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Brazil, ZIP Code 21941-908

Coordination of Metallurgical and Environmental Processes

Subject: Application for membership in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Patricia Correa Araujo
Luis Gonzaga Santos Sobral

Dear Sirs,


Me, Patricia Araujo, MSc. in Environmental Monitoring, from the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, and my supervisor and co-worker, Dr. Luis Sobral, PhD and DIC in Hydrometallurgy, from Imperial College/London/UK, back to 1993, both federal employees of the Centre for Mineral Technology (CETEM), a research Centre under the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications – MCTIC, are partners in research and development at CETEM looking for techniques for processing gold ores, alluvial gold in particular, without using elemental mercury, in the manner recommended by UNEP in “A Practical Guide - Reducing Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (2012)”, using traditional physical methods on mineral processing. Through our experience, both on site and in the laboratory, we understand that the continued use of mercury in the extraction of gold in ASGM is a step backwards, since there are safe alternative techniques for processing gold ores, which we have proven on pilot scale. Likewise, we were able to prove, on a laboratory scale, that the use of retort during the thermal decomposition of gold amalgam does not reduce the concentration of this element to levels safe for human health, according to international regulations. These data we published at the ICMGP-2018, in Rhode Island, Providence as “Losses of Precious Metals and Release of Elemental Mercury during Thermal Decomposition of Amalgams: A practical approach”. In this sense, and supported by our experience, we have developed a methodology for gold certification from gold mining areas in Brazil, without using elemental mercury. Such methodology addresses the socio-environmental issues of our country, and was designed to serve the population involved in the ASGM activity, according to our personal experience in gold mining communities for over a decade. As researchers and Brazilian citizens, we seek to contribute to the reduction and, who knows, one day, the total banning of this element in gold prospecting areas in Brazil and elsewhere and, therefore, in all environmental compartments.

CETEM is, therefore, very much interested in becoming a partner of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (area ASGM – Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining). We believe that we can bring added value to the Partnership bearing in mind

our experience, for so many years, and technical know-how on such subject.
Therefore, we would like to apply for membership.

Should you need any further information, do not hesitate in contacting us at
your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

 texto aqui

Luis Sobral



Patricia Araujo



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:

web.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 release 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 190 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
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

