



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



**World Health
Organization**

First meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints

Initial organizational meeting of contributors

Geneva, 26–28 May 2010

Item 4 of the provisional agenda *

Background/overview of the Global Alliance

Short background and overview of the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Secretariat is pleased to present below a short background and overview of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints.
2. The current meeting provides an opportunity to meeting participants to be informed about: i) the background and overview of the establishment of the Global Alliance and ii) how the Secretariat has taken into consideration reference materials presented at the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, and in relation to lead in paint, for the development of the Global Alliance framework (Reference document: UNEP(DTIE Chemicals) /WHO(PHE) GAELP/1/3).
3. Those reference materials presented at the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, in relation to lead in paint, are available in document UNEP(DTIE Chemicals) /WHO(PHE) GAELP/1/INF/1.
4. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) committed to take actions to protect human health from exposure to lead. Paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD states: *“Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.”*
5. The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session (ICCM-2 , Geneva, 11-15 May 2009) endorsed (SAICM/ICCM.2/15 Resolution II/4B) the establishment of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of the use of lead in paint as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD and to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
6. ICCM-2 invited all interested stakeholders to become members of the global partnership and, where appropriate, to commit themselves to contributing financial or in-kind resources or expertise towards the development and implementation of partnership activities.

* UNEP(DTIE Chemicals) /WHO(PHE) GAELP/1/1/Add.1

7. ICCM-2 requested the global partnership to adopt terms of reference using the draft terms of reference presented to ICCM-2 as their basis and to develop a business plan articulating clear milestones for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint in the following areas:

- (a) Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives;
- (b) Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure;
- (c) Assistance to industry (manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers);
- (d) Prevention programmes to reduce exposure;
- (e) Promotion of national regulatory frameworks;

8. ICCM-2 requested the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization within their respective mandates and available resources to serve as the secretariat of the global partnership.

9. ICCM-2 invited the global partnership to report on progress to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.

10. The global partnership endorsed by ICCM-2 is now called the "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints".

11. The overall goal of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints is to prevent children's exposure to lead via paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paint. The broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks from such paint.

12. The Global Alliance is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, whether governmental, nongovernmental, public or private, in which all participants agree to work together systematically to attain the overall goal of phasing out the use of lead in paint.
