

Solidaridad



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E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Date: 2 July 2012
Reference: 20120702MSEW
Concerning: Joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership


Dear Mrs Susan Egan Keane,

Solidaridad is a global NGO whose aim is to alleviate poverty through the establishment of fair and sustainable commodity chains. Solidaridad is managing programmes in various commodity chains, such as cotton, soy, cocoa and palm oil, that we believe have fundamental environmental and social issues. More information about our organisation can be found at www.solidaridadnetwork.org.

Our programme for Responsible Gold has the goal to improve the livelihoods of small-scale gold mining communities and workers. We believe that social and environmental issues are closely linked in livelihood improvement. We aim to build the capacities of small-scale miners on responsible mining techniques, with the goal of certification for the Fairtrade and Fairmined standard. This standard allows miners, when they comply with the criteria, to sell their gold on the Fairtrade market and receive a better price than they would normally receive through existing trade relationships. Solidaridad coordinates ongoing projects in Latin America (Bolivia, Peru, Colombia) and expanded its work into Africa (Ghana, Kenya) earlier this year. In the future we hope to further expand our programme to other countries, including countries in Asia.

Solidaridad supports the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in its goal to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating anthropogenic mercury release to air, water and land.

Solidaridad contributes to meeting this goal by training small-scale gold miners on responsible gold mining techniques as required by the criteria of the Fairtrade and Fairmined standard, for example:



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- Training on mercury-free concentration processes and the prevention of whole-ore amalgamation
- Training on the use of a retort or alternative processing techniques
- Training and sensitisation on safe use of mercury by trained adults who wear protective gear and work with mercury in dedicated areas only

Together with local partners we are currently implementing projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Ghana and Kenya. We also work closely with the Association for Responsible Mining, Fairtrade Labelling Initiatives in Europe, Fairtrade Africa and the Artisanal Gold Council.

For more information on our Programme please contact Jennifer Horning, International Programme Coordinator, jennifer.horning@solidaridadnetwork.org.

Sincere regards,

Maike Schouten.



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM*

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining
- mercury cell chlor alkali production
- mercury air transport and fate research
- mercury in products
- mercury releases from coal combustion
- mercury waste management
- mercury supply and storage

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME

SOLIDARIDAD

NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE

JENNIFER HORNING, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME
COORDINATOR

ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION

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TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: _____

*UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal.

The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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