumentation precision, and recorded product information. Ms. Bastiansz closed with providing an overview of the influence of databases and detention lists on regulatory agencies, and the goals for the global database, which includes the continued integration of new data sources to ensure it remains reflective of current developments in the field. It was noted that this database is soon to be published on the UNEP GMP website.

Day 2 - 27 February 2026

Summary of Day 1 and Reflections

Dr. Elena Jardan, WHO, provided a recap of Day 1 of the workshop and key points from each session. She highlighted the importance of maintaining strong engagement between countries.

Ms. Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP GMP, provided insight into global outreach tools, and reminded participants that the National Institute for Minamata Disease (NIMD) offers free analysis for SLPs once shipping costs can be covered by the senders.

She also highlighted the upcoming International Conference of Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICGMP) to be held in October in India. She and Mr. Eisaku Toda, Minamata Secretariat, will be chairing a special session on SLPs under science of mercury and connections to policy and actions. She urged participants to submit an abstract if they have something prepared, before 31 March 2026.

Thematic Session: Supply Chain Engagement

Case Studies: Working with Manufacturers, Traders, and Distributors/Documenting experiences and lessons learnt from project countries

Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, EEB/ZMWG, highlighted key challenges in addressing mercury-added SLPs, emphasizing the need to identify sources of mercury compounds, strengthen regulatory pathways, and ensure legislation is effectively implemented through appropriate institutional mechanisms. Findings from investigations—including a 2023 Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) report—indicate that mercury-containing compounds continue to be produced, exported, and used in SLPs, including through cottage production and large distributors. Strengthening supply chain oversight, improving market surveillance, and targeting major importers, distributors, retailers, and beauty salons are critical, alongside addressing demand and disposal.

Mrs. Lymberidi-Settimo also stressed the growing role of online sales. Research and monitoring across multiple countries found mercury-added SLPs widely available on e-commerce and social media platforms. She added that the ZMWG database identified

over 40 platforms and 70 brands of mercury-added SLPs, which were confirmed by project findings. The results highlight the need for online legal reforms, including clear liability rules, significant penalties, and ensuring that e-commerce platforms carry the same responsibilities as physical sellers. Governments are increasingly engaging with online marketplaces—many of which already have prohibitive product policies—and these platforms are generally responsive when contacted by authorities. Within the three project countries, regulations and policies on the ground were identified. She emphasized through close monitoring, mercury-added SLPs were found to be available on online and social media platforms in all three project countries. She then passed it to the countries to share their experiences with online platforms.

For Gabon, Dr. Christiane Adjonga, ANMAPS, expressed that e-commerce activity was found to be limited, but a prohibited product list has been developed, adopted and published. Authorities have engaged the Ministry of Economy and drafted a formal letter currently under discussion for approval. While dedicated e-commerce platforms are not widely used, SLPs were identified though social media channels, YouTube, and mainly in physical markets. Mrs. Lymberidi-Settimo reiterated that 57 products were published on the prohibited list by ANMAPs and taken to various provinces in Gabon, and discussions were had with community members to raise awareness. She then invited Dr. Adjonga to reflect on the difficulties encountered during this activity. Dr. Adjonga expressed difficulty with contacting online vendors, as they did not understand the problem with selling these products, some of which did not exist in the physical markets. She highlighted that they took the pages down after being contacted but could easily be added to a different site elsewhere, thus making vendors difficult to track. ANMAPS created a list of social media vendors and will contact them in the future.

For Jamaica, Ms. Alecia Hamilton, PAHO/ WHO, explained that a three pronged approach was used and included preliminary research to identify relevant online platforms, followed by targeted surveillance. Social media was commonly used to purchase products, making them difficult to trace, and efforts were made to determine whether sellers also operated physical shops. Monitoring of six established platforms identified 34 SLPs, 13 of which contained mercury. The project worked with the government to strengthen response measures, including drafting a letter with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the ZMWG to support product notification and recall processes, encouraging platforms to sign pledges, and developing a contraband

list for customs authorities. A key challenge identified was ensuring continuity of surveillance efforts, particularly due to limited human resources to monitor online platforms after the project concludes.

For Sri Lanka, the supportive role that CAA played in monitoring online sales of SLPs, identifying numerous listings across web platforms and social media was emphasized. Surveillance focused on 5–8 major platforms, including eBay and Daraz, and built on products previously flagged by the CAA and tested during Phase 1. Authorities identified 48 platforms selling such products and began developing a voluntary policy for platforms to regulate sellers, with legal support. While some platforms were cooperative, verifying seller information and enforcing removals remains challenging. Although listings were removed by sellers, they would often reappear using different keywords, making monitoring resource-intensive. Despite these challenges, authorities—with the assistance of the Attorney General—continue to pursue enforcement measures including exploring the use of screening tools to improve detection and removal of prohibited products.

Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, expressed that experiences from participating countries have provided valuable insights for strengthening oversight of SLPs sold online. Initiatives such as voluntary safety pledges—introduced in the EU—require platforms to remove flagged products within two days and complement broader product safety monitoring systems like the EU Safety Gate for non-food products, where cosmetics account for a large share of alerts. Countries including Canada, Japan, and Australia have also engaged in similar efforts. To support future action, guidance documents on best practices and a methodology for estimating the scale of online sales of SLPs will be developed for the future project countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Key recommendations include maintaining momentum through strong legislation, interministerial cooperation, effective enforcement, bans on sales and offers for sale, and clear lists of prohibited products, complemented by voluntary agreements with online platforms. Leveraging existing legal frameworks, cross-sector synergies, and potential funding opportunities was also emphasized.

In response, participants commented on the lack of local engagement in this process, as well as the amount of time and resources needed to continually monitor these platforms after the project is over. Mrs. Lymberidi-Settimo emphasized that when mercury is detected in products, manufacturers cannot attribute the issue solely to a single batch, as mercury had been found in several different batches, levels may fluctuate and its presence often

indicates intentional addition. Ms. Tahlia Ali Shah, BRI, complemented this by noting that batch numbers remain important for traceability and can serve as an entry point for engaging manufacturers, potentially opening discussions on production practices and necessary changes. Mrs. Lymberidi-Settimo additionally noted that addresses listed on social media accounts may correspond to physical market locations. She also highlighted that individuals sometimes bring multiple SLPs in their personal luggage, suggesting that customs authorities could target inspections based on countries that are known to manufacture mercury-added SLPs (e.g., Pakistan).

Thematic Session: Behavioural Insights and Awareness Raising

Public health intervention, behavioral insights toolkit and communication

Rapid fire from pilot countries (Gabon, Sri Lanka, Jamaica) of 'Do's and Don'ts in conducting the SLP research using the toolkit

Interactive session: reflections and looking ahead

Ms. Elena Altieri, WHO, began the presentation by underlining the importance of prevention by reaching individuals before they begin using SLPs, through measures such as awareness campaigns, product labeling, and other targeted interventions. Effective change mechanisms should focus on empowerment, trusted sources of advice (such as family members and healthcare providers), and market-level actions. Participants noted that sustained change typically requires multiple, context-specific interventions that address the underlying drivers of product use, though such interventions still need to be designed, tested, and evaluated.

Participants from Gabon, Jamaica and Sri Lanka shared their experiences of the behaviour study. In Gabon, a mixed-methods KAP survey conducted in 2024 with a sample of 444 participants in Greater Libreville examined awareness and practices related to these products - 87% of respondents confirm using SLPs, mostly women. In Jamaica, earlier survey-based research from 2017-18 suggested higher use among women, though more recent observations indicate that men may use these products more frequently. A new cross-sectional study is being prepared with ethical approvals in place, and future monitoring may include additional focus groups and discussions. In Sri Lanka, research involved 470 hospital assistants of which 410 assistants across four districts agreed to participate, covering both urban and rural communities. A

combination of surveys and focus group discussions were carried out, which highlighted social drivers such as the perception that fairness is associated with beauty; discussions also revealed concerning cases of product use during pregnancy. Approximately 100 of the 410 responses were analyzed revealing that 60% of health assistants had been using SLPs, with most influenced by social media and television. The products were primarily purchased from pharmacies and cosmetic stores, and nearly 95% of respondents were aware that these products can be harmful. Ms. Altieri, mentioned that there was likely under reporting, as 60% is low, due to self-reporting bias, however this provides an entry point to the population. Dr. Inoka Suraweera, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka, explained that ethical clearance was obtained for all research activities, with careful attention given to validation and study design. Survey instruments were translated and pretested to ensure accuracy, though power dynamics may still influence participant responses.

Due to the limited project timeline of five months, data entry and analysis are still ongoing. In Jamaica, it was noted implementation challenges included limited staff capacity, as many team members were managing multiple responsibilities, which made rapid review of results difficult. Emphasis was placed on identifying primary reviewers and ensuring adequate training for field teams prior to data collection. Testing of the survey tools occurred shortly before fieldwork, highlighting the importance of piloting instruments in advance to avoid delays related to ethical approvals. The survey was adapted to the local context, with consideration given to language and cultural dynamics—for example, ensuring mixed-gender enumerators and avoiding potential biases related to skin tone among administrators. A participant highlighted that the experience also underscored the need to focus research questions, address gaps in demographic data, and consider engaging local expertise, such as behavioral scientists, where available. Following feedback on Jamaica, a representative from Gabon, expressed that skin lightening can carry social stigma, which may influence how respondents answer survey questions. Effective data collection required adapting engagement approaches based on factors such as age, gender, and personal motivations, as these vary widely across groups. Community leaders were also identified as important partners for communicating information in culturally appropriate ways. Dr. Jonathan Ho, Jamaica noted that the survey tools were adapted during pretesting to better fit the local context, and practical considerations—such as using tablets instead of paper—improved efficiency

and reduced errors. Language differences among surveyors also required additional coordination to ensure questions were asked consistently and that the resulting data remained reliable.

Next, Ms. Ammaarah Martinus, WHO BI Unit Consultant, introduced the behavioral road map and outlined next steps using the information gathered from each country. She emphasized building on the lessons learned, the next phase will focus on translating insights into action. This includes developing a draft implementation plan that can serve as a template for countries involved in the study as well as those that may participate in the future. Key priorities will include identifying design and intervention priorities and clarifying how stakeholders can collaborate effectively moving forward. Ms. Martinus stressed that efforts should move beyond generating insights toward embedding responses within existing public health and environmental systems, ensuring that activities are sustained rather than implemented as one-off initiatives. It was pointed out that awareness campaigns alone are insufficient to drive behavior change and must be complemented by broader, coordinated interventions. A three-horizon approach was proposed to guide implementation:

- **Horizon 1 (0–6 months):** Disseminate findings and translate them into actionable insights and initial interventions. Securing leadership endorsement and political will—from relevant ministries such as health or environment, as well as other high-level decision-makers—is critical. Stakeholder mapping will help identify key local actors who can strengthen credibility, support implementation, and foster partnerships. Continued engagement with study participants is also important to ensure feedback is shared and perspectives are incorporated.
- **Horizon 2 (6–18 months):** Design and begin implementing targeted interventions informed by the study findings.
- **Horizon 3 (12+ months):** Focus on policy development, scaling successful interventions, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Across all phases, the importance of multisectoral and multi-agency coordination was emphasized to ensure effective and lasting impact.

Jamaica participants expressed that maintaining the stakeholder group is essential to bring together all relevant sectors and ensure coordinated action. Representation from key institutions—including legal experts and customs

authorities—is particularly important to address legislative and enforcement challenges, especially in contexts such as Jamaica. The discussion also emphasized the value of identifying a strong champion to promote the initiative, as the credibility and influence of the messenger can significantly shape how the message is received. Colleagues from Sri Lanka, added that individuals who have experienced negative impacts from using SLPs could serve as effective messengers. Their personal experiences may make the message more relatable and credible, helping to communicate the risks to a broader audience.

Ms. Martinus pointed out the importance of drawing on experiences from other countries that have implemented similar initiatives and adapting proven approaches where appropriate. Ensuring access to relevant data—such as in Sri Lanka, where data systems are available—is essential for informing decisions and evaluating whether interventions are effective and producing meaningful change. The discussion also highlighted the need to fully utilize resources and outputs generated by the project while identifying any remaining gaps, including additional partnerships, resources, or access needed to support implementation. Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, EEB/ZMWG, noted that a key gap in the project was the need to better integrate awareness-raising efforts with strategies aimed at changing behavior. Lessons learned from this experience are now being used to inform and strengthen the design of the upcoming Africa project. Ms. Malgorzata Stylo, UNEP GMP, emphasized the importance of mapping existing initiatives and stakeholders at local and regional levels, including advocates, artists, and influencers who could help amplify project messages. Engaging these actors—often connected to broader themes such as diversity—has generally generated positive responses and support for communication efforts. However, it was noted that awareness-raising alone does not necessarily lead to behavior change. While increasing knowledge can be valuable where awareness is limited, in many cases people are already aware of the risks, highlighting the need for interventions that address other underlying drivers of behavior.

It was highlighted that interventions should be co-created with SLP users, with a clear understanding of the type of change desired. Goals may include:

- **Behavioral change:** e.g., reducing retail purchases of skin-lightening products.
- **Norm shifts:** e.g., challenging societal expectations that lighter skin is required for employment.
- **Healthcare outcomes:** e.g., fewer cases observed by nurses or clinics.

- **Policy milestones:** e.g., changes in regulations or integration into national strategies.

Ms. Martinus expressed that interventions can be “light-touch” or “high-touch”, depending on behavioural outcomes to be achieved, intensity and scale. Clear monitoring and evaluation frameworks are needed to track behavior change, including possible use of point-of-sale data to measure reductions in product use. Partnerships between government, academia, and other stakeholders should guide delivery. Operational project teams are essential for implementing activities, while multisectoral stakeholder engagement and ongoing communication ensure alignment with broader priorities. She continued that horizon 3 planning should integrate initiatives into national plans, budgets, and strategies from the early implementation stage. Scaling pilots requires careful adaptation to fit local timelines while maintaining project fidelity. Finally, Ms Ruth Spencer, discussed the criticality of including diverse perspectives, ensuring that input comes from outside immediate professional circles to fully understand the context and potential impact of interventions. Dr. Adjonga from Gabon, placed emphasis on the importance of behavioral change as a means to protect the population. Effective interventions require thorough surveillance and attention to the factors driving SLP use. Dr Heather Brown stressed the responsibility to engage all stakeholders across the supply chain and decision-making levels when planning projects including permanent secretaries, recognizing the complexity of the issue. Insights from the discussion are being shared with the Ministry of Health to inform strategies, with a focus on prevention and staying proactive in shaping behavior and public health interventions.

In closing, key points emphasized the need for reflection and reminders to guide next steps, strong partnerships, and a clear strategy. Processes and actions should be refined and co-developed with stakeholders, with attention to risk and mitigation planning. Behavioral science should be applied as a system-level approach, rather than relying on single campaigns, and clear roadmaps are essential before field implementation. The WHO Behavioral Insights Unit is developing a draft implementation plan as a template, which will be shared for further input. In Jamaica, Ms. Hamilton highlighted the development of a toolkit for healthcare training and information exchange, including an animated version to support engagement and learning.

Sustainability, next steps and closing remarks

Ms. Grace Halla, UNEP, noted that both verbal and written comments will contribute to the lessons learned report. She also highlighted that a terminal evaluation is planned before the end of the year, before turning it to the floor for final reflections.

Participants from Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for the collaborative environment, stating that it was wonderful to participate and exchange ideas with other teams. Key learnings included the importance of sensitizing policymakers, which encourages initiatives that contribute to project goals. The team emphasized the need to institutionalize project outputs, linking them to national strategies on health, environment, and chemical safety. They advocated for anchoring these efforts to a continued stakeholder group and encouraged the Ministry of Health to take initiative to sustain the project's objectives.

Mrs. Elena Lymberidi-Settimo, EEB/ZMWG, reflected on the long journey of the project, noting that work began in early 2017 with the goal of raising global awareness. She highlighted the satisfaction of seeing the project's objectives become concrete, thanked the partners and appreciated being part of the overall project team and efforts.

Dr. Christiane Adjonga, ANMAPS Gabon, noted that outcomes demonstrate the fight against SLPs has become more tangible. Initially unclear, the situation is now informed by comprehensive data that supports the development of initiatives. Gabon has produced an official declaration, reinforced regulations including restrictions, sanctions, and bans on certain products, and conducted surveys to understand local SLP use. A full mapping of the origin and distribution of SLPs in local markets was completed, along with a list of banned products critical for implementation. Gabon also adapted protocols for banning SLPs with strong continental policy ambitions. The Libreville Commitment highlights immediate contributions, and Gabon played a key role during the COP regarding SLPs. Efforts will continue to increase party commitment, coordinate action to eliminate mercury-containing SLPs, and reinforce mechanisms for surveillance and awareness raising. Dr. Adjonga emphasized the importance of sustainability and collective action in addressing this issue.

Participants from Jamaica echoed their remarks, and expressed gratitude for the informative discussions and the fresh ideas generated to support next steps. Ms. Hamilton, speaking on behalf of the Jamaica team, acknowledged the challenges faced and highlighted the development of a

pathway to continued success. She noted that the government has been regulating manufacturers, preventing imports of harmful materials since the start of the project—a significant achievement. Dr. Evelise Pereira Barboza, PAHO, highlighted the progress made during the final year of the project and the engagement with stakeholders. She emphasized the need to finalize remaining work and maintain the steering committee beyond the project's official end. Although Jamaica faces a long path in terms of legislation, there is strong commitment to continue addressing challenges and sharing knowledge at both global and regional levels.

Mr. Luis Francisco Sánchez Otero, PAHO, provided closing remarks on behalf of the national and regional office, formally concluding the session.

Annex 1 - Workshop Agenda

Day 1 – 26 February 2026

Time	Sessions	Moderators/Speakers
8:00-8:55	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
8:55-9:00	Security Briefing	
9:00-9:20	**Opening Remarks**	Dr. Heather Brown, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Jamaica Grace Halla, Task Manager, GEF Chemicals and Green Chemistry Unit, UNEP Emilie Van Deventer, Unit Head, Chemicals, Radiation and Health Unit, WHO HQ
9:20-9:25	Group Photo	
9:25-10:15	**GEF 10810 Project:** global achievements and reflections; presentation of final deliverables	WHO HQ BRI UNEP GMP
10:15-11:15	**Interactive session:** Mapping countries overall achievements, lessons learnt and challenges and laying foundation for in depth thematic discussions (mind map)	**Moderator:** UNEP GMP
11:15-11:30	**BREAK**	
11:30-13:00	**Legislation, regulations** Strengthening legislation, compliance and enforcement Documenting experiences and lessons learnt from project countries	**Moderator**: WHO HQ Facilitator: John Lisman **Speakers:** Country reps See interactive guide
13:00-14:30	**LUNCH**	
14:30 –16:15	**Testing, Monitoring, Surveillance** (a) Market surveillance, customs training and enhancement of monitoring and enforcement systems	**Moderator:** BRI **Speakers:** Country reps

	(b) Analytical methodologies for sampling and testing (c) Presentation of global database Documenting experiences and lessons learnt from project countries	
16:15-16:30	**Summary of Day 1** and Reflections	WHO HQ

Day 2 – 27 February 2026

Time	Sessions	Moderators/Speakers
9:00-9:05	**Overview of Day 2**	BRI
9:05-10:30	**Supply Chain Engagement** Case Studies: Working with Manufacturers, Traders, and Distributors Documenting experiences and lessons learnt from project countries	**Moderator**: EEB **Speakers:** Country reps
10:30 - 10:45	**BREAK**	
10:45 - 12:30	**Behavioural Insights and Awareness Raising** Public health intervention, behavioral insights toolkit and communication Rapid fire from pilot countries (Gabon, Sri Lanka, Jamaica) of 'Do's and Don'ts in conducting the SLP research using the toolkit Interactive session: reflections and looking ahead	**Moderator:** WHO BI and UNEP GMP **Speakers:** Country reps
12:30-14:00	**LUNCH**	
14:00- 15:00	**Sustainability, next steps and closing remarks** Roundtable Discussion: Scaling Up Beyond 2026 – Replication Across Cosmetics Sector and Broader Geographic Scope	**Moderator:** UNEP

	-Non-GEF funding sources -Further collaboration opportunities	
15:30	**END OF CLOSURE WORKSHOP**	ALL

Annex 2 - Presentations and Other Meeting Documents

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TU7LMaI9ELE-m8WcKLK_hOY3rVhbu942?usp=sharing