



**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Advisory Group
Fifteenth meeting**
10 December 2024, online, 13:30 to 16:30 CET

Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group

The Partnership Advisory Group held its fifteenth meeting on Tuesday 10 December 2024, from 13:30 to 16:30 CET in an online setting. The session was opened by the PAG co-chair, Mr Rodges Ankrah (US EPA). The agenda started with the election of a new co-chair (following departure from the position of Bianca Dlamini – Eswatini); and the introduction of Anne Nakafeero (National Environment Management Authority - NEMA, Uganda), and her subsequent appointment as co-chair of the Partnership Advisory Group which was approved by the PAG participants.

Regarding co-leads, Ms. Claude Lorea announced her retirement from the role of co-lead of the Cement Partnership Area and proposed Ms. Gina Lotito for her replacement. Moving forward with Agenda item 5, the PAG provided updates from each partnership area, the secretariat of the partnership and from the Minamata Convention Secretariat on implementing COP5's decisions.

Agenda item 5 on improving the overall effectiveness of the partnership moving forward was then presented and discussed, with the key takeaways and next steps listed below:

A. Soft membership and contact management

1. The membership process was agreed to be upgraded to a “soft membership” model which extends the opportunity for partners have membership in all the partnership areas. The current partners will be contacted to reconfirm their interest and expertise, and the soft membership will be reflected in the submission process for new partners to join the partnership.
 - ➔ The secretariat will implement and communicate updates received to the co-leads and partners.
2. A centralized contact database was agreed to be introduced for the management of the membership and related communication. This should facilitate support from the GMP for “matchmaking” demand between countries, donors or implementing agencies with.
 - ➔ The co-leads are encouraged to share their current mailing list to the secretariat.
 - ➔ Once the new system is functional, the co-leads will be encouraged to send communications to the targeted stakeholder sub-groups using the centralized mailing list (with the assistance of the secretariat).
3. Introduction of the online platform was welcomed as a tool for interactive both way communication and coordination among co-leads and partners.

- ➔ The Secretariat will set-up a Trello board for the co-leads and partners to join and post relevant content.

B. Communication and outreach

1. The need to strengthen the communication and outreach about the work and functions of the partnership was highlighted as one of the key areas of priority for 2025.
2. Several elements were highlighted as a priority for the revamp: i) the Partnership Area's website pages, ii) the factsheets, iii) the reporting template, iv) enhanced visualisation of the activity reported and v) overarching framework.

- ➔ The Secretariat will initiate the update of the website pages, the reporting template and overarching framework. The Secretariat will also coordinate with the co-leads for the review of the overarching framework and development of the updated factsheets template to be completed by the co-leads.

3. A Communication campaign for the 20th anniversary of the Partnership is planned for ahead and during the Minamata Convention COP6. This will be an opportunity to raise awareness and strengthen the position of the Partnership moving forward.

- ➔ The secretariat will explore the options and opportunities and coordinate with the co-leads and partners to plan the campaign.

C. Strengthening areas of work

1. The trade aspect was agreed to be included in the Supply and Storage Partnership Area.

- ➔ The secretariat will coordinate with the relevant co-leads in identifying and reaching out to expert and interested partners.

2. The creation of working groups on selected emerging and/or cross-cutting topics – not necessarily covered under ongoing work – was approved. The first two groups will address mercury from the oil and gas sector and in non-ferrous metals mining and smelting as pilot working groups. The possibility to include them in an umbrella PA on industrial sources was mentioned and suggested to be re-evaluated and agreed on in the course of 2025.

- ➔ The Secretariat will develop a draft form to submit express of interest and a template for the creation of the working groups.

- ➔ The two pilot working groups will be established through calls for interest and in collaboration with relevant experts.

- ➔ Suggestions for other working groups will be encouraged to be submitted to the secretariat and presented during co-leads and/or PAG meetings.

3. The need to strengthen the ability of the Partnership to address relevant cross-cutting issues was highlighted.

- ➔ Co-leads from cross-cutting PAs are invited to engage with other co-leads, partners and the secretariat to explore concrete collaboration opportunities on key cross-cutting topics.

D. Positioning and enhancing the role of the Partnership

Several elements were presented during the PAG related to opportunities to enhance the role of the partnership as a key network of mercury experts:

1. Considering a strengthened partnership role of the GMP in the ICMGP.

- ➔ Partners and co-leads involved in the ICMGP advisory and scientific boards were invited to explore possibilities to involve the partnership in the planning of next ICMGP.

2. Strengthening the role of the partnership as custodian of mercury databases.

- ➔ Secretariat to coordinate with relevant stakeholders to explore the opportunities to curate relevant mercury information in one place.
3. Strengthening the role of the partnership as a bridge between the mercury issues and MEAs.
- ➔ The Secretariat to reach out to other relevant MEAs secretariat to plan regular coordination meeting and identify potential synergy topics.
 - ➔ The Secretariat to maintain interactions with the IOMC mercury groups (including reaching out to the chair of the group for future meetings).
4. Strengthening the PAs interactions with financial mechanisms.
- ➔ The Secretariat to facilitate the participation of relevant financial mechanism representatives to partnership's meetings or events, and organize annual coordination calls within between the secretariat and the co-leads.

The Secretariat agreed to circulate the summary of the PAG 15 meeting, will reach out with the relevant partners and co-leads for the implementation of the above next step, and will communicate its progress in achieving them to the members of the PAG.