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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Global Mercury Partnership
Partnership Advisory Group
Second meeting
Geneva, 21-22 September 2010

**Reporting of the mercury in products partnership area
(January 2009 – May 2010)**

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Note by the Secretariat

Individual partnership area evaluations have been prepared by the partnership areas in response to Annex I Section 3.f.iv of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Overarching Framework. The mercury in products partnership area has drafted a partnership area evaluation. It is available in the annex to this document for information.

Annex: Evaluation of the ‘Mercury in products’ partnership area

TIMEFRAME: January 2009 – May 2010

1. General Information	
1.1 Individual partnership area:	Mercury-Containing Products Partnership Area
1.2 Individual partnership area lead:	Maria J. Doa, Ph.D. Director, National Program Chemicals Division U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1.3 Reporting year/period:	2009 – May 2010
1.4 How many meetings were held over the reporting period?	Number of face to face meetings: 2 (annual meetings are in-person) Number of teleconferences: 2 Other: N/A
1.5 How many partners participate in this partnership area?	32 support letters submitted. Additional stakeholders actively participate in teleconferences and other discussions
1.6 How much funding was raised through this partnership area? What about in-kind assistance?	Funding: \$279,000 USD in 2008-2009; \$4,666,524 USD total. In-Kind Assistance: Limited, but many projects structured for inclusive participation/sponsorship of host governments and subcontractors/consultants.
1.7 What is the objective of the individual partnership area?	
To phase out and eventually eliminate mercury in products and to eliminate releases during manufacturing and other industrial processes via environmentally sound production, transportation, storage, and disposal procedures.	
2. MONITORING PERFORMANCE (tracking partnership activities and partner contributions)	
2.1 Please provide a short overview of the key current partnership area efforts.	
<p>Hospitals Assessment Projects – Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras: Develop and implement hospitals assessment and reduction/elimination of mercury-containing products in Latin American hospitals. Partners: Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), United States Outcomes: On-site visits, preliminary mercury inventories completed by 12/2008. Projects are completed in Chile and Costa Rica; progress on Honduras was delayed but is anticipated to continue in the latter half of 2010. Budget: \$186,149 USD (United States) Timeframe: 7/2008 to Current</p> <p>Basel Mercury Waste Capacity Building from Products Partnerships: Cooperative agreement to help build capacity and best management practices for mercury waste collected from health care products and other sectors addressing mercury in products. Partners: Argentina, Costa Rica, Uruguay, United States, Basel Convention Secretariat Expected Outcomes: Facilitate establishment of regional centers and outreach/management strategies for mercury products and wastes throughout Latin America. Budget: \$2,000,000 USD; year one budget: \$250,000 USD (United States) Timeframe: 8/2008 to 7/2012</p> <p>Health Care Cooperative Agreement to Provide Technical Support for Mercury Reduction in Hospitals: Multi-year initiative to expand existing and launch new health care mercury inventory, reduction, waste management, and training pilots. Partners: Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, United States, HCWH, University of Massachusetts at Lowell</p>	

Outcomes: Expansion of existing and initiation of new hospitals reduction projects in Latin America; projects are being evaluated for additional funding and expansion for 2010 and beyond.

Budget: \$1,000,000 USD; year one budget: \$315,000 USD (United States)

Timeframe: 1/2008 to 12/2010

Nepal and Tanzania: Support the World Health Organization in efforts to demonstrate that mercury-free devices are safe, cost-effective, accurate, and efficient alternative medical devices are available in order to support their introduction in health care settings in pilot countries as well as provide guidance and assessments for projects in the future.

Partners: Nepal, Tanzania, United States, WHO

Outcomes: Preliminary phases underway, including identification of facilities, conducting an inventory of devices, and developing staff education plan.

Budget: \$60,000 USD

Timeframe: 3/2010 to 1/2011

Strengthening Regional and National Capacities in Central America: Three-part initiative with mercury initiative to develop mercury emissions and products inventory in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua and expand health care assessment, reduction, and substitution efforts in Costa Rica and Honduras. A mercury emissions and products inventory project was added in South Africa in 2009.

Partners: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, South Africa, United States, CCAD, UNITAR

Expected Outcomes: Facilitation of mercury-free equipment substitution and emissions/products inventories.

Budget: \$273,625 USD (\$263,625 USD, United States; \$10,000 USD CCAD)

Timeframe: 9/2008 to 12/2010

2.2 Please provide a short overview of any key upcoming, planned partnership area efforts.

Strengthening Regional and National Capacities in Central America: The existing cooperative agreement will be expanded to include a mercury emissions and products inventory project in Mongolia and Uganda in 2010.

Partners: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mongolia, Nicaragua, South Africa, Uganda, United States, CCAD, UNITAR

Expected Outcomes: Facilitation of mercury-free equipment substitution and emissions/products inventories.

Budget: \$332,625 USD (\$322,625 USD, United States; \$10,000 USD CCAD)

Timeframe: 9/2008 to 12/2010

2.3 Please provide a short overview of key partnership area efforts completed since the previous Governing Council.

Inventory Development and Risk Management Planning – Chile, Ecuador, Panama: Awareness-raising and development of national mercury inventory (e.g., assessing product based releases) and drafting mercury risk management plan.

Partners: Chile, Ecuador, Panama, United States, UNEP, UNITAR

Outcomes: As of 12/2008, the following tasks were completed: initial awareness-raising workshop; national skills-building workshop – “Risk Management Decision Making and PRTRs”; situation analysis and capacity assessment in support of mercury inventory development; mercury release inventory (including consideration of releases from mercury products); risk management plan for mercury; strategy on “Integration of Mercury Inventory in a National PRTR”; national workshop – “Institutionalizing a Mercury PRTR and Developing a Mercury Risk Management Plan”; final project report.

Budget: \$90,000 USD (UNEP Mercury Trust Fund)

Timeframe: Completed

Collection, Replacement, and Recycling of Mercury-Containing Thermometers and Safe Storage of Mercury in Altai Krai: Bilateral Russian Federation-U.S. demonstration project will develop model procedures to control use and environmentally-responsible disposal of mercury-containing thermometers.

Partners: Russian Federation, United States

Outcomes: More than 200 mercury-containing thermometers collected, substituted, and safely destroyed.
Budget: \$50,000 USD (\$30,000 USD, United States; \$20,000 USD, Regional Administration of Altai Krai)
Timeframe: Completed

Mexico Health Care Project: Develop a health care facility pilot project in Mexico to establish a template for mercury reduction initiatives in other health care facilities.

Partners: Mexico, United States, HCWH, North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC)

Outcomes: Completed 12/2007; NACEC-funded project to communicate with most other hospitals in Mexico approved for 2008.

Budget: \$125,000 USD (\$105,000 USD NACEC; \$20,000 HCWH)

Timeframe: Completed

Mexico Products Inventory Update: Assist Mexico in developing a mercury-containing products and alternatives inventory through a market study and updating existing product databases.

Partners: Mexico, United States, NACEC

Outcomes: Workshop to share preliminary findings of report (10/2008); report describing Mexican mercury market report (including supply, demand and trade) and Mexican mercury products and alternatives database preliminary product use and import/export quantities (12/2008)

Costs: \$30,000 USD (United States and NACEC)

Timeframe: Completed

Recycling Mercury-Containing Lamps at Russian Military Bases in the Arctic: Bilateral Russian Federation-U.S. demonstration project implemented under the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) Program to facilitate collection, storage, and treatment of mercury-containing fluorescent lamps.

Partners: Russian Federation, United States

Outcomes: 300 mercury-containing lamps recycled; air monitoring conducted before and after testing – no mercury vapors detected; Russian Navy established budget line items for recycling mercury-containing lamps.

Budget: \$239,000 USD

Timeframe: Completed

3. ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS (measuring the impact of partnership activities on target beneficiaries)

3.1 What are the partnership area indicators of progress? If no indicators, please specify why.

There are currently no quantifiable measures of progress identified; however, percentage reduction goals are set forth per product sector. Additional proposed indicators include: mercury demand for manufacturing of products containing mercury; quantity of mercury used in products consumed by consumers; release reductions achieved; availability of non-mercury alternatives; and number of dental practitioners using amalgam.

3.2 Please report on progress in terms of each of the partnership area indicators outlined within the partnership area business plan.

Current sector reduction goals are based upon figures generated in the 2007 UNEP Trade Report. Such figures are a good general starting point; however, progress toward product sector reduction goals is difficult to measure because of a lack of national baselines. Further, the baseline developed in the 2007 UNEP Trade Report has not been updated. However, the growing body of information being collected by all Partnership Area projects is helping to create such a baseline. Sector-specific reduction goals were revised to reflect opportunities for more (and realities of less) ambitious goals in the coming decade.

3.3 Please summarize the key results achieved to date by the partnership area in terms of the following areas (as applicable):

- (i) *Sharing and exchanging information* - 13/13 completed or ongoing projects include educational/training or information-sharing components. These results are typically achieved by educational/demonstration workshops and memorialized in reports or template plans that can be replicated and implemented in additional facilities, countries, or regions.

<p>(ii) <i>Strengthening capacity</i> - 13/13 completed or ongoing projects include capacity-strengthening components as mentioned in (6)(i).</p>
<p>(iii) <i>Other results you may wish to highlight</i> - N/A</p>
<p>3.4 What are the strengths of the partnership area?</p>
<p>The Partnership Area benefits from an active and growing membership, as well as global recognition of the effectiveness of stemming mercury-containing product use and wastes throughout the product lifecycle. In particular, health care and products/emissions inventories pilots have made significant progress, met ambitious goals, provided invaluable information, and helped to shape and generate enthusiasm for future projects.</p>
<p>3.5 What are the weaknesses and/or major challenges for this the partnership area?</p>
<p>Finding appropriate mechanisms whereby assessment, inventory, and reduction projects can provide tangible assistance to achieve product substitution and/or the development of storage and disposal solutions.</p>
<p>3.6 Can the weaknesses or major challenges be addressed through the partnership? If yes, what is the best strategy to address such weaknesses/major challenges in moving forward?</p>
<p>Yes. Coordination with the Mercury Waste Management and Mercury Storage and Supply Areas could produce effective product lifecycle solutions and enhance project design so that product and waste concerns can be synthesized. The Products Partnership is exploring the possibility of a joint project with the Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area to emphasize the applicability of the lifecycle approach.</p>
<p>3.7 In view of above, how should the partnership area modify its approach in the coming two year cycle? Should the objective and indicators of the partnership area be revised in moving forward?</p>
<p>No suggestions at this time. The Products Partnership has been successful in responding to dynamic trends and goals in global efforts to address mercury in products and will continue to draw upon the expertise and insights of partners and participants to shape new projects and goals.</p>
<p>3.8 Please specify whether the promotion of non-mercury technologies is relevant to the partnership area, and, if it is, how the partnership area is addressing this aspect.</p>
<p>Very relevant. Each project in the Products Partnership strives to identify effective and economically feasible mercury-free products wherever possible, as well as to promote product substitution. To date, hospitals reduction projects in Latin America have identified mechanisms to allow the purchase mercury-free alternatives; funds were provided to Costa Rica and Honduras which were used to procure mercury-free equipment in hospitals and health care facilities. In fact, a hospital in Costa Rica completed a full conversion to mercury-free equipment.</p>
<p>3.9 Please outline how this report was drafted and who was consulted with in doing so?</p>
<p>Contacted various project leads for project updates (e.g., U.S. EPA, HCWH, UNITAR) and incorporated notes from previous Products Partnership teleconferences and meetings.</p>
<p>4.0 This section is intended for other relevant comments.</p>
<p>The Products Partnership is eager to explore project ideas shared at its April 2010 meeting in Washington, D.C. Those topics included work on batteries, cosmetics, dental amalgam, and fluorescent lamps. As previously mentioned, the Products Partnership is exploring ways to develop a joint project with the Mercury Waste Management Partnership Area, which could emphasize the lifecycle approach to lamps and batteries. In addition, the Products Partnership looks forward to developing new projects and partnerships in previously underrepresented regions, including Africa and Asia.</p>