

Consumers for Dental Choice

316 F St., N.E., Suite 210
Washington DC 20002 USA
Phone 202.544-6333; fax 202.544-6331
www.toxicteeth.org

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland – via fax to +41 22 797 3460

Re: Request to Join UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Dear Sir or Madam:

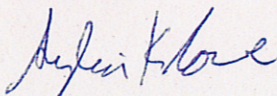
Consumers for Dental Choice requests to formally join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, specifically the mercury in products partnership area.

Dedicated to phasing out the use of mercury in dentistry, Consumers for Dental Choice fully supports the Partnership's goal of protecting our health and our environment from mercury by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately phasing out anthropogenic mercury releases.

Consumers for Dental Choice believes that it is possible to phase out dental mercury now. We can offer the Partnership our extensive range of experience and expertise. The patients and parents who work with us know firsthand that the risks associated with placing mercury-based dental fillings in children, pregnant women, and hypersensitive adults are unacceptable – especially when the patient is not even informed that amalgam contains mercury. The environmentalists who work with us know that dental amalgam is a major source of mercury in our air, land, and water and that dental mercury converts to methylmercury in the environment. The dentists who work with us know that alternatives to amalgam, such as composites and glass ionomers (which can be used in atraumatic restorative treatment, the “perfect alternative treatment approach for dental caries in the developing countries,” according to WHO's website) are available now because they have already phased out the use of mercury in their own practices. We believe our experience and expertise as patients, parents, environmentalists, and dentists can assist the Partnership in developing strategies to phase out the use of mercury in dentistry.

Thank you for this opportunity. We look forward to working with the Partnership.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Dove
Associate, Consumers for Dental Choice
14 June 2011