



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 30 November 2020  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm CET

UN  
environment  
programme



GLOBAL  
MERCURY  
PARTNERSHIP

## Mercury in skin-lightening products: towards the 2020 deadline

### Webinar on mercury-added products - #2

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#### Content

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and its Area of work on Mercury in Products, in cooperation with WHO, will organize a webinar on the issue of mercury in skin-lightening products. The event will look into the adverse effects of these products, share information and discuss some of the practices, experiences as well as challenges faced by countries and other stakeholders in meeting the 2020 deadline for phase out.

Mercury is highly toxic to humans and ecosystems. It is considered by WHO as one of the top ten chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern. Exposure to mercury can result in adverse impacts on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, lungs, and kidneys.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury set 2020 as the phase out year for the manufacture, import and export of a number of mercury-added products, including skin lightening products with mercury content above 1 ppm.

The Global Mercury Partnership aims to protect human health and the environment from the releases of mercury to air, water and land. With close to 200 partners to date from governments, IGOs, NGOs, industry and academia, the Partnership focuses on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention, providing state of the art knowledge and science and raising awareness towards global action on mercury. Its area of work on Mercury in Products pursues the objective to phase out and eventually eliminate mercury in products, and to eliminate releases during manufacturing and other industrial processes through the environmentally sound production, transportation, storage, and disposal processes.

*The webinar will be moderated by the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Secretariat.*

#### AGENDA

##### Opening remarks and scene-setting (3:00 pm – 3:15 pm)

*Rodges Ankrach*, US Environmental Protection Agency, Co-chair of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group  
*Thomas Groeneveld*, US Environmental Protection Agency, Coordinator of the Partnership Area on Mercury in Products  
*Marianne Bailey*, Programme officer for capacity-building and technical assistance, Minamata Convention Secretariat

##### Overview of current knowledge on mercury in skin-lightening products (3:15 pm – 4:05 pm)

*Mercury in skin-lightening products: An issue of global concern*, Ellen Roskam, Consultant, Chemical Safety and Health Unit, World Health Organization  
*Mercury exposure associated with use of skin-lightening products in Jamaica*, Phylcia Ricketts, Lecturer, Department of Physics, Radioecological Lab, University of the West Indies, Mona  
*Key findings from Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) skin lightening products campaign*, Michael Bender, Mercury Policy Project Director and ZMWG co-coordinator  
*Implementation and Enforcement Issues*, David Lennett, Natural Resources Defense Council

##### Question and Answer Session

##### Panel discussion: experiences and lessons learned from countries (4:05 pm – 4:55 pm)

*Inter-ministerial collaboration and commitment to eliminate mercury from skin lightening products*, Lakshman Gamlath, Deputy Director General, Environment Health and Food safety, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka  
*Regional cooperation and commitment towards reducing human contamination from mercury*, Anne Nakafeero, Senior District Support Officer, National Environment Management Authority and Minamata Convention National Focal Point, Uganda  
*Raising public awareness about mercury skin lightening products*, Isabelle Mananga Ossey, Founder, Label Beauté Noire, France

##### Question and Answer Session

##### Closure (4:55 pm – 5:00 pm)

*Thomas Groeneveld*, US Environmental Protection Agency, Coordinator of the Partnership Area on Mercury in Products