

DION



## **DEVELOPMENT INDIAN OCEAN NETWORK (DION)**

Clairfonds Road 1,  
Vacoas,  
Mauritius

*Email: panadion@gmail.com*

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To: UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

### Support of DION to the Global Mercury Partnership

The Development Indian Ocean Network (DION) is an NGO Network of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It initially started as a network of NGOs of the Indian Ocean Region of Africa comprising the islands of Comoros, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles, including the island of Madagascar.

DION is working on the issue of Mercury as a global pollutant. None of the Small Island States produces mercury. All our mercury is imported, either as metallic mercury or through products. While all countries of the globe were working on their National Action Plans (NAPS) on Mercury, DION has been instrumental in assisting the governments of the small islands in carrying out their activity by integrating the National Steering Committee in most of these small countries.

Through its diverse membership, DION has done independent survey on “mercury in products” that are all imported. In some countries DION worked together with the government on this survey. One of the favourite mercury issue for DION is “mercury in the dentistry sector.” Today we witness almost all the small islands coming up with law on mercury phase down, phase out and a ban on amalgam use in dentistry for small children , pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The experience acquired after working on mercury for a decade now, DION has developed expertise on working both with the local communities, the grassroots including women, girls and youth in particular, and with the national governments.

All our awareness activities are focussed on protecting human health first and the environment. There are not much anthropogenic mercury releases in the SIDS but the greatest mercury exposure of the workers is noted in the dentistry sector. The public hospitals and private dental clinics using amalgam which is 50% mercury is a great health risk to all workers – doctors, nurses and maids in particular. In addition, the mercury wastes from these “clinics” enter the air, land and water since most of the small islands do not use separators.

This long experience places DION as an expert in mercury and can expertly assist the Global Mercury Partnership in its goal.

p.s.

Please see the Constitution of DION also attached.

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Kindly note that this Constitution was written in 2002 and there is no mention of Mercury in it. Mercury was not known as a global pollutant, a health hazard and an environmental problem.

Today DION has included “Mercury Issue” in its mission and objectives.



# 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  
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

## PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Please check the partnership area(s) to which your organization intends to contribute to:

- 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

> 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
  - Academia
  - 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, 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