



*Atoms for Peace*

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国际原子能机构

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Environment Laboratories

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In reply please refer to: 45599445

Dial directly to extension: (+377) 97.97.72.72

Mr Jacob Duer  
Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch  
Economy Division  
UNEP Chemicals Branch DTIE  
11-13, Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Chatelaine  
GENEVE  
SWITZERLAND

2020-03-30

Dear Mr Duer,

Thank you for your e-mail dated 26 August 2019, inviting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to become a partner of the UNEP Environmental Global Mercury Partnership. It is my pleasure to accept your invitation and to submit the respective registration form.

I understand that the participation in the UNEP Environment Global Mercury Partnership is voluntary and non-binding, functioning on an “opt-in” basis, and that participation may be unilaterally discontinued at any time by the IAEA.

It is also my understanding that any partner organization is expected to provide the in-kind support or funding necessary to support its own engagement in the initiative.

Further to your request to signify support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how the IAEA will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, please note that the IAEA Environment Laboratories are assisting countries inter alia in the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of their environmental monitoring of hazardous pollutants, such as trace elements like mercury and its organic species. Some of the primary activities include: development of criteria for generating high-quality data for monitoring programmes; validation and distribution of recommended analytical procedures for determination of mercury and methyl mercury in different environmental samples and at different concentration levels; production of matrix certified reference materials; organization of global inter-laboratory comparisons; training and capacity building of laboratory practitioners from Member States laboratories; and assisting Member States with mercury monitoring when requested.

These activities are implemented by

- 1) Providing fit-for-purpose and fully validated analytical procedures for the determination of mercury and its species in biota and sediment according to the requirements of the accepted international standards. Specific guidelines for the analysis of mercury and its species in biota comprising recommended methods for sampling, sample preservation and preparation, instrumental analysis, data treatment and uncertainty evaluation could be developed upon receiving a mandate for this.

- 2) Producing and distributing matrix certified reference materials, with certified mass fractions of mercury and methyl mercury in biota and sediment. Other reference material of specific biota species can be produced and certified within a timeframe of 2-3 years, subject to the availability of raw material and funding.
- 3) Organizing of targeted proficiency tests and inter laboratory comparisons for the analysis of trace elements including Hg and MeHg in marine matrix samples, such as fish, mussels, clams, marine sediment to check laboratories performance.
- 4) Reporting of Interlaboratory Comparisons routinely provide a list of laboratories that have taken part in the exercise and could therefore be used to identify laboratories capable to participate in Hg monitoring.

The IAEA Environment laboratories are prepared to assist the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership and IAEA Member States to establish or strengthen environmental mercury monitoring efforts through the above listed activities.

In order to facilitate effective communication as we initiate cooperation, we identified as contact point for the IAEA Sylvia Sander (S.Sander@iaea.org), Section Head, Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory, IAEA Environment Laboratories. I am looking forward to cooperation under the UNEP Environment Global Mercury Partnership.

I would greatly appreciate the confirmation to become a member of this partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Najat Mokhtar', written over a horizontal line.

Najat Mokhtar  
Deputy Director General  
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications



# 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/](http://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 2005<sup>1</sup>, 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

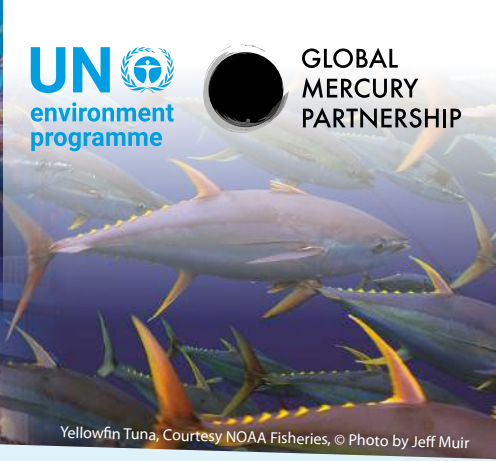
Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

### 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](mailto:metals@un.org)



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP



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

## 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
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Non-governmental Organization

- Industry / private sector
- Academia / scientific institution
- 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