



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Advisory Group
Eleventh meeting**
Virtual meeting, 15-16 December 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

1. The eleventh meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group (PAG) will take place on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December 2020 in a virtual setting, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm CET on both days.
2. The meeting will be opened by Monika G. MacDevette, Chief of the Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division of UNEP, to be followed by introductory statements by Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury as well as by the PAG co-chairs, Rodges Ankrah, Environmental Protection Agency of the United States, and Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

3. The PAG may wish to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/Hg/PAG.11/1. It may also suggest other items for discussion.

(b) Organization of work

4. The PAG is expected to meet from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, subject to any necessary adjustments. Seizing the opportunity of online settings, the meeting will be opened to all partners and relevant stakeholders in an observer capacity.

Item 3

Update by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on preparations for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and intersessional work, technical assistance and capacity-building activities, “Minamata Online” sessions, as well as national reporting

5. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention will be invited to provide an update in relation to preparations for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to be held in Bali,

Indonesia, from 1 to 5 November 2021, as well as to intersessional work, technical assistance and capacity-building activities, “Minamata Online” sessions, as well as national reporting.

Item 4

Updates by each Partnership area and by the Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership on key activities in follow up to the tenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group, outreach, communication and new partners

6. One of the functions and responsibilities of the PAG is to report on activities within the Global Mercury Partnership. The Secretariat has compiled this information in the progress report made available in document UNEP/ Hg/PAG.11/3, reflecting input received from Partnership Areas on their activities during the period from October 2019 to November 2020.

7. Partnership Area leads will be invited to provide a brief update on their respective Partnership Area to share key highlights, future planned activities, priorities and needs identified as well as opportunities for resource mobilization. The Secretariat will also provide an overview of activities undertaken in follow-up to the tenth meeting of the PAG (Geneva, 23 November 2019), including with respect to outreach, communication and new partners.

Item 5

Progress and next steps in relation to the work on cross-cutting topics initiated in follow up to the tenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group: (a)Mercury from oil and gas and (b) Mercury from non-ferrous metals mining and smelting

8. At its tenth meeting, the PAG requested the Secretariat to convene targeted discussions with interested partners and stakeholders on the issues of mercury from oil and gas and from non-ferrous metals mining and smelting, which it had identified as cross-cutting, i.e. where the collaboration of Partnership Areas of work would facilitate the development of needed information, interventions and projects¹.

9. In response to this request, expert consultations were launched in April 2020 through online meetings, with the overall objective to identify potential useful contributions from the Partnership, within the context of its mission and its existing areas of work. Participants were invited to attend in their expert capacity, to share views and ideas, and any useful background information².

10. Interested Partnership Area leads subsequently agreed to guide a process for developing study reports on these two topics. Draft annotated outlines of the reports are presented in documents UNEP/ Hg/PAG.11/4 and UNEP/ Hg/PAG.11/5 for consideration and further discussion at PAG-11. Together with the information collected, the finalized annotated outlines will be used as a basis to develop the study reports during the first half of 2021.

11. When considering the draft outlines, the PAG may wish to provide feedback on the proposed flow of each report, its chapters and sections; consider the suitability of the identified dimensions and topics as per the guidance received by the Partnership Area leads; highlight topics meriting further elaboration; and propose key references to be used and cited in drafting the documents. The PAG may also wish to discuss next steps, including further consultations with relevant stakeholders and dissemination of the reports.

Item 6

Discussion on future priority actions towards the Partnership’s objectives and associated resource mobilisation

12. The PAG will be invited to discuss future priorities, with the aim to identify concrete actions for future work by the Partnership and its Partnership Areas, as well as in a cross-cutting manner, including in terms of possible stakeholders, resources required as well as expected timeline.

¹ The report of the tenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group (document UNEP/ Hg/PAG.10/5) is available at: <https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/partnership-advisory-group-meeting-10>

² Further information, including summaries of main discussion points, may be found at: <https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/expert-consultations-“mercury-oil-and-gas”> and <https://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/expert-consultations-“mercury-non-ferrous-metals-mining-and-smelting”>

13. In its discussions, the PAG may wish to consider priorities as they relate to the Partnership's focus of work, namely to support timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention; to provide state of the art knowledge and science on mercury and to deliver outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

14. The PAG may also wish to note the topics identified at PAG-10 as possible future priority areas of work, review progress made as well as opportunities for further action. These topics included: mercury from non-ferrous metals mining and smelting as well as from oil and gas; the further refinement of default factors from key sectors; the establishment of a framework for a centralized repository on mercury assessments; the development of guidance to address mercury-added products and tools to make information on waste technologies accessible; and the organization of webinars to facilitate information sharing.

15. With respect to collaboration amongst Partnership Areas on cross-cutting issues, possible topics put forward at PAG-10 also included the management of tailings from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM); the issue of mercury seizure; the impact of ASGM emissions and releases on local, regional and global environment; mercury monitoring (for air, biota and humans), including protocols for standard use and comparison within areas affected by ASGM activities; the identification of needs and challenges faced by chlor-alkali producers both for financing the conversion process and for addressing the management and disposal of mercury waste; the tracking of the decommissioning of mercury-cell chlor-alkali plants as well as mercury stocks management and disposal.

Item 7

Updates by the Secretariat of the GEF and intergovernmental organizations on their respective mercury-related activities

16. The Secretariat of the GEF as well as intergovernmental organizations present at the meeting will be invited to provide a brief update on their respective activities in relation to mercury and the Minamata Convention.

Item 8

Overview of preparations for the 15th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (Cape Town, South Africa, 24 to 29 July 2022) and discussion on possible areas of collaboration and contribution

17. The PAG will be provided with an overview of ongoing preparations for the 15th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP), which will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 24 to 29 July 2022, further to a decision by the ICMGP Executive Committee to postpone the Conference by one year in light of the uncertainties regarding COVID-19. In follow up, participants will be invited to provide initial ideas on possible areas of contribution and collaboration between the Partnership and the ICMGP.

Item 9

Other matters

18. The PAG may wish to consider other issues raised during the meeting.

Item 10

Closure of the meeting

19. It is expected that the PAG will conclude its work by 3:30 pm CET on Wednesday, 16 December 2020.