

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint/Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, 27 September 2018, 13:30- 16:00 Geneva time

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Building L – L18 (ground floor)

1. Opening of the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Environment as co-secretariats of the Lead Paint Alliance, followed by welcome remarks by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Chair of the Lead Paint Alliance.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the USEPA, the WHO, UN Environment, the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), AkzoNobel, Boysen Paints Philippines, the American Bar Association Rule of Law (ABA ROLI) (observer), the government of Colombia and the University of Kenya.

(a) Purpose of the meeting

The Chair (USEPA) elaborated on the purpose of the meeting, which was to share information about activities carried out by the secretariat and Advisory Council members, and on progress towards the 2020 goal.

2. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the provisional agenda

The Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council adopted the agenda for the meeting.

3. Review of overall progress in relation to the Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan 2017–2018

(a) Updates from the Secretariat, including status of the GEF project lead in paint component

UN Environment informed the group that in August 2018, the Global Environment Facility CEO officially endorsed a SAICM full-sized project with three components: (1) Lead in Paint, (2) Chemicals in Products, (3) Knowledge Management. The lead paint component of the SAICM GEF project is being implemented by the UN Environment and executed by the SAICM Secretariat. The executing partners are: UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch in Geneva, WHO, ABA ROLI, IPEN, the ECOWAS Secretariat, National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) in Serbia, China, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Jordan. USEPA and IPPIC are non-funded executing partners. UN Environment presented the project objectives, the countries with lead paint laws (total 36% as of August), the implementation and execution structure, and the proposed workplan for consultation with partners and project countries. (PPT –

Global efforts to eliminate lead in paint – SAICM GEF project lead in paint component). UN Environment stated that they expect to have a finalized legal agreement with project executing partners by 31 October 2018. The project itself will likely commence as of January 2019.

(b) Updates from Advisory Council Members

The Ministry of Environment of Colombia, presented its activities on the elimination of lead in paint. The country does currently not have a lead paint law in place and a study was conducted with a consulting company to inventory paints sold in Colombia, to analyse 218 paint samples for lead and other toxic metals, to present the results of investigations to industry and government entities, and to develop guidelines for manufacturers of decorative paints and for government entities. Currently 1139 national companies manufacture paint for household use and 16 companies imported paint in the last few years. Most paint samples had a lead content closer to 90ppm than 600 ppm. This led to the conclusion that a law may not be so complicated to implement. The presenter stressed that it was important to have information about the substitutes and alternatives to lead pigments.

The Kenyan representative noted that, while there is a national law limiting the lead content of paint to 90ppm there is a concern with compliance and enforcement. Some PhD students are currently doing a study of lead in automotive and decorative paints in Kenya. She also mentioned continuing work on harmonization of the East African Community (EAC) lead paint standard and that she has been appointed Chair of the Standards Committee. The EAC paint standard will be finalised at the meeting in Tanzania on 1–5 October and should then be adopted by the six EAC member countries. She thanked UN Environment Regional Office for Africa for supporting her participation at the EAC meeting in Tanzania.

The representative from AkzoNobel informed that they are the first global company to phase out lead in all paints. AkzoNobel operates in over 80 countries including in South and South-East Asia and are encouraging manufacturers in those countries to phase out the use of lead in paint. The company is planning an event during International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

The representative from Boysen Paints had spoken at a paint conference in Indonesia about the need to phase out the use of lead. He also discussed with individual manufacturers about the cost arguments for changing paint formulations, including the business argument that producing lead-safe paint would increase consumer trust and, ultimately, sales.

The representative from IPPIC noted that they will be an executing partner in the SAICM GEF project and will work with industry. IPPIC is already encouraging member paint manufacturers to phase out the use of lead. He stressed how important it is to understand how regulations implemented in different countries. He mentioned the voluntary status of the lead paint law in Japan and believes that it is likely to be complied with and that ultimately there will be regulation as dictated by the goal of the Lead Paint Alliance. The model law was seen as being useful. He assured that “we are all rowing the boat in the same direction”.

The representative from IPEN, which will be an executing partner of the SAICM GEF project, mentioned that they have partners in 50 countries that are doing lead-paint-related activities. IPEN also noted that 32 partners had registered ILPPW events on the WHO website.

The representative from ABA ROLI, which will be an executing partner of the SAICM GEF project, explained the role of the organization in supporting countries with developing lead paint laws. ROLI works as an international development NGO and has field officers in a large number of countries, who are either legal or development experts. ABA ROLI pro bono legal experts have been analysing draft legislation and standards for lead paint and have provided inputs to laws in the following countries: Jamaica, Brazil, Ukraine Mexico, Israel and Iraq. It is important for the supporting lawyers to understand what is already in place and if the lead paint component may fit in already existing legal frameworks. They are translating several laws for that purpose.

The representative from USEPA, described various activities to increase the number of countries with lead paint laws. These include mobilising US embassies in countries of interest, organising regional and bilateral discussions with countries, and holding regular meetings with ABA ROLI, the World Bank, the UN Environment Regional Office for North America (RONA) and IPPIC, which are all based in Washington. USEPA is also working with ABA ROLI on tracking activities around the world relating to lead paint laws. In addition, USEPA will be providing both in-kind and cash support for the SAICM GEF project.

She also mentioned that Ghana might be developing a workshop with industry.

(c) Update of Model Law language versions on UN Environment website

UN Environment provided information about the publication of versions of the model law in English, Russian, French and Spanish (the Spanish version is still to be posted). Arabic and Chinese translations are underway. The model law was updated in July and all updated versions will be available on the website as of November.

4. **Status of laws (legislation, regulations, standards)**

(a) Survey results

WHO described efforts to update the database of countries with legally binding controls on lead paint. In July a survey was sent to SAICM and health and environment focal points, as well as WHO Regional offices. It was provided online in 5 languages (English, Russian, French, Spanish, and Arabic) and completed by 31 countries. The survey closed on 19 September. Currently the status is 71¹ countries with lead paint laws, 80 with no laws and 46 no data. A second phase is envisaged later in the year where countries with lead paint limits over 90ppm will be asked to provide updates.

(b) Specific country and regional updates: The minutes of regional teleconferences about Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, were provided by UN Environment as meeting background.

5. **Lead Paint Alliance communication and outreach**

(a) International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) 21–27 October 2018

WHO and USEPA provided information about the International Poisoning Prevention Week, 21-27 October. There are currently 40 valid registered campaigns in 32 different countries. Kenya has 9 different campaigns. Most campaigners are from Europe, Africa and South-

¹ Ethiopia is included in this figure, although the law remains to be gazetted.

East Asia at the time of counting. Campaign materials are available on the website (http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/) as well as WHO video messages in English by the Deputy Director-General for Programmes, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, which was played during the session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqlmidsFJu-g&feature=youtu.be>, and French <https://youtu.be/hhnyU7BbiO4> and Spanish <https://youtu.be/fxjwzStwbq0> versions by Director, Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health, Dr Maria Neira. Twitter hashtags banleadpaint and ILPPW2018 will be used for twitter campaigns.

(b) Lead Paint Alliance Newsletter

UN Environment, provided information about the September newsletter of the Lead Paint Alliance and its mode of dissemination. It has been sent out and should reach all Lead Paint Alliance members in the next days.

(c) Upcoming events

Lead paint was included in a resolution passed at the recent African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Nairobi. A side event on lead paint was planned at the African Health and Environment Inter-ministerial meeting in November.

6. Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council operations

(a) Updates on new Partners and Advisory Council members

WHO, reported on new partners that were officially accepted to the Lead Paint Alliance, and also on new members of the Advisory Council. In 2018 the following organizations were accepted as partners: Ministry of Environment from Brazil, the Malaysian Paint Manufacturers' Association, Living Science Foundation from Nigeria, Viet Nam Chemicals Agency, the NYU Department of Environmental Paediatrics and ABA ROLI. Meanwhile, other applicants are being considered. Boysen Paints was accepted onto the Advisory Council.

(b) Bi-annual meetings – next meeting

The Advisory Council is expected to communicate regularly and meet via teleconference or face-to-face at least twice a year. Proposed timeframes of upcoming meetings are April 2019 (back-to-back with the SAICM open-ended working group meeting) , and October 2019. Specific dates will be identified after this teleconference, with input from all participants. One agenda item proposed for the next meeting is the discussion of the draft Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan for 2019- 2020 that will be prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Alliance.

7. Any other business

None

8. Closure of the meeting

9. The Chair thanked all participants at the Advisory Council meeting. The meeting was closed at 15:30 Geneva time.

Advisory Council – participants

In person:

WHO: Carolyn Vickers, Evelyn Kortum, Joanna Tempowski

UN Environment: Jacob Duer, Desiree Narvaez, Jacqueline Alvarez, Justice Igbara

USEPA : Walker Smith, Angela Bandemehr

IPEN: Sarah Brosche

Boysen Paints: Johnson Ongking

ABA-ROLI: Jay Monteverde (observer)

Via webex:

UN Environment: Meera Laurijssen (consultant)

USA: Ellie McCann, Evonne Marzouk, Shayna Sellars, Steve Wolfson

Kenya: Faridah Were

Colombia: Rodolfo Alarcón, Alba Luz Castro, Diego Montes

Akzo Nobel: Elise van Rosmalen

IPPIC: Steve Sides