

Summary of UN Environment Regional Calls on the Status of Lead Paint Elimination Activities

GRULAC Regional Meeting, 25 May 2018

Participants:

- Leo Heileman, Regional Director of UN Environment Regional Office for LAC
- Jordi Pon, UN Environment Regional Office for LAC
- Desiree Narvaez, UN Environment, Geneva
- Meera Laurijssen, Consultant, UN Environment
- Shayna Sellars, EPA
- Ellie McCann, EPA
- Glenn Harrington, EPA
- Angela Bandemehr, EPA

Upcoming Meetings:

Leo suggested the following upcoming ministerial-level meetings to promote lead paint:

- June 18 or 19 - CCAD meeting (Central America and Dominican Republic)
 - Leo to attend and talk about lead paint; already provided model law in Spanish
 - Costa Rica will be used as an example of experience on lead paint
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States OECS Ministerial Forum (date unsure)
 - Leo may attend and can speak about lead paint and share the model law
- October 9-12, Environment Minister's Forum
 - ROLAC to distribute lead paint elimination awareness materials

Country Updates:

Brazil

The stakeholder consultation for the development of Brazil's lead paint law is complete, and Brazil is currently preparing a second draft based on the comments received. Jordi Pon will investigate whether further comments can be made on this draft. Once this draft is completed, it will be sent to the Brazilian congress for approval. Jordi will find out about the process involved in finalizing this law.

Colombia

Colombia is currently developing a law for lead in toys.

Colombia has expressed interest in learning from Brazil's experience, and Brazil has in turn offered to conduct a webinar to share the knowledge on how they developed their law. Jordi is to arrange this webinar in the second half of 2018.

Angela noted that the US EPA was going to reach out to Colombia to encourage them to join the Alliance. Desiree stated that UN Environment had sent a reminder email to Colombia asking them to join but that they have not yet heard back. Leo suggested that his office would be able to follow up on this as they now have an office on Colombia.

Mexico

Shayna noted that US EPA recently learned through CasaCem, an IPEN member NGO, that Mexico has a working group that is updating 1 of 8 lead paint laws, and that it seems to be about labelling. The US EPA had a call with the Mexican paint association to find out more detail.

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In two weeks the working group will have its last meeting, and the law will be published for a 2 week public comment period. The US EPA commented that they seemed open to feedback on the law. The US EPA will follow up with Jordi Pon with more detail on this.

UN Environment in the region ROLAC offered to help with Mexico.

Argentina

Angela reported that Jacob Duer had been in Argentina, where he learned that Argentina and Brazil are working together under an Memorandum of Understanding. Argentina wants to learn from Brazil's experience on the lead paint law to reduce its standard from 600ppm to 90ppm. Jordi is going to follow up to find out more details.

Panama

Angela noted that EPA is reviewing Panama's law. They have received an analysis of the Panama's 1998 law and comparison to the model law. Leo offered to send a message to or talk to Panama's minister, if needed.

Paraguay

Paraguay will provide a draft text of the Model Law to UN Environment ROLAC in a few weeks. UN Environment ROLAC provided the model law in Spanish.

Ecuador

Ecuador is currently drafting a law, and has been negotiating with industry for the past year. They are currently proposing a 100 ppm and 600 ppm limit depending on the likelihood of exposure.

Bolivia

No efforts to develop Lead Paint legislation are ongoing, due to lack of resources.

Paraguay

Jordi to follow up on law in Paraguay.

Honduras

Honduras has expressed interest in receiving assistance to develop a Lead Paint law.

Jamaica

A stakeholder meeting is planned in the next few weeks as a follow up to the December 2017 workshop. This is a priority for the Caribbean region.

Model Law/Legal Review

UN Environment said that draft laws could be sent to UN Environment, which could then be sent to the US EPA for review. The US EPA noted that their capacity to conduct this type of legal review is currently limited.

UN Environment to finalize the Spanish version of the model law soon. ROLAC will then share the model law with everyone in the region.

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African Regional Meeting, 29 May 2018

Participants:

- Frank Turyahunga, Deputy Director, UN Environment Regional Office for Africa
- Professor Bary Abdouraman, UN Environment Regional Office for Africa
- Desiree Narvaez, UN Environment Chemicals
- Emma Keech, UN Environment Chemicals
- Eva Cappuccilli, USEPA
- Ellie McCann, USEPA
- Patrick Huber, USEPA
- Angela Bandemehr, USEPA

Upcoming Meetings

- A Health and Environment Ministerial meeting is planned for October in Libreville. It was agreed that a side event and text in the ministerial declaration on lead paint elimination could be proposed.
- UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch plans to have a back to back regional workshop for the SAICM GEF Project.

Country Updates:

Africa has several regional groups which could serve as good forum for promoting lead paint laws.

EAC- East African Community – a regional intergovernmental organization comprised of Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda.

ECOWAS – Economic Community of East African States – an economic community with 15 member states: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.

IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development (igad.int) – comprised of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Eritrea.

COMESA - The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa is a free trade area with 19 member states: Burundi, Comoros, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Economic Community of East African States (ECOWAS)

None of the 15 countries in the region have lead paint laws.

Cote d'Ivoire is considered the most advanced of the countries in the region for lead paint legislation, as they have conducted research on the issue and begun preparations for the development of legislation. US EPA to verify if their draft law is their original draft from 2015, which was for 600 ppm soluble lead.

The SAICM GEF Project focuses on ECOWAS.

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ECOWAS is in the process of adopting a region-wide approach. While this process is expected to take some time, it should result in a harmonized regional approach. The ECOWAS commission will itself develop a draft regional standard with expert input from each country, and at the ECOWAS summit this directive will be formally adopted by the heads of state, and become part of national legislations. ECOWAS countries are obligated to adopt the standard as is, or can set a stronger standard.

East African Region (EAC)

EPA reported that the last known status was from 2016, when Tanzania was the chair of the Technical Committee in charge of establishing a regional lead paint standard.

At the time Tanzania and Kenya were working together to develop a regional standard but needed for all the countries to meet and agree.

Most countries in the region have shown some action during the 2017 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action.

UN Environment's Regional Office for Africa offered to follow up with the EAC Secretariat on the current status of the regional standard and for opportunities for events and outreach at any upcoming ministerial events.

Kenya and Tanzania have national lead paint standards. In Kenya, the gazetting of standards in parliament was expected to have taken place, but this was not confirmed. Professor Bary expressed that it is expected the other countries in the region will harmonize to the same standard as Kenya.

EPA noted that Ethiopia had announced it had a draft law in 2015. UN Environment's Regional Office for Africa offered to follow up with Ethiopia and ascertain the current status of the law and any next steps to promote adoption.

Central Africa

Cameroon has a lead paint law.

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Asia Pacific Regional Meeting, 30 May 2018

Participants

- Bandemehr, Angela
- Ellie McCann
- Leonard, Darlene
- [Huber, Patrick emccannva@earthlink.net](mailto:Huber.Patrick.emccannva@earthlink.net)
- Kakuko Nagatani Yoshida(UNEP regional office for Asia) - chemicals and waste coordinator
- Desiree Narvaez UN Environment
- Meera Laurijssen, UN Environment contractor

Upcoming meetings:

- ICCA/UNE global conference in China, 11-13 September in China
- Open invitation was received from the government of India and Indian Chemical Council to organize workshops at national and local level in India on SAICM 2020 and beyond. India has funding but is requesting UN Environment to organize the agenda for one day workshops. UN Environment may be asked to cover the costs for transport and accommodation for experts attending the meeting.
- Health and Environment Ministerial level meetings every five years (next in 2020); but having a series of meetings in Manila (chair of regional forum) on budget to finalize roadmap for intersessional work of regional forum - air quality TWG, waste and chemicals TWG will be merged (hazardous substances) - lead in paint could be part of TWGs.

Country Updates:

Cambodia

US bilateral work to help Cambodia develop its environmental code - lead paint may have been removed from the code but we are verifying what this means.

Kakuko noted that Andy from her office was involved in drafting the code with the local contractor hired to do it. But does not have an update on what has happened.

Vietnam

Chemicals agency has the jurisdiction, under Ministry of Industry; ROAP has worked with them. Kakuko can send contacts to Darlene.

GEF assembly - SAICM side event is being organized by UNEP Geneva; may be on Wednesday; Kakuko can help Desiree with the event, since Desiree is not going.

EPA reaching out to agencies in Vietnam - health, environment

China

The Ministry of Industry is responsible for product standards; need to coordinate with Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), and will include in SAICM project to facilitate action by Chinese government on changing its standards from soluble lead to total lead.

The US EPA is trying to add to its MOU with the Ministry.

The China Five Year Plan includes a goal to phase out lead paint; stating it is technically and economically feasible.

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Kakuko noted that the big question is whether their industry is ready to adopt the change. Once they can demonstrate that companies are already making paint without lead, they will be able to persuade the larger companies to shift quite quickly. The Chinese paint association is promoting the shift.

The ongoing issue is with small and medium sized enterprises (SME). Kakuko noted that this is a common issue. The government does not even know who they are and as a result it is hard to reach out to them. Kakuko expressed that it is important to engage with private sector, as our best allies will be the industrial associations. Then it will be possible to work with those with biggest market share to change their practice, which will drive the SMEs to change their practice.

Laos

US EPA to check with the World Bank on the status of work in Lao.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has a draft law, but not sure where it is. They had argued for a 0 lead limit, so they set a limit of 50 ppm not 90 ppm, because have very little capacity for control

India

India has passed a law but no implementing regulation (need to verify this).

Kakuko noted UNEP has a strong India office - about to hire a consultant to work on SMOC in next ten days; once on board, they can help out.

Other discussion points:

Kakuko noted that UN Environment Regional office for Asia has been selective on issues to engage in, due to low resources, but expressed that it is an important global area of work under SAICM and other areas. However, they have only been able to provide very partial support to the effort, e.g., ILPPW and environment and health forum lead in paint/products.

Under the global project need to track countries' progress on lead paint laws, but limitations of regional office do not allow them to be engaged - have no dedicated resources and so cannot track laws. Maybe should be done under environmental governance program.

Kakuko would like to know which countries are producing/importing lead paint

- o For countries with small number of sources of decorative paint, can more easily shift to nonlead paint;
- o High production countries/exporters of decorative paint - may take longer but they are a source.
- o Angela noted that while ideal to have market analysis, we do not have the resources to do this. We are trying to get this information on country by country basis to showcase why is it important in every country, but it is not feasible to do this for all countries.

Opportunities with ASEAN

- o Not many opportunities, too many issues. But can provide information on lead paint - would like to know from Andy on the subgroup on illegal issues.

Helping on GCOII report, Asian process - had a meeting for regional experts and lead paint came up for area of focus. Will be meeting in Bonn in one month, can add information on Asia pacific to the report.

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- o Chemicals and Health Branch and WHO have reviewed the lead paint component in the GCOII, can add to the Asia part of the report.

Regional Office for Europe , 8 May 2018

Participants:

- Sylvie Motard, Deputy Director, UN Environment Regional Office for Europe
- Mijke Hertoghs, UN Environment Regional Office for Europe
- Desiree Narvaez, UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch
- Patrick Huber, USEPA
- Angela Bandemehr, USEPA

ROE confirmed the following to be potential countries for the SAICM GEF project Eurasian Union: **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakstan, Krygztan**. These countries could potentially have a subregional lead paint limits/standard

Other potential countries in the SAICM GEF project include: **Ukraine, Israel** (USEPA has bilaterals), **Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**

Legislative Overview in Europe Region

- EU countries follow REACH, lead compounds are subject to an authorization procedure, which is aimed at ensuring that lead is progressively replaced with suitable alternative substances or technologies.
- EU (potential) candidate countries are in the process to approach to REACH
- Eurasian Union countries (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia) follow the Eurasian Economic Union Technical Regulation on the Safety of Products
- Azerbaijan/Georgia/Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan: unknown (likely using old SU regulations)
- Moldova: in process to adopt new Law on Chemicals & REACH similar system
- **Ukraine:** developing regulation following Model Law with support from OSCE. Alliance provided comments on draft regulation.
- Tajikistan: needs support to develop regulations on lead in paint.

On-Going Legislative Development

Moldova

- In 2017, the Law on Air Protection was amended to include a new article on lead paint restrictions.
- The coverage of the law is narrow in that it only covers lead carbonates and sulphates, not chromates
- The new draft law on Chemicals does not propose a limit of 90 ppm since it models the EU REACH which bans rather than limits.
- Second Parliamentary hearing of draft Law on Chemicals foreseen in July 2018, which is the final stage of adoption.

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