Introduction

In January 2013, over 140 member governments of UNEP agreed to a treaty to control global mercury pollution. The use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) is a key sector covered by the new convention. Countries with ASGM in their territories will be required to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in ASGM.

UNEP and its partners in the Global Mercury Partnership will convene a global forum on ASGM from 3-5 September 2013 in Lima, Peru. The meeting will be conducted in English with French and Spanish simultaneous interpretation.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide technical and policy information to governments and other stakeholders that will assist countries in meeting their obligations related to ASGM under the new treaty. The forum will also be an opportunity for countries to share experiences and engage in a dialogue on the broader range of issues associated with ASGM.

The Second Global Forum will review the challenges and opportunities surrounding the sector; provide an overview of the implications of the Minamata Convention on Mercury with respect to AGSM; discuss national strategic planning approaches to reducing mercury use in the sector; provide training on inventory development; discuss technical and formalization guidance that could play a role in addressing ASGM issues; discuss success stories, including large-scale and small-scale models of working together. More information is available at http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmall-ScaleGoldMining/SecondGlobalForumonASGM/tabid/106375/Default.aspx

Note: For reasons of economy and environment, delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the meeting/information documents to the meeting and not to request additional copies.
Proposed Draft Agenda as of August 20, 2013

8:15 - 9:00 Registration
9:00- 9:15 Welcome remarks
9:15-9:45 Participant introductions
9:45-10:15 THE ASGM CHALLENGE GLOBALLY
Moderators: Natural Resource Defence Council (NRDC) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Mercury Movie
- What is ASGM - Size, Location, Diversity, Economy, Stakeholders, Issues
- Solutions - Technical, Financial, Policy
- The global gold trade and its relationship to ASGM
10:15- 11:15 OUTCOME OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION PROCESS: MINAMATA CONVENTION
Moderator: UNEP
11:15-11:30 BREAK
11:30-13:00 SESSION 1: EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS
Moderator: Natural Resource Defence Council
Panellists:
Representatives from Asia and the Pacific (Government of Philippines)
Representatives of the Latin America and Caribbean region (Government of Colombia and the Government of Peru)
13:00-14:00 LUNCH
14:00- 16:30 SESSION 2: IMPORTANCE OF INVENTORY DEVELOPMENT
Moderator: Artisanal Gold Council
Panellists:
UNEP
Artisanal Gold Council
Presentations and group discussion
16:30 - 18:00 PLENARY

DAY 2
8:30-9:30 MORNING REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS
Regional groups will be tasked with reviewing a series of questions in preparation for the
day ahead.

9:45-10:00  OPENING DAY 2

Moderator: UNEP

Summarize previous day and map out current day

10:00-11:30  SESSION 3: TECHNICAL APPROACHES TO REDUCING MERCURY USE

Moderator: Sustainable Artisanal Mining (SAM) Project

Panellists:
UNIDO
Alliance for Responsible Mining
Bantoxics!

Discussion and questions (including summarised results of answers to morning regional consultations relevant to this panel session).

11:30-11:45  BREAK

11:45-13:30  SESSION 4: LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Moderator: Natural Resource Defence Council

Panellists:
Alliance for Responsible Mining
Government of Peru/ Red social
Government of Ethiopia
Balifokus

Discussion and questions (including summarised results of answers to morning regional consultations relevant to this panel session).

13:30-14:30  LUNCH

14:30-17:30  SESSION 5: HEALTH ISSUES RELATED TO ASGM

Moderator: Artisanal Gold Council

Panellists:
CETEM, Brazil
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
UNIDO
Artisanal Gold Council

Panel session and discussion

17:30 - 18:00  PLENARY:

Report back from break-out groups
DAY 3

8:30-9:30  MORNING REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS
Regional groups will be tasked with reviewing a series of questions in preparation for the
day ahead.

9:45-10:00  OPENING DAY 3
Summarize previous day and map out current day

10:00-11:30  SESSION 6: FINANCING THE TRANSITION AWAY FROM MERCURY
Moderator: UNEP

Presenters:
Global Environment Facility
UNIDO
United States Department of State

Discussion and questions (including summarised results of answers to morning regional
consultations relevant to this panel session).

11:30-11:45  BREAK

11:45-13:00  SESSION 7: CREATION OF NEW PLATFORMS FOR COORDINATION
COOPERATION AND REPORTING
Moderator: Sustainable Artisanal Mining (SAM) Project

Panellists:
Government of Peru
World Bank communalities and small scale mining program (CASM)
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

13:00-14:00  LUNCH

14:00-15:30  BREAK OUT GROUP ON COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND
INFO EXCHANGE
Discussion and questions (Why do we need new platforms for coordination and
cooperation?)

15:30 - 16:30  PLENARY:
Report back from break-out groups and ideas for future information
exchange/cooperation;

16:30-17:00  SUMMARY FINAL DISCUSSION
ANNEX 1

Reference Materials for Participants

A number of reference materials are listed below that will be referred to during the Global Forum. Delegates are expected to be familiar with this information and material in advance of the meeting.

For reasons of economy and environment, delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

- **Draft text of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**  


- **Technical aspects of Mercury and Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining**
  

  Available in English and French.


- **National Action Planning**
  

  Available in English, French and Spanish

  Examples:  

- **Legal and financing the transition away from mercury**
  
  Formalization of the ASGM sector including case studies. Available at: [http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/FormalizationoftheASGMSector/tabid/79426/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/FormalizationoftheASGMSector/tabid/79426/Default.aspx)

  GEF guidelines: [http://www.thegef.org/gef/](http://www.thegef.org/gef/)
ANNEX 2

Questions for participants

Before the workshop, participating governments are asked to complete this questionnaire and bring to the forum. Kindly also mail this to UNEP (usman.tariq@unep.org and rolac.chemicals@unep.org) as soon as possible but no later than 28th August 2013. This will provide the forum with more information about the ASGM sector and allow a richer conversation. If it is not possible to answer all these questions, please just respond as completely as you can. Your answers will be a part of the meeting report unless otherwise instructed.

Sectoral profile questions:

 How many people are engaged in ASGM mining in your country (Please provide an approximate range)?

 Where does mining take place within the country (throughout, or concentrated geographically)?

 Who does the mining? (Check all that apply)

  _____ family landowners  _____ migrant workers  _____ immigrant workers
  _____ workers hired by landowners  _____ women  _____ children involved in the work
  _____ Others (please specify)

 How many women and children are involved in the sector? _______ women _______ children

 How much gold do these miners produce each year? _______ grams, _______ in MT (metric tonnes)

 What price do miners get for gold? _______ per ounce, _______% below spot price

 How do the miners get access to mercury? (check all that apply)

  _____ gold shop
  _____ dentist office
  _____ mine owner
  _____ other (please specify) _______

 How much do the miners pay for mercury? _______/liter or per kilo

 Are miners sensitive to price of mercury? (would they use less if it cost more?) Yes ____ No ____

 Do you have an estimate of how much mercury miners use to produce gold?  Yes ______ No ____

  If so, what is your estimate? _______ grams mercury/1 gram gold produced?

  How did you make this estimate?

 What are the common technologies and practices used by the miners? (check all that apply)

  _____ crushing and grinding with mercury (e.g. whole ore amalgamation)
  _____ crushing and grinding, followed by concentration, with mercury added to concentrates
  _____ mercury-free, chemical-free processes such as gravity concentration (using sluices, centrifuge, shaking table etc)
  _____ chemical leaching process (such as cyanide leaching) on ore
  _____ chemical leaching process (such as cyanide leaching) on tailings
• If mercury is used, how is amalgamation performed? How is the amalgam burnt?
• Are retorts used when amalgam is burned? Yes, usually sometimes rarely never

  ▪ How do miners purify the gold (if they do)? ____________________________________________________

  ▪ What is the level of local knowledge about alternatives to mercury? High Low

  ▪ Are programs or trainings available regarding alternatives? Yes No
    If so, what are the adoption rates for these alternatives? High Low

  ▪ How well do miners understand the dangers of mercury? Don’t know Know but don’t care Know but have no alternative

  ▪ Who buys the gold from the miners? Where does the purchase take place (eg, in the field? At gold shops?)

  ▪ Do the gold buyers purify the gold? Yes No
    If so, how – do they use any mercury capture methods when purifying the gold? Yes No

Environmental Questions:

  ▪ What are the kinds of impacts you know about or have observed? (please check all that apply)
    deforestation mercury contamination cyanide contamination sedimentation or other impact on water bodies other (please specify)

    If you can, please provide detail on the scale of the impacts, such as the number of acres or hectares affected. (provide photos if possible)

  ▪ Are there any special studies or data collected on environmental contamination or health impacts from ASGM that have been performed in your country, of which you are aware? Yes No Can you provide these?

Legal/social questions:

  ▪ What is the legal/regulatory status of small scale mining? legal extra-legal illegal

    What is the legal status of mercury use? legal not legal

  ▪ How are miners typically organized? individuals or family groups owners with paid labor or shared profit model cooperatives other (specify)

  ▪ How do miners typically access capital?

  ▪ Besides the artisanal and small scale miners, who are the key stakeholders at national regional and local levels, including government and community-based organizations active in mining communities? Please list and provide contact information where possible.
Questions related to Minamata Convention obligations:

- Has your country developed a national inventory of mercury use in ASGM? Yes ____  No ____
- Was the ‘UNEP toolkit to estimate the releases of mercury to air, land and water from various sources’ used for this estimate? Yes ____  No ____
- What do you see as the gaps in the inventory? ________________________________
- What activities has your government initiated to prepare for the Minamata Convention? Specifically, what activities address obligations under the ASGM Article 7 (see attached)? ________________________________

Ideas for Assistance

- What specific kinds of assistance would be most helpful to your country in implementing obligations under the Convention?

  Technical assistance

  Training on doing mercury inventories ____  ____

  Training on alternative mining techniques to reduce or eliminate mercury use and release ____  ____
Training on mercury capture during purification

On-line training of miners and processors

Policy development

Setting up formalization system

Land tenure/property rights/cadastre system

Facilitation of national action plans

Marketing approach

Developing supply chains to maximize mercury-free

Addressing health impact issues

Training for environmentally-sound management of mercury

Mercury storage

National action plan on storage - facilitation

Training, technical criteria of facilities

Other (please describe)

Ideas for information exchange or regional coordination

One of the key outcomes from this forum could be recommendations on the types of coordination and cooperation countries would like to see, and what kinds of information sharing would be useful.

- Is sustainability or replicability of successful projects an issue in your country? Yes ____ No ____
If so, how can this be encouraged? Do you have an example of a project to showcase? Please detail:

Do you see coordination of assistance as important in your country? Yes ____ No ____ If so, what is the best mode for coordination, in your view? ____________________________________________-

Are regional workshops truly useful? Yes ____ No ____

Would on-line coordination be more cost-effective and useful? Yes ____ No ____

Are there coordination networks in place now that could be expanded to include ASGM? Yes ____ No ____

(please provide details) ____________________________________________
