June 11, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) seeks to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in order to contribute to the Partnership and advance our own work on addressing mercury contamination in West Africa and globally. ELI has recently begun a project to assess the ASGM industry in Nigeria. It is aimed at developing legal and policy recommendations to help the Nigerian government better address the widespread mercury and lead poisoning issues associated with ASGM. The final product will include targeted recommendations addressing needs and opportunities within the ASGM sector, as well as a blueprint for possible next steps that can be taken in Nigeria as well as in other countries confronting similar problems.

ELI is a global leader in protecting the environment through sustainable environmental law, policy, and management. Since the mid-1980s, ELI has assisted governments and NGOs around the world to draft and assess new laws and regulations, build capacity, and develop and strengthen institutions to implement and enforce environmental laws and policies. The Institute has unique expertise in developing, implementing, and enforcing laws, regulations, and policies governing protected areas, forestry, fisheries, water, and other natural resources throughout the United States, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe. Through this work, we have developed one-of-a-kind expertise in improving environmental and natural resource governance through public participation, appropriate laws and institutions, and innovative approaches to enhance environmental protection, including compliance and enforcement.

The Global Mercury Partnership would allow ELI greater access to resource persons working on mercury contamination issues, while enabling us to share our research and findings on addressing mercury contamination within the ASGM sector with a broader audience. ELI supports the work of the Partnership and its seven priorities for action, particularly to reduce mercury in ASGM activities.

Please let us know if you would like additional information about ELI. We look forward to becoming a productive member of the Partnership.

Kind Regards,

Lisa Goldman
Senior Attorney
Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:

- [x] 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.

**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: