



CONCEPT NOTE

Central and West Africa Workshop on the Development of National and Regional Regulations and Standards on Lead in Paints

Co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, UN Environment and IPEN

8-9 December 2016, Yaoundé, the Republic of Cameroon

1. Background and Context

Lead is a cumulative toxicant particularly hazardous to young children and pregnant women. No safe level of lead exposure has been established. Lead in paint is a major route of lead exposure, especially for children. Lead paint is still widely available in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The estimated reduced cognitive potentials (loss of IQ points) due to preventable childhood lead exposure equals to 98.2 million points which translates to \$134.7 billion of economic loss, or 4.03% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa.

IPEN is Executing Agency of the Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa, funded by the Global Environment Facility and Implemented by UN Environment. The project focusses on eliminating lead paint in four focus countries, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Tanzania through promoting regulatory controls on lead paint, analyzing and reporting on lead content of paints on the market, and raise awareness among business entrepreneurs, government officials, and consumers about the adverse human health impacts of lead paint, particularly on the health of children. The project also aims to support development of national plans to eliminate lead paint in other African countries through generating data on lead in paint, disseminate information materials and conduct regional workshops. The project is Executed in partnership with Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD) in Cameroon, Pesticide Action Nexus Association in Ethiopia, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) in Côte d'Ivoire and AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development in Tanzania.

UN Environment has been engaged in action to address the environmental and health risks posed by lead, focusing to date on the phasing out lead in fuels and paints. UN Environment, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), supports the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints (Lead Paint Alliance), a global partnership aiming at phasing out the use of lead in paint by 2020.

In response to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 1/5 Chemicals and Waste VI on lead and cadmium (June 2014) which "requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the World Health Organization, to continue to build capacity on lead paint through possible regional workshops", UN Environment and IPEN jointly organized the East Africa regional Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint and the GEF UNEP/IPEN Regional Lead Paint Elimination Project in

Africa Workshop in December 2015. Government officials and stakeholders from 15 African countries from all African regions agreed to adopt a total lead limit for all paints of 90 parts per million (ppm) and to cooperate to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020. A follow-up workshop conducted in Tanzania in September 2016 reconfirmed this commitment and further developed the plans for the East Africa Community Countries to adopt this standard.

The Central and West Africa Workshop on the Development of National and Regional Regulations and Standards on Lead in Paints is conducted to support next steps in these countries towards enactment of national and regional standards and regulations limiting lead content of paint to a total of 90 ppm.

2. Goal and Objectives of the Workshop

The overall goal of the workshop is to advance understanding, commitment, and actions towards the development of national and regional regulations and standards on a total lead content limit of 90 ppm for all paints in the Central and West Africa regions. Specific objectives of the workshop are the following:

- Advance co-operation, commitment, and action towards the elimination of lead in paint;
- Exchange information on the government policies and stakeholder actions, and available tools and experiences towards the elimination of lead in paint;
- Develop strategies for establishing a harmonised standard for lead in paint in the Central and West African regions;
- Building knowledge and understanding of environmental law, including regulations on lead in paint and elements for a possible development of a lead paint model law or regulation in the regions;
- Foster commitment of governments and stakeholders and agree on future actions, including implementation and enforcement of national and regional regulations and standards on lead in paints.
- Support the formation of national working groups to eliminate lead paint, including stakeholders from government, civil society, industry and others.

Follow-up actions after this workshop may include information sharing in national policy development, next steps in regional process to establish a harmonised standard/regulation in the Central and West African regions, and reporting at future meetings.

3. Participants

The Workshop will bring together around 30-40 key stakeholders from governments, civil society, Intergovernmental organizations and others with a focus on participants from the Central and West Africa regions. Participants might include (TBC):

- Government officials and civil society representatives from countries in the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).
- Government of the United States of America
- Intergovernmental organizations: ECOWAS, ECCAS, UN Environment, UNIDO and WHO



- Non-governmental organizations in the IPEN network
- National and International Trade associations and paint companies
- Technical Experts on lead in paint and policy development

4. Methods

The Workshop will be highly interactive in nature and is organized around a series of presentations from experts on various issues crucial to the elimination of lead paint, followed by focused discussions around the presented topics, practical applications and next steps. The workshop will be evaluated in connection to the workshop utilizing both online tools and paper copies to fill-in.

5. Programme

The workshop consists of four sessions:

Session I – Lead Paint Elimination in Cameroon – will highlight the effort and progress of enacting a regulation to prohibit the use of lead in paint in Cameroon

Session II – Importance of Global Lead Paint Elimination - will present background information explaining why lead paint must be eliminated, put the Africa lead paint elimination effort into its global context and introduce the Toolkit For Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint.

Session III - Establishing Laws to Eliminate Lead Paint – will give guidance to important building blocks of a lead paint law, introduce the potential for regionally implemented limits and regulations on lead in paint and discuss implementation and next steps.

Session IV - Technical Session – will go into detail about the practical steps a paint manufacturer will go through to remove leaded ingredients and their feasibility, and present voluntary third-party certification as a tool for manufacturers to promote their lead safe paints.

Session V - Establishing National Working Groups to Eliminate Lead Paint – will describe the strategy of establishing national working groups and provide time for the group to discuss implementation and next steps. The discussions will be summarized and final outcomes drafted in the final session. The draft agenda of the Workshop is attached.

6. Partners

This Workshop is co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, UN Environment and IPEN. It is funded through the Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa, and organized by IPEN and UNEP in cooperation with the co-hosts and other partners of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

7. Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, a workshop evaluation will be conducted to assess the extent the workshop achieved its objectives, to identify lessons learned, and to obtain feedback that will help the organizers in designing future events.



8. Logistics

The workshop will start on Thursday 8 December, 2016 at 9:00 am, at the Assemblée Nationale, Yaoundé, and close on Friday 9 December at 5 pm. Simultaneous English/French interpretation will be provided throughout the workshop. All logistics will be coordinated by IPEN.