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In reply please
refer to: W2/180/1

Your reference:

Mr P. Bakken
Head, UNEP Chemicals
Mercury Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Genève

29 July 2008

Dear Mr Bakken,

**Products Sub-Sector Partnership for the Global Elimination of Mercury-based
Medical Devices**

I write in connection with the Business Plan of the Mercury containing Products Partnership Area, July 2008, and specifically under Objective 2(a) which calls for:

"By 2017, to phase out the demand for mercury-containing fever thermometers and sphygmomanometers by at least 70% and to shift the production of all mercury-containing fever thermometers and sphygmomanometers to accurate, affordable, and safer non-mercury alternatives."

The Department of Public Health and Environment (PHE) and Regional Offices of the World Health Organization are involved in a series of activities in relation to mercury and human and environmental health, and several publications, guidance materials, tools and mechanisms are currently available on mercury and its derivatives on our website: (<http://www.who.int/phe/news/Mercury-flyer.pdf>).

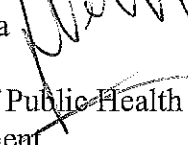
Specifically related to the products sub-sector dynamic on mercury-based medical devices WHO has produced a policy paper on **Mercury in Health Care** (www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/medical_waste/mercurypolpaper.pdf) and is involved in the **Global Environmental Facility project (GEF) - 2007/2011 on Health Care Waste Management** (<http://www.who.int/>).

.../...

Through the above initiatives, WHO is contributing to the global mercury agenda in health care and is *de facto* collaborating with UNEP and partners on meeting the goal of the UNEP global mercury partnership. WHO would therefore like to express its support by co-leading with Health Care Without Harm the products sub-group on Mercury-based Medical Devices.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Maria Neira
Director
Department of Public Health
and Environment



UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Form *

Partnership Area

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

- mercury in products (subgroup on mercury based measuring and control devices).

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

Organization Name

World Health Organization

**Name,
Functional Title of
Representative**

Yves Chartier
Technical officer

**Address of
Organization**

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health
Department for Public Health and Environment
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211, Geneva 27, Switzerland

Tel. No

(41) 22 791 16 07

Email

chartiery@who.int

Fax No.

(41) 22 791 41 59

Website/URL

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health
<http://www.healthcarewaste.org>
http://who.int/environmental_health_emergencies/en/

Type of Organization

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

* UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms must be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership - Information on Becoming a Partner

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership welcomes new partners. This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners.

What is the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

Consistent with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/215 “Towards Global Partnerships”, The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

As of June 2008, partnership areas have been initiated for 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, and mercury waste management. Other areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

What is the Goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

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

What does joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership mean for prospective partners?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

How does an organization join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Such letters of intention should be submitted to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals
Mercury Programme
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form. Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by the UNEP Chemicals through a letter of confirmation. Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals website.

the organization will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals
Mercury Programme
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch