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**Mercury-related Activities of the Partners in Addition to the Work of
Partnership Areas**

Note by the Secretariat

The over-all goal of the UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the environment from the anthropogenic release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing, and where feasible, ultimately eliminating global anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water, and land. The partnership areas support the over-all goal of the Partnership as reflected in the respective business plans.

Some activities implemented by Partners cut across the partnership areas and as such support the objectives of more than one partnership area.

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch, as secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership, has compiled the annexed information on mercury-related activities by Partners of the Global Mercury Partnership including UN Environment in addition to the work reported under individual partnership areas. Reference is also made to the report on activities undertaken by the GEF and partner organizations (UNEP/MC/COP.1/INF/3 and INF/5) submitted to the first Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

The Partnership Advisory Group may wish to include these mercury-related activities in the discussion of the strategy of the Partnership with the entry into force of the Minamata Convention.

Annex

Mercury-related Activities of the Partners in Addition to the Work of Partnership Areas

A. UN Environment

UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch is implementing activities as part of the “UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership” and “The UN Environment Mercury Programme”, as a project under the Chemicals and Waste subprogramme of UN Environment. The project directly contributes to the expected accomplishment of making available scientific and technical knowledge and tools for the sound management of mercury, and contributing to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The following are updated mercury-related activities of UN Environment as a Partner to the Global Mercury Partnership.

1) Global Mercury Assessment 2018 requested by the UN Governing Council in 2013

A revision of the Global Mercury Assessment 2013 will be completed by the end of 2018. The main focus will be on updating the global emissions and releases inventory components (for the target year of 2015), especially for sectors of relevance for the Minamata Convention. The assessment will be expanded with respect to quantification of releases of mercury to the aquatic environment, and will also include an overview and assessment of mercury levels in humans and biota. The UN Environment Global Mercury Partnership Areas will contribute significantly to the work. Specifically, the Partnership areas will contribute to the development of estimates of releases of mercury to the aquatic environment, to updating the information on environmental levels and trends in air and to the development of the new sections on humans and biota.

2) Mercury Supply, Trade, and Demand Report 2017

In 2006 UNEP published the Summary of Supply, Trade, and Demand Information on Mercury. The report was well-received and helped countries better understand the sources, trade flows, and end uses of mercury. Almost ten years old, the report is out-of-date. Major changes in the mercury market and trade pathways have significantly changed how mercury moves in global commerce. The newly adopted Minamata Convention on Mercury contains several provisions controlling supply, trade, and use of mercury. This report provides an updated picture of the global mercury supply, trade and demand and will be a useful resource for countries implementing the Convention. The report is being finalized by UN Environment and will be published in 2017.

3) Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) - Global Component

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been supporting eligible countries in their enabling activities (Minamata Initial Assessments) towards ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The aim is to strengthen national decision-making and build capacities towards implementation of future obligations. UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch is reviewing national MIAs where a checklist is provided to assess the completeness and accuracy of data and information obtained from the MIAs. Standard data and information will provide regional trends and information where the Partnership could potentially assist.

UN Environment is implementing MIAs in different regions and as of August 2017, the following MIAs have been completed:

Africa: Madagascar

Central Asia and Eastern Europe: Moldova

4) ASGM National Action Plans- Global Component

The development and implementation of an artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) National Action Plan (NAP) is an obligation under the Minamata Convention for ASGM countries. GEF has made available enabling activity funds for the development of NAPs. GEF NAP projects implemented through UN Environment include a global component conducted by UN Environment. The objective of the global component is to provide targeted technical assistance by leveraging the Global Mercury Partnership and to ensure information and experience are shared across all UNEP NAP countries. The global component is generating knowledge materials and conducting training on, inter alia, baseline estimates of mercury, formalization, and mercury-free mining. The global component also maintains a roster of experts and assists countries in finding the specialists and information needed for the successful development of the NAPs. More information is available in the [NAP section of the Global Mercury Partnership website](#).

B. Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions has implemented and facilitated a number of activities to promote the sound management of mercury wastes as part of the work undertaken under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Activities that contribute to the goals of the Global Mercury Partnership are described below:

1) Update of the Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury

Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury were first adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2009. A process to revise the Technical guidelines to be aligned with the Minamata Convention was initiated in 2011 under the leadership of Japan. At its twelfth meeting in 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the updated version of the Technical Guidelines (available at <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/LatestTechnicalGuidelines/tabid/5875/Default.aspx#>) and called on Parties to the Convention to make use of it.

2) Enhancing capacities for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes

A workshop was organized by the Secretariat in November 2015 on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes, in cooperation with Regional Centre for the Basel and Stockholm Conventions based in Uruguay. The workshop was attended by participants from fourteen Latin American countries and provided a forum for elaborating on strategies for mercury wastes prevention, labelling, temporary storage, recovery and final disposal and transboundary movements of mercury wastes. Participants also exchanged information about Synergies with the Minamata Convention.

As a follow-up to the workshop, projects were initiated in several participating countries to develop strategies for the minimization and management of mercury containing wastes in the health care sector and for the management of lamps containing mercury at end of life.

C. United Nations Training and Research Institute

1) Swiss-funded Ratification Dossier

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), through its Chemicals and Waste Management Programme (CWM), provides support to Governments in moving towards the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. With funding support from the Swiss government, UNITAR CWM supported 22 countries to accelerate ratification and to facilitate early implementation.

- Projects in twelve countries (Armenia, Colombia, Gambia, Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Yemen) successfully completed.

- Activities being implemented in ten countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritius, Rwanda, Thailand, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Belarus and Lao People's Democratic Republic).
- 9 of the countries receiving support ratified the Convention.

UNITAR's support has focused on legal preparations, the setting of priorities via identification of key sector and areas for action, the development of intervention strategies, and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. More specific interventions adapted to countries' specific needs have also been delivered, e.g. inventories and stakeholder consultations on ASGM.

2) Minamata Initial Assessments

In close collaboration with its partners, UNITAR CWM is currently facilitating the development of MIAs across all developing country regions. In total, UNITAR CWM is executing 19 MIAs and providing targeted support for an additional 15 MIAs.

- UNITAR CWM is the executing agency (EA) for ten UNIDO-implemented MIAs (Guinea, Mali, Senegal Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo, Comoros, Nigeria and Yemen).
- UNITAR CWM is the EA for six UNDP-implemented MIAs, namely in Ghana, Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique and Samoa.
- UNITAR CWM is the EA for three UN Environment-implemented MIAs in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Eritrea.

In executing these MIAs, UNITAR has successfully built capacity by delivering inventory trainings and reviews, by providing advice for the development of legal, policy and institutional assessments, by assisting in the identification of priorities and the development of intervention plans, and by facilitating awareness-raising strategies. Two of the above mentioned countries have completed their MIA reports and five are in the final stages.

3) National Action Plans and Other Work on ASGM

UNITAR CWM is the EA for the National Action Plans implemented by UN Environment in Sierra Leone, the DRC and Eritrea. Among others, UNITAR CWM is building capacity through office and field trainings for the development of thorough ASGM studies, covering the development of baseline estimates and a study on socio-economic aspects. UNITAR CWM developed a first draft of a comprehensive methodology to develop an overview of the ASGM sector.

In close cooperation with UN Environment, UNITAR CWM is currently developing a guidance document on formalization of the ASGM sector. The development of training materials, including online courses, based on the guidance is planned. UNITAR CWM and UN Environment also developed a video on the worst practices in ASGM. Moreover, UNITAR CWM is currently finalizing an electronic data collection tool for ASGM site investigations, specifically, to facilitate collection and analysis of the data for baseline estimates.

4) Mercury Platform and MercuryLearn

UNITAR CWM is maintaining the UN Environment-UNITAR Mercury Platform, which offers information on mercury-related activities, news and events. The Platform features a large compilation of awareness-raising materials on mercury developed by IOMC Organizations. The Platform also has a forum, allowing interested stakeholders to pose questions and engage in discussions with UNITAR's experts and others.

MercuryLearn, is an online training platform developed through a cooperation between UN Environment and UNITAR. The main component is the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases. It provides interactive modules assisting users in learning to develop mercury inventories.

5) Synergies Project

With financial contribution of the Swiss Government, UNITAR is cooperating with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions to develop joint chemicals and waste related e-learning courses and a web portal, specifically on the BRS and Minamata conventions, to assist countries in the ratification and implementation in a synergetic and thus efficient way