

# UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Area on Mercury releases from the Cement Industry Annual Meeting, 8 December 2021

## – Summary of main discussion points –

The [Mercury releases from the Cement Industry Area](#) of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership held its annual meeting on **Wednesday 8 December 2021** in an online setting<sup>1</sup>. The meeting was attended by representatives from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector/industry, academia and the scientific community, from both partner and observer organizations (*list of participants in annex*).

Opening remarks were delivered by the co-chairs of the Partnership Advisory Group, Rodges Ankrah (Environmental Protection Agency, United States), and Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand), the co-lead of the Partnership Area, Claude Lorea (Global Cement and Concrete Association - GCCA) and Eisaku Toda (Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury).

### **Relevant provisions and upcoming work under the Minamata Convention**

Eisaku Toda highlighted key provisions under the Minamata Convention of relevance to the cement sector, including articles 8 (emissions), 9 (releases) and 11 (mercury waste) as well as the guidance on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (BAT and BEP) to control emissions to air of mercury and mercury compounds from point sources, which amongst others provided guidance for cement clinker production facilities. With respect to releases, he noted the future work of the group of technical experts, which may be tasked by COP-4.2 (Bali, Indonesia, 21 to 25 March 2022) to develop draft guidance on BAT and BEP to control releases to land and water from relevant sources and looked forward to future collaboration with the Partnership Area.

### **Designation of new Partnership Area co-lead**

The Partnership Area designated Zaigham Abbas, Deputy Director, Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan to serve as co-lead together with Claude Lorea, Cement Director, GCCA.

### **Updates by partners and by the Secretariat of the Partnership**

Participants in the meeting indicated their respective areas of work, possible contribution to the work of the Partnership Area as well as priorities and topics of interest for future work, showcasing a diversity and wealth of expertise, including with respect to research and analysis, mercury reduction techniques, monitoring and stack sampling, development of new cement plants, reporting and guidance development, human health and environmental impacts, measurement and modeling, supply of measurement technologies, amongst others.

The Secretariat of the Partnership provided an update on the Partnership, its organization of work, current priorities, as well as tools available to each Partnership Area and partners in terms of awareness raising and outreach, including a series of information-sharing webinars being rolled out by the Partnership, the newsletter, fact sheet or newly migrated website. The Partnership Advisory Group

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/events/unep-event/partnership-area-mercury-releases-cement-industry-2021-meeting>

meeting would be holding its twelfth meeting in March 2022, and would amongst others review recent activities of the Partnership and Partnership Areas and consider future priorities.

### **Partnership Area priorities and Business Plan<sup>2</sup>**

Participants considered the currently identified priorities of the Partnership Area, namely to support the establishment of sectoral mercury inventories; to encourage the use of most appropriate techniques to reduce or minimize mercury emissions and releases; and to reach out and raise awareness on the topic. While key objectives and priorities of the Partnership Area had remained unchanged since its establishment in 2013, the Business Plan required update on a number of items, including with regard to partners efforts and timelines, opportunities, resource mobilization, business planning process, linkages as well as the list of potential partners. Partnership Area co-leads will be reverting back to partners with the reviewed plan for their consideration early 2022.

### **Areas for future work**

Amongst others, the following areas for future work were raised by participants:

- Capacity building, including with respect to monitoring, identification of mercury, upgrading and training at facility and university levels
- Awareness raising of the cement industry on the topic of mercury, in addition to CO<sub>2</sub>, currently a major focus of the sector
- Improving estimates of mercury from the sector, in particular from developing countries
- Sharing of information on certain topics, including with respect to:
  - mercury emissions and releases from the sector, including at regional level
  - technical solutions to measure and remove mercury
  - co-processing of waste in cement kilns
  - fate of mercury from the cement sector
  - mercury mass balance from cement plants
- Enhancing the understanding of mercury emitted/released from the cement sector, and its distribution through long range emission vs. in oxidized form close to the plant
- Establishing an online library or reference center containing test data, technical papers, and regulations
- Exploring opportunities for synergistic efforts in addressing mercury as well as other pollutants, such as dioxins and furans

As immediate next steps, technical information sessions will be convened in 2022, with a focus on (1) mercury inventories, including at facility level, and on (2) best practices and dissemination of available guidance, including the Minamata Convention guidance on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices to control emission of mercury and mercury compounds to air from point sources<sup>3</sup> as well as the GCCA “guidance in measuring, controlling and reducing mercury emissions from cement manufacturing”<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13774/Cement\\_Industry\\_Partnership\\_Business\\_Plan.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13774/Cement_Industry_Partnership_Business_Plan.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/documents/guidance-best-available-techniques-and-best-environmental-practices-taking-account-any>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gccassociation.org/sustainability-innovation/sustainability-charter-and-guidelines/>

## Annex – List of participants

Organization	Name
<b>Governments</b>	
Canada, Environment and Climate Change	Daniel Del Carpio
Canada, Environment and Climate Change	Tracey Inkpen
China, National Research Center for Environmental Analysis and Measurement	Yan LIU
China, National Research Center for Environmental Analysis and Measurement	Lifei Zhang
Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation	Shamara Daisy
Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation	Jayson Sorhaindo
European Commission, DG JRC, EIPPCB	Frauke Schorch
Missouri Department of Natural Resources	Racheal Ajayi
Pakistan, Ministry of Climate Change – <i>Partnership Area Co-Lead</i>	Zaigham Abbas
Senegal, Ministry of Environment	Dieye Pathé
Suriname, National Institute for Environment & Development (NIMOS)	Radjni Ramsukul
Thailand, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn
United States, Environmental Protection Agency	Rodges Ankrah
Yemen, Environment Protection Authority	Mohsen Alshateri
Yemen, Environment Protection Authority	Anisah Basunbol
<b>Intergovernmental Organizations</b>	
Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean	Arielle Mootra
Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean	Janine Boodram
BCSC Regional Centre	Oludayo Dada
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	Eisaku Toda
UNEP	Mihaela Claudia Paun
UNEP	Mick Saito
UNEP - Global Mercury Partnership Secretariat	Imelda Dossou Etui
UNEP - Global Mercury Partnership Secretariat	Stephanie Laruelle
UNEP - Global Mercury Partnership Secretariat	Sandra Averous
UNIDO	Jerome Stucki
<b>Academia/Scientific community</b>	
China Building Materials Academy	Juan Li
Esslingen University	Barna Heidel
Jožef Stefan Institute	Milena Horvat
Syracuse University	Svetoslava Todorova
<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>	
European Center for Environmental Medicine	Florian Schulze
International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)	Gaspar Corra
International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)	Lilian Corra
Sustainable Alluvial Mining Services	Immaculate Javia
Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development	Leslie Adogame
<b>Private sector / Industry</b>	
Atlantic Energy Associates LLC	Wojciech Jozewicz
CEMBUREAU	Nikos Nikolakakos
GCC	Gina Lotito
Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) – <i>Partnership Area Co-Lead</i>	Claude Lorea
Licata Energy & Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Anthony Licata
SICK AG	Siegfried Andraess
VDZ Technology GmbH	Stefan Schäfer