

Workshop “Elements to consider when designing a Global Monitoring Plan for Mercury”

13 – 14 February 2018, Rome, Italy

Concept Note

1. Background and Context

The Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) in close collaboration with the National Research Council of Italy - Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research (CNR-IIA) and the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe – European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO - ECEH) are implementing the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project entitled “Development of a Plan for Global Monitoring of Human Exposure to and Environmental Concentration of Mercury”. The main aims of the project are to harmonize approaches for mercury monitoring, and to strengthen the capacity for mercury analyses in humans and in the environment.

The workshop “*Elements to consider when designing a Global Monitoring Plan for Mercury*” will take place the 13-14 February 2018 in Roma, Italy. The workshop will discuss the results and lessons learned of the Global pilot studies of the measurement of the concentration of mercury using Human Bio-Monitoring and Passive Air Sampling. It has also the objectives to equip participants with the practical tools and knowledge to improve their performances in assessing mercury and mercury compounds. During the meeting, there will be a discussion of the methodologies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed by the project.

Key scientific information generated by the project will be disseminated and it is expected to help shape appropriate, effective and sustainable plans to assess the human exposure to and environmental contaminations of mercury in the light of the Minamata Convention.

2. Overall Goal and Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop meeting are to:

- Present and discuss the results, outcomes and lesson learnt of the GEF funded project.
- Discuss the implications of the results, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and technical aspects of using human biomonitoring matrices and passive air sampling to assess the concentrations and exposure to mercury in the light of the Minamata convention.
- Increase awareness and capacity to undertake monitoring of mercury.

The meeting is an important milestone in the discussion of the way forward for developing a plan for global monitoring of mercury in the light of the Minamata convention and the effectiveness evaluation.

3. Participants

The workshop will bring together the partners of the project “Develop a plan for Global Monitoring of Mercury” (UN Environment, CRN-IIA and WHO), as well as the local and regional coordinators involved in the pilot study of mercury monitoring in human matrices and ambient air around the world, including those regional groups that show interest in monitoring mercury, experts and different interested stakeholders.

The tentative list of participants is attached to the note as Annex II.

4. Programme and Methods

The meeting will begin with a short introduction to the agenda items follow by a interactive session. During the first day of the meeting the outcomes of the projects will be presented, including:

The main results of the:

- Review of existing information on human exposure to and environmental concentration of mercury and the worldwide capacity to analyse mercury
- The global monitoring pilot study of the presentence of mercury in ambient air.
- The global monitoring pilot study of the human exposure to mercury.

During the second day, discussions in working groups will take place with regard to the key scientific information generated by the project, lessons learned, and the elements to consider regarding a Global Monitoring Plan for Mercury.

The provisional agenda for the workshop meeting of the Global Monitoring Plan for Mercury is attached to this note as Annex I.

5. Partners

This meeting will be organized by the National Research Council of Italy - Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research (CNR-IIA) in a joint effort with UN Environment and the World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe – European Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ECEH)).

6. Evaluation

At the end of the meeting, UN Environment, will promote discussion on the extent to which the meeting has achieved its objectives, the next steps will be identified and feedbacks obtained. Also, will be discussed the applicability of the methodologies developed to assess human exposure to and the environmental contaminations of mercury.