

18 September 2023

Dear Ms. Alvarez,

I am writing to you to formally express the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and our steadfast commitment to achieving its goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the detrimental effects of mercury pollution on human health and the environment.

UNODC recognizes the paramount importance of collaborative efforts to address global environmental challenges, and we commend the UNEP for its exceptional leadership in spearheading initiatives such as the Global Mercury Partnership. We firmly believe that by joining forces and working together, we can effectively combat mercury pollution and foster a safer and healthier planet for present and future generations.

As an organization dedicated to upholding justice, security, and the rule of law, UNODC acknowledges the multifaceted nature of mercury pollution and its intricate linkages to various criminal activities. We are acutely aware of the illicit trade in mercury, which often enables crimes in the minerals sector. Therefore, we are resolute in leveraging our expertise and resources to contribute to the realization of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership's objectives.

In accordance with this commitment, UNODC intends to undertake the following actions as part of our contribution to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership:

Strengthening Law Enforcement: We will intensify our endeavors to combat the illicit trade in mercury, collaborating closely with national law enforcement agencies and international partners to disrupt criminal networks involved in its production, smuggling, and distribution.

Capacity Building: We will provide technical assistance and training programs to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies, customs officials, and other relevant stakeholders in detecting and preventing the illicit trade in mercury and associated criminal activities.

Ms. Jacqueline Alvarez
Chief, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch
Industry and Economy Division
United Nations Environment Programme
Palais de Nations
8-14 Avenue de la Paix,
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

Promoting Awareness and Advocacy: We will support the dissemination of information and heighten awareness regarding the risks and consequences of mercury pollution, including its profound impact on public health and the environment, through targeted awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives.

Collaboration and Cooperation: We will actively collaborate with other organizations, such as OECD, WCO and INTERPOL as well as relevant regional bodies, to strengthen international cooperation, information sharing, and joint operations aimed at combatting mercury-related crimes.

We firmly believe that these concerted efforts will not only contribute to the goals of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership but also assist in addressing the broader challenges pertaining to mercury pollution and its criminal dimensions. By aligning our work and pooling our resources, we can make substantial progress towards a future free from the adverse effects of mercury.

In conclusion, the UNODC reaffirms its support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. We eagerly anticipate forging a close collaboration with the Partnership and its member organizations to safeguard human health, preserve the environment, and promote sustainable development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Cole". The signature is stylized with a large initial "A" and "C".

Alan Cole
Chief
Border Management Branch
Division for Operations



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

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:

www.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 releases 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 240 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
Industry and 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



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Please check the partnership area(s) to which your organization intends to contribute to:

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

> Please specify in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the selected partnership area(s).

ORGANIZATION APPLYING TO BECOME A PARTNER

Name of Organization:

Type of Organization:

Government	Industry / private sector
Intergovernmental Organization	Academia / scientific institution
Non-governmental Organization	Other, please specify

Mailing Address:

Postcode: City: Country:

E-mail:

Telephone: Website:

ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Ms.

First Name: Last Name:

Functional Title:

Section / Department:

E-mail:

* UNEP Global Mercury Partnership registration forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving its goal. The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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