

Concept note for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Mercury Supply and Storage Area Meeting 2021

I. Background

The Mercury Supply and Storage Area (SSA), under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), has implemented various activities and hosted workshops with the objective of taking action on the main supply sources of mercury and to promote the sound storage of this metal. SSA has a diverse range of Partners, including academia, public entities and private sector. It is led by Ana García (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica, Spain) and Judith Torres (Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente, Uruguay). The SSA has also been exploring areas of collaboration with the Partnership areas on Mercury Waste Management and Mercury Cell Chlor-Alkali Production and organized expert meetings with the aim of enhancing collaboration between partners, identify challenges and exchange information.

We invite the area members to participate in the 2021 area meeting, in which we will welcome new members, share relevant information and establish priorities for future work. Leads and interested partners of other Partnership Areas are also very welcome to attend the meeting, given opportunities for collaboration between Areas.

II. Overview of the SSA Meeting 2021

Timing	13:00 to 15:30 (CET) 25 February, 2021
Venue	Online (Microsoft Teams) considering the COVID-19 pandemic
Participants	SSA Partners, leads and interested partners of other Partnership Areas and other relevant stakeholders
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To gather relevant information about supply and storage of mercury➤ To identify the priorities of the Partnership area➤ To develop the SSA activity plan
Tentative Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction2. Updates by the Partnership Secretariat on overall UNEP-GMP activities3. Information-sharing on mercury supply sources4. Information-sharing on options and availability of infrastructures and techniques for the

	management, storage and final disposal of surplus mercury 5. Discussion on the priorities of the area 6. Discussion on possible future workshops and meetings
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III. Discussion Points

1. Information sharing on mercury supply sources

Since the adoption of the Minamata Convention, supply and demand of mercury has fallen worldwide. Currently, the main activity that has a steady demand for mercury is Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining, which is an informal activity that often employs mercury from unknown or unofficial sources. There is a data gap in this regard, in particular with respect to the origin of such mercury, and the possible contribution of certain activities as a source of mercury supply (non-ferrous metals mining and smelting, chlor-alkali dismantling...). We invite partners to share relevant information in this regard with the aim of closing this data gap.

2. Information sharing on options and availability of infrastructures and techniques for the management, storage and final disposal of surplus mercury

Many Parties to the Minamata Convention have highlighted difficulties in treating and safely storing mercury, due to the lack of adequate facilities in their territory. Some Parties stated however in their 2019 national reports (Minamata convention, article 21) that there were facilities for final disposal of mercury within their territories. With the aim of improving information on existing storage and final disposal capacities, we invite Partners to share information about these facilities.

3. Discussion on the priorities of the area and opportunities for collaboration with other Partnership areas

The following priorities have been identified for possible future work by the area:

- To close the information gap concerning the fate of the mercury generated by industrial activities.
- To gather information about mercury suppliers and supply chain in countries with ASGM.
- To create a list of existing facilities with capacity to manage and permanently store mercury around the world.
- To organize activities in collaboration with other areas of the partnership.

We invite area members to comment on the priorities proposed with the aim of having a discussion to establish an order of priorities and a way forward, including with respect to opportunities for collaboration with other Partnership areas.

4. Discussion on possible future workshops and meetings The area has organized successful workshops and meetings during previous years and this is intended to continue during the next years. Parties are invited to propose topics and dates for future area workshops. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these workshops will have to be held online.

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Time Schedule of the first Supply and Storage Area Meeting 2021

25 February 2021

Facilitators: Ana García (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica, Spain) and Judith Torres (Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente, Uruguay).

Time (CET)	Topic	Speaker
13:00 - 13:15	Microsoft Teams opening	
Opening		
13:15 - 13:20	Opening remarks	SSA Leads
13:20 - 13:20	Adoption of the agenda	SSA Leads
13:20 - 13:30	Overview of previous activities	SSA Leads
13:30 - 13:40	Update by UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) Secretariat - Overview of the Global Mercury Partnership - Recent developments under the Global Mercury Partnership	GMP Secretariat (UNEP)
Session 1. Information sharing		
13:40 - 13:50	Introduction	SSA Leads
13:50 - 14:15	- Information-sharing on mercury supply sources - Information-sharing on options and availability of infrastructures and techniques for the management, storage and final disposal of surplus mercury	Facilitated by SSA Leads
Session 2. Priorities of the Partnership area		
14:15 - 14:25	Introduction	SSA Leads
14:25 - 14:50	Discussion on the priorities of the Partnership area and opportunities for collaboration with other Partnership areas	Facilitated by SSA Leads

Session 3. Future workshops and meetings		
14:50 – 15:00	Introduction	SSA Leads
15:00 – 15:25	Discussion on possible future workshops and meetings	Facilitated by SSA Leads
Closing		
15:25 – 15:30	Wrap up and closing remarks	SSA Leads