



Le Recteur

Professeur Yves Flückiger

Ligne directe: 022 379 75 13

recteur@unige.ch

Head, Chemicals and Health
Branch, Economy Division
UNEP
Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
metals@un.org

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Request to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Dear Dr. Gail MacDevette,

The University of Geneva (UNIGE) has a long-term commitment in mercury research, which started with the first assessment of mercury contamination of Lake Geneva in the 1970s. Since then, UNIGE continues to study freshwater mercury contamination with emphasis on the interactions of Hg compounds with primary producers, biotic and abiotic transformations in the water column, sediments and sediment/water interfaces.

UNIGE would like to suggest Prof. Vera Slaveykova to represent the University to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Prof. Vera Slaveykova is a Full Professor in Environmental Biogeochemistry and Ecotoxicology at the Department for Environmental and Aquatic Sciences, Faculty of Science and the Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE) and President of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva.

Prof. Vera Slaveykova is strongly committed in Hg research with a focus on the processes in aquatic systems and in particular interaction of Hg with sediments, particles, biota from molecular to ecosystem level. She has long-term national and international collaborations and well-established relations with UNEP. For example, together with the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Geneva Environment Network Secretariat, Prof. Vera Slaveykova co-organized "Science and policy interface: mercury emissions, releases & effects in the environment" in September 2017. Organized within Hg week in Geneva during the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-1), this event provided the opportunity of the participants to explore how members of the scientific community may support the implementation of the Convention around the world.

In 2018, Prof. Slaveykova co-organized and co-chaired a Mercury Science, Surveillance and Management Workshop ahead of the MCM Conference of Parties (COP-2) being held in Geneva, Switzerland. The workshop was co-organized by University of Geneva, Norway's Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and

in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The focus of this multidisciplinary workshop was to provide an overview of the current global state of science, biomonitoring, education and policy of mercury pollution and to discuss the nexus of science, policy and action, with an emphasis on developing implementation support for effective evaluation and contributions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.


The University of Geneva wishes to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through its representative Prof. Slaveykova, who could provide her knowledge, research output and expertise in support and assessment of the efficiency of implementation the Minamata Convention through innovative Science to Policy approach.

Areas of expertise in which Prof. Slaveykova could contribute:

1. Mercury cell chlor-alkali production
2. Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining

Thank you for considering our application.

Best regards,



Yves Flückiger
Rector

Attachment 1: form duly filled in

- cc. Prof. Vera Slaveykova – UNIGE – Faculty of Science and the Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE)
- cc. Ms. Monica Patry – UNIGE – International Relations and Partnerships
- cc. Ms. Stéphanie Laruelle – UNEP
- cc. Ms. Imelda Dossou Etui – UNEP



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet provides an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at:

web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership

GOAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve its goal.

Initiated in 2005¹, the Partnership today focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

¹ UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9

The Partnership is structured around eight areas:

- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- Mercury cell chlor-alkali production
- Mercury air transport and fate research
- Mercury in products
- Mercury releases from coal combustion
- Mercury waste management
- Mercury supply and storage
- Mercury releases from the cement industry

OUR PARTNERS

Over 200 partners from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of Partnership activities.
- Network with other organizations, agencies, entities and individuals addressing mercury issues.

BECOMING A PARTNER

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal. The letter should also specify how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

SUPPORT LETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch
Economy Division
United Nations Environment Programme**
Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
E-mail: metals@un.org

