



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Advisory Group
Tenth meeting
Geneva, 23 November 2019

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The tenth meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) will take place on Saturday, 23 November 2019, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the International Conference Centre (CIGC) in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The meeting will be opened by the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership. Ms. Marianne Bailey (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) being no longer in a position to serve as Chair of the PAG, a function that she had performed since her selection at the seventh meeting of the PAG (March 2016, Dead Sea, Jordan), she will be replaced on an interim basis by Mr. Rodges Ankrah (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).
3. Opening statements will be delivered by the President of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, by the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention and by the Chair of the PAG.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Selection of Partnership Advisory Group Co-Chairs

4. As per the Overarching Framework Document of the Global Mercury Partnership, PAG members are to select a Chair to serve for a two-year term. The Chair may be re-elected and may serve a maximum of two terms. It is suggested to PAG members that they consider selecting a Chair or two co-Chairs. To ensure continuity, it is suggested that Mr. Rodges Ankrah serves as Chair at the present meeting.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

5. The PAG may wish to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/Hg/PAG.10/1/Rev.1. It may also suggest other items for discussion.

(c) Organization of work

6. The PAG is expected to meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to any necessary adjustments. It may decide to convene in smaller settings to discuss certain agenda item(s).

Item 3

Overview by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on activities on technical assistance and capacity-building, including under the Specific International Programme

7. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention will be invited to provide a brief update in relation to supported activities at the national and regional levels to facilitate the implementation of the Convention as well as to its planned programme of work for the biennium 2020–2021 with respect to capacity-building and technical assistance as well as scientific and technical activities, including on its foreseen areas of cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership. The update is also expected to address latest developments under the Specific International Programme to support capacity building and technical assistance, which is set up under Article 13 of the Convention.

Item 4

Updates by the Secretariat of the GEF and intergovernmental organizations on mercury-related activities

8. The Secretariat of the GEF as well as intergovernmental organizations present at the meeting will be invited to provide a brief update on their respective activities in relation to mercury and the Minamata Convention.

Item 5

Updates by the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership and each Partnership Area with a focus on cross cutting activities, outreach, and new partners

9. One of the functions and responsibilities of the PAG is to report on activities within the Global Mercury Partnership. The Secretariat has compiled this information in the progress report made available in document UNEP/ Hg/PAG.10/3, reflecting input received from Partnership Areas on their activities during the period from August 2018 to October 2019.

10. Partnership Area leads will be invited to provide a brief update on their respective Partnership Area to share key highlights, future plans and potential challenges.

11. Should Partnership Area leads have identified any cross-cutting issue in the context of their respective Area, they will be invited to mention these in their reports. Cross-cutting activities will subsequently be discussed more in depth under Item 8, including the issues of mercury from the oil and gas sector as well as supply of mercury from non-ferrous mining and smelting, which the PAG at its ninth meeting (November 2018, Geneva) had decided that it would examine in further details.

Item 6

Overview of key findings from Minamata Initial Assessments

12. The Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention are undertaking a review of completed Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) reports. The review includes an analysis of the data from the inventory reports produced as part of the MIAs to identify trends and national priorities. The PAG will be provided an overview of key findings from this review.

Item 7

Selection of insights from the 14th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant

13. PAG members who attended the 14th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (September 2019, Krakow, Poland), will be invited to share some brief insights as to their key take-aways from the event, including those that could constitute a basis for future work under the Partnership and that may inform discussions on cross-cutting issues.

Item 8**Strategic discussion on future priority actions by the Global Mercury Partnership**

14. The Global Mercury Partnership currently focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

15. PAG members will be invited to discuss future priority actions by the Partnership. Part of the discussions may be held in smaller groups before reconvening as a single group.

16. The expected outcome from the discussions is that the PAG identifies concrete actions for future work by the Partnership for each of the below sub-items, including in terms of possible stakeholders, resources required as well as expected timeline.

(a) Support towards the implementation of the Minamata Convention

17. PAG members will be invited to discuss how the Partnership and its Partnership Areas, including in a cross-cutting manner, may support the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

18. In doing so, they may wish to consider the needs and challenges identified at regional and national levels, including those that arose from the completed Minamata Initial Assessments. They may also wish to build on current activities and strengths of the Partnership and explore opportunities for collaboration with key mechanisms and stakeholders, amongst which the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the GEF Trust Fund, the Specific International Programme, as well as the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

19. In light of the issues being addressed in the context of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, PAG members may also wish to discuss areas of work to which the Partnership and its partners may contribute. Such areas may relate for instance to information on mercury-added products and their alternatives, customs codes, guidance on artisanal and small-scale gold mining national action plans, inventories and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for emissions and releases, mercury waste thresholds, information on the open burning of waste, guidance on the management of contaminated sites or the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention, amongst others.

(b) Cross cutting issues

20. The PAG may wish to discuss cross-cutting issues, identified as specific topics where the collaboration of multiple Partnership Areas would facilitate the development of needed information, interventions and projects¹.

21. Following up from its previous discussions at its ninth meeting, the PAG may wish to agree on whether and how to advance further the work on the issues of mercury from the oil and gas sector as well as supply of mercury from non-ferrous mining and smelting.

22. The PAG may also wish to discuss whether other cross-cutting issues would benefit from collaboration between Partnership Areas. At its ninth meeting, possible issues put forward included the potential mercury supply sources from storage and from waste including waste sludge, the use of mercury compounds in polyurethane elastomers, sites contaminated with mercury, measuring and managing mercury stocks and flows and mercury emissions from open burning of waste. In light of latest developments, additional suggestions could be put forward for consideration by the PAG.

(c) Development and dissemination of knowledge and scientific information on mercury, including in relation to emerging issues of concern, innovations and innovative technologies

23. An important role of the Partnership lies in the development and dissemination of knowledge and scientific information on mercury.

24. The PAG may hence wish to discuss whether certain issues would benefit from the attention of the Partnership, both in terms of emerging issues of concern, which may not yet be addressed under the Minamata Convention, as well as relevant innovations and innovative technologies, which would

¹ See meeting report of the ninth meeting of the PAG available at <https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/partnership-advisory-group-meeting-9>

contribute to protecting human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds. These may cover potential new sources of mercury supply, use, emissions and releases.

25. The PAG may also wish to discuss how to best disseminate the developed knowledge and information, both internally and externally.

(d) Outreach and awareness raising

26. Efficient and effective outreach and awareness raising are key to maximize the impact of the work undertaken by the Partnership and its partners, ensure the visibility of their activities and engage current and new partners and stakeholders. The PAG may wish to discuss progress made on outreach and awareness raising and make recommendations for further improvement.

27. External communication is currently mainly achieved through the website of the Partnership, which is a key medium for stakeholders to learn about the Partnership and receive information. The PAG may wish to discuss the opportunity to develop additional tools, including a Global Mercury Partnership newsletter as well as regular meetings through electronic means on specific issues of interest, which could be open to partners as well as other interested stakeholders. It may also wish to discuss upcoming opportunities in terms of outreach and awareness raising at conferences, meetings, and workshops.

28. Internal communication amongst Partnership Areas takes the form of in-person meetings, teleconferences, listserv or emails. The PAG may wish to discuss progress in terms of internal communication, and how it may further enhance and engage partners through outreach and awareness-raising.

Item 9

Resource mobilisation for the Global Mercury Partnership

29. Currently, staffing for the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership is funded by the Environment Fund. Through the generous financial support from the Government of Norway, funding has also been secured to cover the costs of convening the meeting of the PAG and some substantive follow-up work, development of communication tools including website management, amongst others.

30. The PAG may wish to assess the type of in-kind and financial resources it may require, including to support its identified future priority areas of work, and discuss how to leverage the required resources.

Item 10

Proposals for updates to the Partnership Overarching Framework

31. Mercury partnerships were initiated in 2005 by the UNEP Governing Council and formalized in 2008 through the development of the Overarching Framework for the Global Mercury Partnership.

32. It is proposed that the current version of the Overarching Framework be updated to reflect a number of evolutions, including the adoption and entry into force of the Minamata Convention as well as practices under the Partnership.

33. The PAG may wish to consider the updates proposed in document UNEP/ Hg/PAG.10/4. It may also wish to discuss whether additional changes may be needed.

Item 11

Other matters

34. The PAG may wish to consider other issues raised during the meeting.

Item 12

Closure of the meeting

35. It is expected that the meeting will conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Saturday, 23 November 2019.