

Four Years to Phase Out Lead in Paint Worldwide:

A Side Event at the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly

Room “Marquee 1”, UN Complex, Nairobi, Kenya

Monday 23 May 2016, 18:00 – 19:30

1. Background and Context

Lead is a cumulative and persistent environmental toxicant. Paints are a major route of human exposure to lead. The human health and environmental risk of lead in paint was identified as one of the emerging policy issues at the second International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2009. UNEP and WHO has been coordinating the global efforts through the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance), which aims at establishing legal limits to lead in paint in all countries by 2020.

The target year is approaching fast. UNEP and WHO reported in October 2015 that 59 governments had legal limits to lead in paint. Many other countries work on introducing regulations, and UNEP will launch a global analysis of legal limits on lead in paint in May 2016.

Taking the opportunity of the Second United Nations Environment Assembly, the side event aims at sharing information on the progress of the global efforts to phase out lead in paint, and identifying opportunities for further collaboration.

2. Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of the event is to increase awareness of the risk of lead in paint on human health and the environment, and enhance the global efforts to phase out lead in paint by 2020.

Specific objectives are to:

- Launch new publications including a UNEP report on the global analysis of legal limits on lead in paints, and an interactive map showing an estimate of economic cost of childhood exposure to lead by the New York University;
- Showcase regional initiatives to collaborate on phasing out lead in paint, including sub-regional standards in East Africa, workshops in Addis Ababa and Chişinău, and South-South cooperation between China and Africa;
- Raise support to the Lead Paint Alliance from a wide range of stakeholders including paint users, retailers, pigment producers, etc.

3. Participants

Delegates to the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly are invited to the event.

4. Programme

18:00-18:05: **Opening remarks** (Mr. Eisaku Toda, Chemicals and Waste Branch, UNEP)

18:05-18:15: **Keynote presentation** “The Human Health and Economic Costs of Lead in Paint” (Ms. Walker Smith, US Environment Protection Agency)
Discussant: Ms. Dorota Jarosinska (European Regional Office, WHO)

- 18:15-18:40: **Panel discussion 1 “Establishing legal limits to lead in paint”**: UNEP will present its global analysis of legal limits on lead in paint. Several panelists will be invited to report on the regional workshops in Addis Ababa (December 2015) and Chişinău (May 2016), as well as recent example of legislation in the Philippines.
Moderator: Ms. Patricia J. Beneke (Regional Office for North America, UNEP)
Panelists: Mr. Peter Numatala (Kenya Bureau of Standards)
 Ms. Stela Drucioc (Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Moldova)
 Mr. Jonas Leones (Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines)
Possible questions for discussion:
- What are some of the largest barriers to establishing effective legal limits on lead in paint?
 - What is the best way to catalyze national and regional action by 2020?
 - How can we engage regional organizations and bodies to address legal limits in lead paint?
- 18:40-19:00: **Panel discussion 2 “Cross-sector cooperation towards the phasing out of lead in paint”**: Panelists from the Government of Kenya, IPEN, paint manufacturers and paint users will present their efforts towards phasing out lead in paint and discuss further collaboration.
Moderator: Ms. Farida Were (Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute)
Panelists: Ms. Sara Brosché (IPEN)
 Mr. Santosh Pawar (Basco Products (K) Ltd)
 Mr. George Arabbu (Architectural Association of Kenya)
Possible questions for discussion:
- How have stakeholders been involved in the development of standards and regulation in lead paint and related initiatives?
 - How we can we engage broad sectors (industry, civil society, etc) at national, regional and global levels in phasing out lead in paint
- 19:00-19:15: **Questions and answers**
- 19:15-19:20: **Closing remarks** (Kenya, USEPA, IPEN, WHO, UNEP)

5. Partners

This event is organized by the Lead Paint Alliance. The US Environment Protection Agency, the Government of Kenya, UNEP, WHO and IPEN are partners and advisory group members of this alliance.