



## UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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10 November 2008

Dear Mr. Bakken,

As you are aware, UNIDO has always been a key player on the international scene in the field of management of chemicals used by industry. Our programme of Cleaner Production Centres, jointly developed with UNEP has been a frank success in reducing the releases of chemicals from various production processes and creating awareness in different stakeholders of the importance of a preventive approach. As far as mercury is concerned, we have been implementing successful programmes to reduce the impact of artisanal and small-scale gold mining in a number of countries.

However, the scale of the environmental problems is such that global and long-lasting benefits will only be achieved through an active and coordinated collaboration between the stakeholders involved.

Therefore, it is with pleasure that we welcome the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership initiative and we are especially interested in pursuing our participation in the following areas:

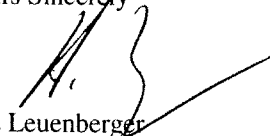
- Mercury Management in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining which we currently lead
- Mercury Reduction in Products
- Mercury in Waste Management

UNIDO offers to continue leading the Mercury Management in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining partnership area and, as such, we will commit to in-kind support of the partnership activities. We are also interested in a more active involvement in the two other areas above-mentioned and would consider that the UNIDO / UNEP Cleaner Production Centres could play an active role in developing and implementing relevant projects, in line with the priorities stated in the joint UNIDO / UNEP Programme Strategy on Cleaner and Resource Efficient Production.

Through the Global Mercury Partnership, information on activities related to each particular area will be available and widely circulated. This will increase the efficiency of each project by avoiding duplications and optimising fund utilisation. Therefore, UNIDO is committed to continue working with the other partners of these three areas with the aim of ensuring the achievement of the global reduction of mercury emissions.

Looking forward to strengthening our cooperation within the framework of the Global Mercury Partnership,

Yours Sincerely

  
Heinz Leuenberger  
Director

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