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**United Nations
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**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
First meeting**

Geneva, 24–29 September 2017

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for action by the Conference of the Parties at its
first meeting: programme of work of the secretariat and budget
for the period 2018–2019**

Report on activities undertaken by partner organizations

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in paragraph 12 of its resolution on arrangements in the interim period (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex I), requested the interim secretariat to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant actors, including the secretariat of the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise.
2. In its resolution on matters pertaining to other international bodies, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries invited international bodies such as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Customs Organization to cooperate closely with the intergovernmental negotiating committee and the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention to support the implementation of the Convention, particularly Article 16, as appropriate, and to provide information to the Conference of the Parties on the progress made in that regard.
3. During the interim period between the signing of the Convention and its entry into force, the secretariat has been cooperating closely with a number of organizations. Reports on the activities of six such organizations, prepared by the organizations themselves, are set out in the annexes to the present note, as follows: secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (annex I); United Nations Development Programme (annex II), United Nations Environment Programme (annex III), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (annex IV) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (annex V); and the World Health Organization (annex VI). The reports are submitted as received, without formal editing by the secretariat.

* UNEP/MC/COP.1/1.

Annex I

Information submitted by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Introduction

1. The present report summarizes the main cooperation and coordination activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest, as well as other activities conducted jointly by Parties to the BRS conventions and States implementing the Minamata Convention. This report is an updated version of the report submitted to the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument (INC-7).¹

2. The cooperative activities described in the present report are undertaken by the BRS secretariat in response to requests made by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the framework of their dialogue with the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention or the INCs.²

3. At their meetings in May 2017, in their decisions on international cooperation and coordination,³ the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In their decisions on programmes of work and budgets,⁴ the conferences of the Parties invited the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and to provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention. Decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that are relevant to the Minamata Convention are set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.1/INF/14.

4. In fulfilment of the above-mentioned mandates, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Coordinator of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention participate in meetings of the respective conventions' governing bodies. In particular, the BRS secretariat participated in all four regional preparatory meetings towards the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-1) and will participate in COP-1. Likewise, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention organized and participated in a working session on the Minamata Convention convened back-to-back to all four regional preparatory meetings for the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions⁵, and it participated and provided substantive input as well during those meetings.

Activities pertaining to mercury wastes

5. In Article 11 of the Minamata Convention, the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries, and decision BC-11/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Governments recognize the close relationship between the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention on issues related to the management of mercury wastes, including with respect to the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

6. In its decision BC-11/5, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention initiated work to update the technical guidelines on mercury wastes that had been adopted at its tenth meeting. The updates to the technical guidelines on mercury wastes were carried out by Japan as lead country, in consultation with experts nominated to participate in a small intersessional working group established

¹ See document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.7/INF/4./Rev.1

² See decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9, SC-7/27 on international cooperation and coordination and omnibus synergies decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1. The resolutions of the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on arrangements in the interim period and on matters pertaining to international bodies also set out a mandate for cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions.

³ BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20.

⁴ BC-13/24, RC-8/17 and SC-8/27.

⁵ See <http://www.brsmeas.org/2017COPs/RegionalPreparatoryMeetings/Overview/tabid/5379/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

by decision IX/15⁶. The process for updating the technical guidelines involved several rounds of comments by Parties and others. The updated technical guidelines were considered by the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group at its ninth meeting, in Geneva, from 16 to 19 September 2014. Pursuant to decision OEWG-9/4, the Working Group requested Japan and the small intersessional working group to continue the task of updating the technical guidelines and to submit a revised version of the updated guidelines to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its twelfth meeting, in May 2015.

7. By its decision BC-12/4, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the technical guidelines on mercury wastes and requested them to be disseminated to Parties and others, including the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The technical guidelines on mercury wastes adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention are set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1⁷. The technical guidelines were translated in the other five United Nations official languages and are available on the Convention website.

8. By the same decision BC-12/4, the Conference of the Parties also invited Parties and others to use the technical guidelines and to submit comments on their experiences and on any developments regarding methods for the environmentally sound disposal of mercury wastes, including the long-term effectiveness of the stabilization and solidification of wastes consisting of mercury. Information was to be submitted to the secretariat no later than two months before the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which took place in May 2017. No comments or information have been received in response to decision BC-12/4 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting. The requests for information set out in decision BC-12/4 remain valid.

9. In line with decision BC-12/4, the BRS secretariat organized, in cooperation with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Uruguay, a sub-regional workshop for enhancing capacities for ESM of mercury wastes, through dissemination of the technical guidelines on mercury wastes, in Latin American countries in Montevideo, from 17 to 19 November 2015. The interim secretariat was informed of this activity, which was carried out with the involvement of UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch. Follow-up activities were undertaken in countries of the sub-region in 2016.

10. The BRS secretariat is involved in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as a member of the Partnership Advisory Group and the Mercury Partnership area groups on reduction in products, supply and storage and on waste management. The secretariat participates in relevant meetings and provides inputs to the work of the Partnership, as appropriate.

11. The Expert Working Group on environmentally sound management (ESM), a group mandated by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to elaborate and implement actions for the implementation of ESM, has developed fact sheets on specific waste streams, including mercury wastes. The fact sheets, which were welcomed by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, are intended as a collection of practical, user-friendly information for various stakeholders on the ESM of specific waste streams under the Basel Convention. At its fourth meeting in November 2015, the Group agreed that, given the ongoing activities following the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, no further work would be undertaken at the present time on the factsheet on mercury wastes.

Activities pertaining to the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury

12. In line with relevant mandates, the BRS secretariat cooperated with UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch to develop a practical sourcebook on mercury storage and disposal. The secretariat provided inputs to the development of the sourcebook in particular to ensure coherence with the Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury wastes. The finalised sourcebook was launched at the ICCM-4, in Geneva, from 28 September to 2 October 2015.

Activities pertaining to the group of technical experts on air emissions to prepare the guidance called for under Article 8 of the Minamata Convention

13. The provisions of Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention cover the minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants (POPs) listed in Annex C, Part I. To reduce the total releases of POPs derived from anthropogenic sources, Parties

⁶ The list of nominated experts is available on the Basel Convention website at: <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/MercuryWaste/tabid/2380/Default.aspx>

⁷ Available at: <http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP12/tabid/4248/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/8051/EventID/542/xmid/13027/Default.aspx>

are also required to implement best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for the sources listed in Annex C, Parts II and III. A number of the source categories listed in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention are the same as those listed in Annex D of the Minamata Convention. The Minamata Convention has taken the same approach as the Stockholm Convention to provide for the development of guidance on BAT and BEP to control and, where feasible, reduce emissions.

14. The provisions and guidelines under the Basel Convention are also relevant to the development of guidance called for under Article 8 of the Minamata Convention. The technical guidelines developed under the Basel Convention on waste management are relevant to the management of sludge and other wastes resulting from the capture of mercury from relevant sources, and could be valuable in minimizing or preventing cross-media effects which may result from poor management of such wastes.⁸

15. Since there are similarities between the requirements and processes under the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention, the BRS secretariat has participated in the four meetings held by the group of technical experts established by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention to develop the guidance called for in Article 8 of the Convention. Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention experts involved in the development of the technical guidelines on mercury wastes and in the review/update of the Stockholm Convention BAT/BEP guidelines have also been part of the Minamata Convention BAT/BEP expert group and provided relevant technical input. Similarly, many of the experts involved in the development of the guidance under the Minamata Convention have been involved in the relevant technical work under the Basel and Stockholm conventions. Experience and technical expertise have thus been shared regarding the Stockholm Convention BAT/BEP and the Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury wastes.

Activities pertaining to financial resources

16. In decision SC-7/21, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention requested the BRS secretariat to identify possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that also addressed the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions. It also requested the BRS secretariat to inform Mercury INC-7 about that task. Information related to the implementation of that request had been submitted by the BRS secretariat to the INC-7 in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.7/INF/8. The outcome of that process had been reported to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its eighth meeting as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of decision SC-8/16, the Conference of the Parties took note of the non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance set out in the same paragraph. The Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 15 of the same decision, requested the GEF, during the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, to consider, among other things, the non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance.

17. The Stockholm Convention has gathered vast experience with the operations of its financial mechanism in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention. Several arrangements have been established under the Convention to ensure the effectiveness of the mechanism, particularly the existence of a memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the GEF, the provision of specific guidance on funding priorities, the determination of the funding needs for the implementation of the Convention, and a review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

18. The BRS secretariat cooperates and coordinates with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on relevant experience with procedures and approaches established under the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention. As part of the cooperative activities undertaken, joint discussions between the GEF, the BRS secretariat, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) are being organized on a regular basis. The BRS secretariat has provided inputs to preparation of INC-7 documents on the financial mechanism under the Minamata Convention and will continue to do so, upon request, to relevant documents for COP-1 of the Minamata Convention.

19. The BRS secretariat cooperates and coordinates with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on other related financial resources issues. Pursuant to decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22 on the implementation of the integrated approach to financing, the conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions welcomed that, according to the terms of reference of the special programme, the Executive Secretary may participate as an observer in the meetings of the executive board of the

⁸ The technical guidelines are available at:
<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/TechnicalGuidelines/tabid/2362/Default.aspx>.

special programme. The conferences of the Parties also requested the BRS secretariat to cooperate, as appropriate, with the secretariat of the special programme. The BRS secretariat has participated in the first and second meetings of the executive board. Cooperation on issues pertaining to the special programme takes place as part of an internal task team consisting of representatives from the secretariats of the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM and the secretariat of the GEF to assist the special programme secretariat to undertake an appraisal of the applications received.

20. A report by the BRS secretariat to the conferences of the Parties of the BRS conventions at their 2017 meetings on the implementation of the integrated approach to financing is set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/40-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/44-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/35. At those meetings, the secretariat of the special programme provided a report to the conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions on activities undertaken since the establishment of the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level.⁹

21. The BRS secretariat has also been consulted by the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on the preparation of the document for the ad hoc expert group on financing on the options for the hosting institutions of the specific international programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

Activities pertaining to awareness-raising and technical assistance including regional centres

22. Another area of common interest among the four conventions pertains to awareness-raising and technical assistance, including regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions.

23. The BRS secretariat has participated in all four regional meetings organized by the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in preparation for COP-1 held as follows: Bangkok, Thailand (5-7 July 2017); Johannesburg, South Africa (11-13 July 2017); Brno, Czech Republic (12-13 July 2017) and Buenos Aires, Argentina (25-28 July 2017).

24. The BRS secretariat has organized regional meetings to prepare for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties held in 2015 and 2017 in conjunction with regional workshops and working sessions organized by the interim secretariat to support ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. The back-to-back meetings featured joint discussions and provided opportunities to exchange information on experience gained from the implementation of the BRS conventions and on areas of common interest to the four conventions.

25. The BRS secretariat has provided support to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention for the organisation of sub-regional workshops in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention in 2014 and 2015. In addition to the support provided, the BRS secretariat shared experiences and lessons learned from the ratification and implementation of the BRS conventions, including any amendment thereof or Protocol thereto. The BRS secretariat participated in the following sub-regional workshops: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (19-21 March 2014); Nairobi, Kenya (23-25 April and 28-30 April 2014); Dakar, Senegal (9-11 July and 14-16 July 2014) and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (19-21 January 2015). As part of this support, the secretariat also assisted with the organization of online training sessions in preparation for the above-mentioned subregional workshops.

26. At their meetings in May 2015, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, in decisions BC-12/10 and SC-7/17, invited the regional centres undertaking activities on mercury to provide relevant information to the BRS secretariat in the view that it would be taken into account by the secretariat in the next evaluation of the regional centres, in accordance with the applicable synergy criterion. The Conferences of the Parties also requested the BRS secretariat to forward that information to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention for possible consideration by INC-7. Information in response to this request had been submitted by the BRS secretariat to the INC-7 in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.7/INF/9. This document provides detailed information on the activities undertaken by the regional centres in support to the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

27. At the annual joint meetings to enhance cooperation and coordination between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions held respectively from 5 to 8 October 2015 and from 31 October to 2 November 2016 in Geneva, a representative of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention provided an update on status of ratifications of the Minamata Convention and INC-7. During these meetings, the regional centres exchanged information on their current activities involving the Minamata Convention as well as possible future activities.

⁹ Document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/41-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/45-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/36.

28. As a follow-up to a project for the development of inventories and management plans for hazardous wastes containing or contaminated with mercury in Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay, the BRS secretariat is disseminating the experience and results of the project in cooperation with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Uruguay.

29. Furthermore, the BRS secretariat provided expertise to a mercury wastes workshop where participants discussed the current situation on mercury waste management at international level and in Asian countries, and to the inception workshop of the GEF funded Mercury Initial Assessment project implemented in Cambodia, Pakistan and Philippines. Both workshops were organized by UNEP IETC back-to-back in Osaka, from 16 to 18 December 2015.

Activities pertaining to the servicing of meetings

30. The BRS secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention have taken steps to enhance their cooperation on the organisation and servicing of COPs meetings as well as regional preparatory meetings/consultations.

31. Staff from the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention provided support to the BRS secretariat during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Geneva, from 24 April to 5 May 2017.

32. The BRS secretariat was consulted by the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in the preparation of documents for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-1) to the Minamata Convention in areas of relevance to the conventions. Upon request, the BRS secretariat has provided substantive inputs to documents where it has a particular expertise and experience. The BRS secretariat will also be providing support to the interim secretariat in the running of the COP-1.

Other cooperative activities undertaken by the BRS secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention

33. The BRS secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention have taken steps to enhance their cooperation on other various matters, such as on joint outreach and communication as well as on overarching policy initiatives (e.g. efforts to mainstream chemicals and wastes into sustainable development goals, within the framework of 2030 sustainable development agenda). Other areas of mutual interest, such as compliance, may lead to cooperative activities in the future, as appropriate.

Annex II

UNDP and the Minamata Convention on Mercury

UNDP has been active in the area of mercury reduction efforts since the 1970s, when it administered the UN Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE) from 1975 to 1995 and implemented a number of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) projects financed by the revolving fund.

Since then, UNDP has continued assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to reduce the use and release of mercury. Such efforts have mainly focused on the extractives sector, by supporting the phase-out of mercury used in mining to extract gold, and on the health sector, where we support the phase-out of mercury-containing medical devices and the reduction of mercury emissions.

In addition, the adoption and ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as its financial mechanism has created new avenues and opportunities for providing financial and technical support to countries to assist them in reducing releases of mercury.

To assist countries prepare for the ratification of the Minamata Convention, meet their future commitments under the Convention and reduce releases of mercury from various sectors and release sources, UNDP, with the financial support of the GEF, supports countries in:

- **Conducting Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) activities and ASGM National Action Plans (NAPs).** MIAs include mercury inventories and assessments of the legal and regulatory frameworks as well as institutional and technical capacity needs.
- **Reducing and eliminating the use of mercury in ASGM, and minimizing mercury releases to the environment from mining and processing.**
- **Phasing-out mercury-containing products in the healthcare sector** (e.g. thermometers, blood pressure meters, dental amalgam, etc.).
- **Reducing emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere from point sources** (e.g. coal-fired industrial boilers, incinerators, smelting and roasting processes used in the production/recycling of non-ferrous metals).
- **Lifecycle management (LCM) of mercury, mercury-containing products and wastes** (including treatment and storage).

UNDP has already provided support or is initiating support to a total of 48 countries to implement mercury-related projects through national, regional and global projects. An overview of these projects is shown in Table 1.

UNDP's mercury portfolio amounts to approximately \$40 million in GEF mercury grants and \$128 million in co-financing.

In addition, UNDPs 'Strategy for Sustainable Development and Equitable Management of the Extractive Industries' seeks to improve the benefits from fiscal revenues, jobs and incomes while minimizing negative effects on the environment, accountability, social and gender equality, and conflict. UNDPs current global portfolio related to extractive industries has over 70 projects in over 50 countries.

Table 1
UNDP/GEF Projects on Mercury (2002–2017)¹⁰

Country	Mercury Area	GEF Grant (US\$)	Status
Global (Brazil, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe)	ASGM	6,806,800	Financially Completed
Global (Argentina, India, Latvia, Lebanon, Philippines, Senegal and Viet Nam)	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG ¹ : 144,990 2,210,281 ¹	Operationally Completed
Global (Bangladesh, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique and Samoa)	Minamata Initial Assessment	1,000,000	Ongoing
Global (Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya and Peru)	GEF GOLD (ASGM)	PPG: 570,000 20,910,000	PPG on-going
Regional (Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia)	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG ¹ : 32,000 517,902	Ongoing
Regional (Bolivia and Peru)	Integrated Water Resources Management in the Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopo-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System	6,563,750 ¹¹	Ongoing
Regional (Guyana/Suriname)	Improving Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname, with Emphasis on Gold Mining	7,589,041 ¹²	PPG on-going
Albania	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Azerbaijan	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Burkina Faso ¹³	ASGM	120,000	Operationally Completed
Colombia	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG: 20,000 250,000	Ongoing/Approved
Costa Rica	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Ecuador	ASGM (Mercury) and mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG: 90,000 4,000,000	PPG on-going
Egypt	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG ¹ : 28,000 820,000 ¹	Ongoing
Georgia	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Ghana	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Guyana	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Honduras	ASGM/LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG: 70,000 1,300,000	Ongoing
India	Minamata Initial Assessment	1,000,000	Ongoing
Jordan	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing

¹⁰ In some cases, the management of mercury is a small component of a larger project focusing on reducing/phasing out other chemicals. For projects for which the exact allocation for mercury was not easily available, the project's mercury component was assumed to be 20%.

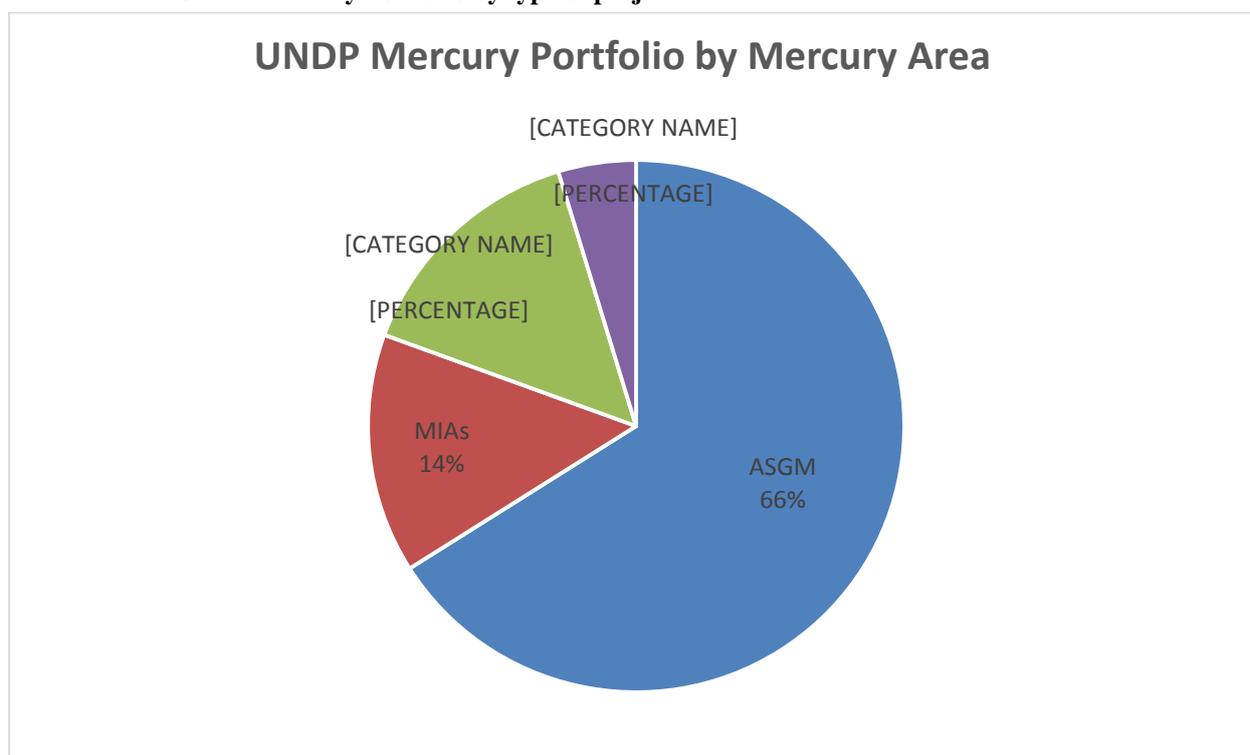
¹¹ International Waters GEF UNDP Project

¹² Multi-Focal Area GEF UNDP Project: Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation, Sustainable Forest Management

¹³ Funded by Sweden as part of the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI).

Kazakhstan	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG ¹ : 25,000 200,000	Ongoing
Kazakhstan	Minamata Initial Assessment	500,000	Ongoing
Kyrgyzstan	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG: 15,000 285,000	Ongoing
Malaysia	Minamata Initial Assessment	250,000	Ongoing
Mauritius	Minamata Initial Assessment	199,749	Ongoing
Mauritius	Partnership Initiative for SAICM	46,207	Financially Completed
Montenegro	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Morocco	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Panama	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Serbia	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Seychelles	Minamata Initial Assessment	199,100	Ongoing
Suriname	Minamata Initial Assessment	200,000	Ongoing
Suriname	National Action Plan	500,000	Ongoing
Uruguay	LCM and phase-out of mercury containing medical devices and products	PPG: 35,000 1,237,800	Ongoing
Viet Nam	Green Chemistry	PPG: 11,747 469,800	PPG on-going

Figure 1
UNDP Mercury Portfolio by type of project



UNDP's key approaches to assisting countries to advance the sound management of mercury include:

Advocacy and Awareness Raising – Campaigning among stakeholders, decision-makers and population groups at risk on the importance of mercury reduction, phase-out and its management.

Capacity Building – Identification of innovative and successful practices; policy, regulatory and institutional enhancements to help countries put in place mercury management systems; identification of financing needs and options; application of lessons learned and experiences from other countries;

and development and application of guidelines and tools to facilitate the management and monitoring of mercury.

Technical Assistance – Supporting countries in identifying and introducing Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and Best Available Technologies (BAT), along with customized training for their use and application, which have proven successful elsewhere and will help address national challenges and constraints with regards to the sound management of mercury.

Monitoring – Assisting countries to assess their situation relating to mercury and tracking their progress towards reducing its use and releases.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Minamata Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. Supporting countries in their efforts to prepare for and meet their future commitments under the Minamata Convention is an important component of UNDP's efforts to achieve sustainable, inclusive and resilient human development through the SDGs, which were adopted in September 2015. Some of the key linkages between UNDP's work in support of the Minamata Convention's efforts to reduce the use/phase-out of mercury and the SDGs are highlighted below.

SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The urban and rural poor routinely face unacceptably high risks of exposure to mercury because of their occupations (e.g. mercury mining, artisanal and small-scale gold mining, waste management, recycling), living conditions (proximity to dumpsites and incinerators) and lack of knowledge of potential health impacts of exposure to mercury. At the same time, ecosystems that provide essential resources for the survival of the rural poor, are affected by mercury contamination. UNDP-supported interventions assist partners in introducing alternatives, best practices and techniques to minimize the use and release of mercury, and also address the underlying socio-economic challenges that are at the core of existing practices that use mercury.

SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

One of the main sources for exposure to mercury is through consumption of mercury contaminated fish and shellfish. The consumption of fish containing high levels of mercury, in particular those high on the food chain as mercury bioaccumulates, can have serious health consequences (see SDG 3). This causes health concerns, in particular for pregnant women, the child in utero and young children, as well as for poor communities relying on subsistence fishing. UNDP helps countries decrease the use of mercury and its release into the environment from various sectors, indirectly halting and reducing the build-up of mercury in the food chain.

SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Mercury is toxic to human health, posing a particular threat to the development of the child in utero and early in life. Human exposure occurs mainly by inhaling elemental mercury vapors during industrial processes and by consuming contaminated fish and shellfish, and can lead to mercury poisoning. Mercury exists in various forms: elemental; inorganic; and organic, which all have different toxic effects, including on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes. UNDP supports governments, the private sector and other partners, to reduce or preferably phase-out the use of mercury and mercury-containing products, and minimize its releases, to ultimately protect human and environmental health.

SDG Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Coal burning, and to a lesser extent the use of other fossil fuels to generate energy, is the second most significant anthropogenic source of mercury emissions into the atmosphere. Use of air pollution controls and more stringent regulations, combined with improved combustion efficiency, can offset most of the mercury releases associated with the increase in coal use, particularly in Asia and South America. However, reductions in current mercury releases will only be achieved after a shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources and the introduction of more efficient technologies and products (e.g. mercury-free energy-efficient lighting). UNDP supports countries in strengthening their regulatory frameworks, revising outdated industrial processes and technologies to reduce releases and increase efficiency and, most importantly, in adopting clean energy solutions.

SDG Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Exposure to mercury can occur through the inhalation of mercury vapors. Such exposure is most likely to happen in the workplace. Among the most dangerous professions and livelihoods in terms of mercury exposure are artisanal and small-scale gold mining, waste handling and recycling, mercury refining, and health and dental care. Phasing-out the production and use of products and processes which use mercury is the main way to reduce worker exposure. We assist governments and various sectors introduce mercury-free products and processes, while also supporting the development of workplace safety standards and procedures, introducing personal protective measures, and addressing the underlying socio-economic causes that led to the use of mercury and products containing mercury.

SDG Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Sustainable consumption and production aims at “doing more with less,” increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution, while increasing the quality of life. An important aspect of our work is the reduction of mercury pollution and mercury-containing wastes by introducing alternative products, processes and technologies that are mercury-free, cost-effective and in line with best available technology guidelines. Such interventions are aligned with those that increase resource efficiency, use clean and renewable energy, and reduce waste generation, all of which have important mercury reduction co-benefits.

SDG Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods, which are being threatened by marine pollution reaching alarming levels. Mercury levels in certain types of fish (e.g. bluefin tuna, swordfish) have become so high that some Governments advise against consumption or have introduced import bans. UNDP helps countries decrease the use and release of mercury from various land-based activities, prevent mercury from entering water sources, and reduce the build-up of mercury in the food chain.

Annex III

Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme on Mercury

1. The Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy division of the United Nations Environment Programme is delivering mercury-related activities both as a project under the Chemicals and Waste Subprogramme and in their support to GEF activities of the Chemicals and Waste Portfolio. Specific activities dealing with mercury waste, developed within the International Environmental Technology Centre, are presented in document UNEP/MC/COP.1/INF.6. The following are updated mercury-related activities of the United Nations Environment Programme.

GEF activities

2. With the support of the GEF, UN Environment is supporting countries in their Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining. To date, UN Environment is implementing MIA projects in 57 countries and NAP projects in 23 countries.
3. Since INC7, new MIA projects have been developed in Antigua & Barbuda, Belarus, Dominica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Grenada, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Trinidad & Tobago. MIAs have been completed in 7 countries and the reports are being reviewed.
4. Since INC7, new NAP projects have been developed in Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Dominica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Niger, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
5. UN Environment is the lead agency of the GEF Programme entitled Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining sector – GEF-GOLD. In this Programme, UN Environment is working with Conservation International, UNDP, UNIDO in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, the Philippines and Peru to assist the sector in reducing and where feasible eliminate mercury use in the sector. The Programme will focus on formalization, access to finance and international markets, technology transfer and knowledge management & communication. All the projects under the Programme will be starting implementation in 2018.
6. UN Environment is the lead agency for the multifocal GEF Programme entitled Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security. In this Programme, UN Environment will work with EBRD in the region to address land-based pollution sources. Mercury pollution from operating and closed chlor-alkali industries will be one of the focus. The projects under this Programme will be starting implementation in the second half of 2018.

Update of the Global Mercury Assessment 2013

7. An update of the Global Mercury Assessment 2013, requested by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2013, will be completed by the end of 2018. The main focus will be on updating the global emissions and releases inventory components, using 2015 data, especially for sectors of relevance for the Minamata Convention. The assessment will be expanded with respect to quantification of releases of mercury to the aquatic environment, and will also include an overview and assessment of mercury levels in humans and biota. The work is carried out in close cooperation and with the support of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme secretariat. The Global Mercury Partnership is contributing to the development of estimates of emissions and releases of mercury to the environment, to updating the information on environmental levels and trends in air and to the development of the new sections on humans and biota. A draft technical background report is being circulated for comment by all interested stakeholders, with governments provided with the opportunity to provide input, particularly in relation to the data relevant to emission and releases from their territory. A summary report for policy makers will be developed based on the technical background report and presented to UNEA 2019.

Mercury Inventory Toolkit

8. United Nations Environment Programme has developed a Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases, which is used to develop a national mercury inventory in Minamata Convention Initial Assessments. The Toolkit was updated in 2017 to allow the inclusion of

information about existing mercury controls and managements practices in the emissions and releases estimations in simplified spreadsheet calculation.

Mercury Supply, Trade, and Demand Report 2017

9. In 2006 UNEP published the Summary of Supply, Trade, and Demand Information on Mercury. The report was well-received and helped countries better understand the sources, trade flows, and end uses of mercury. Since the report was published, there have been major changes in the mercury market, and trade pathways have significantly changed, particularly following adoption on controls of the movement of mercury from previously significant mercury exporters. The new report provides updated picture of the global mercury supply, trade and demand, including updates on new mercury mining, changes in use patterns, and the challenges faced in quantifying mercury trade using existing data sources.

GEF related support activities

10. The Chemicals and Health Branch has provided technical support to the GEF projects relating to mercury inventory. The Branch assisted country teams in the application of the mercury inventory toolkit and identification of adequate emission factors for key industrial sectors such as non-ferrous metal smelting and coal-fired power plants. Similarly, the Branch has supported the GEF project on primary mercury mining in the Kyrgyz Republic by providing technical and financial assistance to the project team. Further work in the Kyrgyz Republic is planned in the second half of 2017

11. The Chemicals and Health Branch has expertise relating to certain aspects of enabling activities under the GEF. These aspects include matters relating to Minamata initial assessments as well as knowledge management aspects. A checklist was developed to assess the completeness and accuracy of data and information obtained from the MIAs. So far, 3 final MIA reports have been reviewed using the checklist. Standard data and information emanating from these reviews will provide regional trends and information where the UN Environment mercury programme could potentially assist.

12. GEF NAP projects implemented through UNEP include a global component carried out by UN Environment. The objective of the global component is to provide targeted technical assistance by leveraging the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and to ensure information and experience are shared across all UNEP NAP countries. The global component is currently working with 23 NAP countries to assist with accessing ASGM experts, planning development of NAP components, and estimating ASGM baselines. The global component is developing several guidance materials on topics such as baseline estimates, formalization, and mercury-free processing techniques. Regional trainings are also in progress to ensure NAP countries are able to use and benefit from guidance materials and share experiences in their actions to address mercury use in ASGM. The NAP global component will also integrate with the GEF GOLD programme's knowledge management component to ensure resources and expertise are made available in a systematic and technically rigorous manner.

Mercury monitoring

12 Gaps in knowledge of existing mercury monitoring networks, activities and methods and furthermore of the capacities around the world to analyse mercury were identified as limiting factors that could affect the design of an effective monitoring system for mercury in the light of the Minamata Convention. In this regard, UNEP, in collaboration with partners, is implementing a GEF project that aimed at filling in some of those gaps while providing elements that need to be considered to ensure reliable and comparable data on human exposure to and environmental concentrations of mercury. In particular, the following documents were developed: "Global Review of Mercury Monitoring Networks"; "World capacity to analyse mercury: an overview" by UNEP and together with a report on activities undertaken in this project, they will be presented to the Minamata Convention first meeting of the Conference of the Parties through document UNEP/MC/COP.1/INF.15.

Annex IV

UNIDO input for the First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

UNIDO's approach

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate of promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in developing countries and economies in transition. UNIDO's mission contributes strongly to Sustainable Development Goal 9 which calls to "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation", but is also instrumental to the achievement of all the other goals.

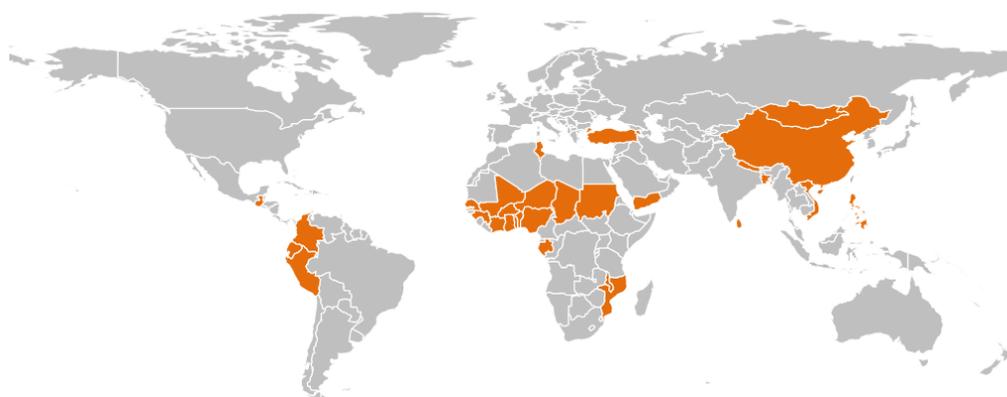
The Mercury Programme at UNIDO benefits from the Organization's extensive experience in assisting developing countries to comply with multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. In the last years, UNIDO has already developed a substantial project portfolio in order to assist countries to fulfil their obligations under the Minamata Convention. UNIDO has more than 20 years of experience in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector.

In addition, UNIDO has a strong international network of partners consisting of private sector entities, academia, research institutions, other UN and donor agencies, NGOs and governments. Moreover, UNIDO has field representation in more than 47 countries. Together with its partners, UNIDO's Mercury Programme is leading and facilitating the introduction of mercury free technologies and policy reform to minimize the use and discharges of mercury. It promotes Best Available Technologies (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) through awareness raising, capacity building, legislation strengthening and technology transfer.



Projects

In accordance with UNIDO's commitment to support governments in fulfilling their legal obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Organization has initiated, since the beginning of the GEF-6 replenishment period, Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) projects and National Action Plans (NAP) projects on mercury in the ASGM sector. In addition, the Mercury Programme portfolio includes large scale projects on ASGM, vinyl chloride monomer production, mercury contamination in freshwater and marine aquatic environments, and mercury waste management. More details on the projects completed and currently under implementation by UNIDO can be found under www.unido.org/mercury



A. Minamata Initial Assessments (MIA) and other support for ratification and early implementation

- UNIDO is assisting the following 23 countries in the implementation of their MIA projects: Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Guatemala, Guinea, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sri Lanka,

Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Vietnam and Yemen. The goal of the MIA enabling activities is to complete pre-ratification activities to enable policy and decision making and to prioritize areas for future interventions through among others, a national mercury inventory.

- Since 2016, UNIDO has been implementing a global programme on promoting ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. This Swiss funded program offers needs based assistance to countries and sub-regions. There are seven countries (Armenia, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Malawi, Philippines, Tunisia and Vietnam) and one Sub-region (ECOWAS) participating in this program. The thematic areas range from awareness raising on the ratification dossier, to the domestication of international chemicals waste management Conventions over to sustainable management of mercury containing products and wastes. In addition, four specific regional events were organized.

B. Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)

- UNIDO assists governments in the development of the National Action Plans (NAP) by providing the basic and essential information to enable policy and strategic decision making and by assisting the development of strategies and road maps within countries. The projects strengthen the countries' national capacity to fulfil obligations under the Minamata Convention and promote effective implementation of its provisions. Currently UNIDO is implementing NAP projects in Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria and Peru.
- The Francophone West Africa Regional project supported the strengthening of local and national capacity to effectively manage and reduce mercury use, emissions, and exposure in ASGM communities in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, as from May 2012 to June 2017. The project funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the GEF, was co-financed by the U.S. Department of State, the European Commission, UNEP, UNIDO and the national governments involved. The project identified active ASGM sites, conducted risk assessments, developed national strategy action plans for each country, introduced new mercury-free equipment at the pilot sites and raised awareness on gold certification at the local and national levels.
- The GEF Global Opportunities for Long Term Development of the ASGM sector (GOLD) project focuses on policy strengthening to support formalization of the sector, facilitating access to financing for miners, capacity building of national specialists on mercury-free technologies and formalization, awareness raising and knowledge management in the ASGM sector. To promote a sustainable business model as a basis for accessing international gold markets for miners, UNIDO has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Argor-Heraeus S.A., one of the world's largest refiners of precious metals working together to achieve a sustainable adoption of mercury-free technologies in artisanal and small scale gold mining. UNIDO is implementing one GEF GOLD child project in Burkina Faso, and 2 others in collaboration with UN Environment in Mongolia and the Philippines.

C. Waste management

- UNIDO offers assistance to countries in the establishment of regulatory framework and national guidelines for environmentally sound management of mercury containing waste as well. Projects focusing on waste management support the development of capacities for the implementation of remediation and stabilization techniques in mercury hot-spot areas through demonstration activities at the pilot scale. This was done in Mongolia in the framework of a recently completed GEF-5 funded project. UNIDO and Nomura Kohsan Co. Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2014 to prevent mercury containing wastes entering the environment and ensuring Best Environmental Practices and Best Available Techniques are applied to extract mercury from wastes, and identifying long-term solutions for the storage of mercury.
- In Tunisia, UNIDO is implementing the project entitled "Improve Mercury Management in Tunisia" to review and validate the remediation plan for a former chlor-alkali plant in Kasserine. The goal of the initiative is to reduce negative impacts of mercury contamination to human health and the environment by (a) strengthening the national capacity to manage mercury containing waste and comply with the Minamata Convention; and (b) improving the remediation plan of the company SNCPA through the collection of complementary information during the project. The project started in June 2015 and will be completed in 2018.

D. Non-Ferrous Metal Smelting

- Since September 2012, national and local capacity is being strengthened in China, enabling the country to effectively manage and reduce mercury emissions from zinc smelting operations in neighboring communities. BAT and BEP for cleaner zinc production have been demonstrated at two pilot sites. The project also established a coordination and monitoring system, and proposed policy reform for mercury management in the zinc smelting sector. The initiative is funded by the GEF and co-financed by the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office (FECO) of Ministry of Environment; Zhuzhou, Shuikoushan and Shangluo (zinc enterprises); Hunan, Shaanxi, and Guizhou provinces; Sino-Norwegian projects; and UNIDO. The project concluded successfully at the end of 2015.

E. Vinyl Chloride Monomer Production

- In order to reduce risks to human health and the environment related to the use of mercury in the industrial production of vinyl chloride monomers (VCM) in China, UNIDO developed a large scale project, which is about to be approved by the donor, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Foreign Economic Cooperation Office. In China, VCM is one of the largest mercury consumer sectors, accounting for 30% of world's total mercury consumption. The goals of the initiative are (a) to strengthen institutional, regulatory, and enforcement capacity in VCM production to enable the country to fulfil obligations under the Minamata Convention related to the sector; (b) promote technology transfer and investment for the widespread application of BAT/BEP; (c) promote the recovery of mercury from mercury-containing waste in VCM production process; (d) identify, assess and prioritize contaminated sites associated with VCM production; and (e) disseminate information and raise awareness among stakeholders. The planned project duration will be five years. Once completed the project is expected to have removed 360 tons of mercury from the environment.

Minamata beyond COP1

Most of the identified issues relating to mercury are industrial by nature, which reinforces the increasing and significant role that UNIDO has and will have in the coming years in assisting countries to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury, as well as its emissions and releases to the environment as a whole. UNIDO will continue to support governments and engage the private sector in fulfilling their legal obligations under the Minamata Convention.

The Minamata Convention Initial Assessment that results from the enabling activities currently implemented by UNIDO will provide a basis for prioritization and development of sectoral intervention plans to be supported by future projects. In the context of the National Action Plan enabling activities, a road map for the reduction of mercury in the ASGM sector, including needed interventions and potential funding sources, will serve as the basis for the development of impactful projects supporting the implementation of these National Action Plans. UNIDO wants to strategically focus on developing the entrepreneurs and small scale industries active in ASGM towards improving their business models through formalization and support their access to international markets by (i) eliminating the use of mercury, (ii) the improving working conditions and (iii) eliminating the worst forms of child labor. UNIDO's Mercury Programme seeks to find a more integrated approach in the future through the implementation of thematic programmes where advantage can be taken from the occurring synergies. Based on its experience and expertise, working with a team of currently 10 people, the UNIDO Mercury Programme has a comparative advantage in this domain.

In conclusion, focus will be placed on setting national objectives and targets, complementing existing programmes, exploring innovative market-based approaches, promoting policy reform, enhancing awareness, and promoting intervention on the ground to secure mercury emission reduction globally through technology transfer.

For more information contact mercury@unido.org or visit www.unido.org/mercury

Annex V

Report on Activities Undertaken by UNITAR to Support Countries in the Ratification and Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Report prepared for the first Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, September, 2017

Summary

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), through its Chemicals and Waste Management Programme (CWM), provides **support to Governments** in moving towards the ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The mercury portfolio covers a number of **national projects as well as broader international initiatives and services**.

Together with its partners from Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), civil society, the private sector and academia, UNITAR is currently undertaking **activities in 46 countries** from the Latin American and Caribbean Region (GRULAC), the African Region, the Asia-Pacific Region, and the Central and Eastern European Region (CEE). Key **partners** include UN Environment, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme.

The **technical support**, delivered through **trainings, e-learning, workshops, webinars** and other means, covers broad range of topics and sectors, including **development of mercury inventories, legal reviews, and baseline estimates for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)**.

UNITAR's activities are most notably delivered within the context of Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded **Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs)** and **National Action Plans (NAPs)** for ASGM as well as a dossier of **Swiss-funded projects** to support ratification and early implementation of the Convention.

Swiss-funded Ratification Dossier

With the generous financial support of the Swiss Government, UNITAR CWM supports or supported 22 countries from the GRULAC Region, the African Region, the Asia-Pacific Region and the CEE Region to accelerate ratification and to facilitate early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

- Projects in twelve of these countries (Armenia, Colombia, Gambia, Ghana, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Yemen) have successfully been completed and closed.
- Activities are still being implemented in ten countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritius, Rwanda, Thailand, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Belarus and Lao People's Democratic Republic).
- 9 of the countries which have been receiving support have ratified the Convention.

UNITAR's support has focused on legal preparations, including assessments of existing legal instruments as well as identification of gaps and needs towards ratification, the setting of priorities via identification of key sector and areas for action, the development of intervention strategies, and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. More specific interventions adapted to countries' specific needs have also been delivered, for example sampling, inventories and stakeholder consultations on ASGM.

Minamata Initial Assessments

In close collaboration with its partners, UNITAR CWM is currently facilitating the development of MIAs across all developing country regions. In total, UNITAR CWM is executing 19 MIAs and providing targeted support for an additional 15 MIAs.

- UNITAR CWM is the executing agency for ten UNIDO-implemented MIAs, namely in Guinea, Mali and Senegal ('Francophone Africa I'), Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo ('Francophone Africa II'), Comoros, Nigeria and Yemen.

- UNITAR CWM is the executing agency for six UNDP-implemented MIAs, namely in Ghana, Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mozambique and Samoa.
- UNITAR CWM is the executing agency for three UN Environment-implemented MIAs in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Eritrea.

In executing these MIAs, UNITAR has successfully built capacity by delivering inventory trainings and reviews, by providing advice for the development of legal, policy and institutional assessments, by assisting in the identification of priorities and the development of intervention plans, and by facilitating awareness-raising strategies. Two of the above mentioned countries have completed their MIA reports and five are in the final stages.

UNITAR CWM is supporting 15 countries who are developing their MIAs with UN Environment as implementing and executing agency (Bolivia, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre as executing agency; Angola, Malawi and Zimbabwe with the Regional Office for Africa as executing agency; Ethiopia, Gambia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia with Groundworks as executing agency, Pakistan, Cambodia and the Philippines with the International Environmental Technology Centre as executing agency). The provided support has been focusing on the development of high quality inventories via face-to-face trainings, online courses, clinics, webinars and in-depth reviews. Moreover, UNITAR has provided other services upon request, for example legal reviews and webinars on ASGM.

National Action Plans and Other Work on ASGM

UNITAR CWM is the executing agency for the National Action Plans implemented by UN Environment in Sierra Leone, the DRC and Eritrea. UNITAR CWM is building capacity in these countries through a range of targeted services, including office and field trainings for the development of thorough ASGM studies, covering the development of baseline estimates – delivered jointly with the Artisanal Gold Council – and a study on socio-economic aspects. UNITAR CWM developed a first draft of a comprehensive methodology to develop an overview of the ASGM sector.

In close cooperation with UN Environment, UNITAR CWM is currently developing a guidance document on formalization of the ASGM sector. This guidance seeks to allow decision-makers to address institutional issues surround the ASGM sector as well as to engage local and vulnerable stakeholders in an inclusive process. The development of training materials, including online courses, based on the guidance is planned. UNITAR CWM and UN Environment also developed a video on the worst practices in ASGM, demonstrating means to avoid them and alternatives.

UNITAR CWM is currently finalizing the development of a electronic data collection tool for ASGM site investigations, specifically, to facilitate collection and analysis of the data needed for the mercury baseline estimates.

Mercury Platform and MercuryLearn

UNITAR CWM is maintaining the UN Environment-UNITAR Mercury Platform, which among others offers information on mercury-related activities, news and events. The Platform features a large compilation of awareness-raising materials on mercury developed by IOMC Organizations. These materials cover a broad range of topics (e.g. health, ASGM, waste, products), several languages, and diverse formats. The Platform also has a forum, allowing interested stakeholders to pose questions and engage in discussions with UNITAR's experts and others.

MercuryLearn, also hosted on the Mercury Platform, is an online training platform developed through a cooperation between UN Environment and UNITAR. The main component is the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases. The platform is an innovative idea which provides interactive modules assisting users in learning to develop mercury inventories. The MercuryLearn course can be taken individually and independently or as part of guided courses offered twice per year. Certificates are awarded to successful participants.

Synergies Project

With a generous financial contribution of the Swiss Government, UNITAR is cooperating with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions to develop joint chemicals and waste related e-learning courses and a web portal, specifically on the BRS and Minamata conventions, to assist countries in the ratification and implementation in a synergetic and thus efficient way.

Please visit the Mercury Platform for more information on UNITAR's activities to support ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention: <http://mercury.unitar.org/site/home>.

Annex VI

Work of the World Health Organization relevant to the Minamata Convention: January 2016 to May 2017

1. Collaboration between the World Health Organization and the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention stems from: the preamble of the Convention which recognizes the activities of WHO in the protection of human health related to mercury; Article 16 which establishes that the Conference of the Parties should consult and collaborate with WHO as appropriate in considering health-related issues, and promote cooperation and exchange of information with WHO; Resolution 3 of the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries which invites WHO to cooperate closely with the Conference of the Parties “to support the implementation of the Convention, particularly Article 16, and to provide information to the Conference of the Parties on the progress made in this regard”; and World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution WHA67.11 *Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention* (2014).

2. Since WHO’s communication to the INC, i.e. in the period January 2016 to date, activities have focussed on: convening additional workshops for ministries of health; issuing publications and draft guidance relating to artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) and further distributing other relevant WHO guidance; implementing projects on biomonitoring and on mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care; and consideration by the 70th World Health Assembly (May 2017) of a progress report on implementation of WHA67.11. Further information on these, plus other, activities is provided in the following sections.

Workshops convened by WHO

3. WHO has convened a number of regional meetings to promote and discuss engagement of the health sector, in particular ministries of health, in the implementation of the Convention.

4. In October 2016, the WHO Region for the Americas/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): held a workshop entitled “*Health sector in the implementation of the Minamata convention on mercury*” in Kingston, Jamaica. The meeting was attended by: representatives from the following English-speaking countries: Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahaamas, and Trinidad and Tobago: experts from Health Care Without Harm and the Artisanal Gold Council; and UN Environment. Capacity building for health sector engagement in implementation of the Minamata Convention was indicated as a priority, supporting the initiation of a PAHO Virtual Campus tutorial course on the subject (in English and Spanish). Emphasis was given to the extensive use of mercury-containing skin lightening products among the Caribbean female population. The PAHO Smart Hospital initiative was highlighted as a means to support work on mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers. The workshop report and other materials are available at:
http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12807&Itemid=42223&lang=en

5. In the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, a workshop on the health sector’s involvement in implementing the Minamata convention on mercury took place from 30 November to 1 December 2016, in Amman, Jordan. The main purpose of this workshop was to highlight the importance of the Minamata Convention and inform participants about the risks of mercury to human health. Discussions during the workshop were focused on identifying prerequisites for the implementation of the Convention and to promote networking among stakeholders. The workshop was attended by health sector participants from 11 WHO Member States of the region, i.e. Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, as well as the Arab Labour Organization/League of Arab States, and UN partners.

6. A workshop for ministries of health in the WHO Western Pacific Region will be held in Minamata, Japan from 29 – 30 June 2017. The workshop is co-organized by WHO, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Minamata City Government. The twenty-seven Member States in this region have been invited, as well as experts from Japanese institutions including the WHO Collaborating Centre at the National Institute for Minamata Disease, the WHO Collaborating Centre on oral health in Niigata, and UN partners. As per other WHO regional events, the workshop will aim to support awareness-raising and networking among ministries of health to facilitate implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Participants have also been invited to participate in the entry-into-force event to be held in Minamata on 1 July.

7. The WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia will hold a WHO *Workshop on Health Sector Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury* in Bangkok Thailand on 3-4 July 2017. The workshop aims to take stock of progress in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Nepal, Myanmar, Maldives, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor Leste and promote networking in support of World Health Assembly Resolution 67.11. The workshop will also develop plans for future health sector implementation activities and assistance needed. Health sector participants at the meeting will also be engaged to participate in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia-Pacific ahead of the first Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention.

8. In cooperation with UNIDO, the WHO Regional Office for Europe organized a country-wide awareness raising and training workshop “*Assessment of exposure to mercury and risks for human health and the environment*” in Erevan, Armenia on 28-29 September 2016. The workshop report is available at http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/334701/Risks-mercury-HHE-report-Armenia.pdf.

9. The WHO Country Office in Malaysia has provided support to the Ministry of Health in Malaysia to develop a *Conceptual framework on health aspects of the Minamata Convention in Malaysia*, through a country workshop held from 14-16 March 2017. The Conceptual framework analyses the current policy situation in Malaysia, the health-related articles of the Convention, and the involved areas of the health sector, to produce a gap analysis for legally binding obligations and priorities for discretionary measures along with a benefit/feasibility analysis.

Mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers

10. The WHO guidance for ministries of health on *Developing national strategies for phasing-out mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers, including in the context of the Minamata Convention: Key considerations and step-by-step guidance* (available in English and Russian) is being translated into French and Spanish (expected to be available by September 2017). http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/mercury/en/.

11. WHO is partnering in the GEF project “Reducing UPOPs and Mercury Releases from the Health Sector in Africa” implemented by UNDP (2016 – 2019). This project introduces mercury-free thermometers and sphygmomanometers in pilot health facilities of four Sub-Saharan African countries (Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia) in order to reduce harmful releases of mercury from the health sector. In 2016 an assessment on mercury containing devices was conducted and the procurement of non-mercury containing devices is progressing.

Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM)

12. In 2016, WHO issued guidance on *Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining*. This guidance provides an overview of the range of environmental and occupational health issues associated with ASGM, which include but are not limited to mercury exposure. Key considerations related to the mobilization of health care providers in addressing ASGM related health issues are also addressed. <http://www.who.int/iris/handle/10665/247195>

13. WHO is developing guidance for health ministries on addressing health impacts of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). This initiative has been established in response to World Health Assembly Resolution WHA67.11, which recognizes the role of health ministries in supporting the implementation of the Convention and calls upon WHO to provide technical support in this regard. WHO initiated a consultation process with the objective to solicit feedback and input, primarily from health ministries, so as to ensure that the overall orientation and content of the guidance under development responds to country needs and priorities with respect to this issue. This consultation is expected to be completed by the end July 2017 after which point the guidance will be finalized in time for dissemination at the first Conference of the Parties. COP1.

14. In addition WHO is piloting the use of the guidance in three African countries that have more than insignificant ASGM in their territories and are in the process of developing wider National Action Plans on ASGM as required under the Convention. The pilot work will be carried out in Mozambique, Ghana and Nigeria. The work in Mozambique commenced in early 2017. Rapid health situation assessment and institutional capacities and systems assessments will be carried out during the country work.

15. Other materials on ASGM and health under development comprise the following:

- (a) guidance on how to conduct a rapid assessment of the health situation of ASGM miners and their family members (based on the pilot in the three African countries);
- (b) teaching materials for use in training health care providers about how to

- (c) address environmental and occupational health issues associated with ASGM, including through awareness raising measures about options for reducing the use of/prevent further exposure to mercury (modules to be finalized by COP1);
- (d) good practice guidance on the use of human bio monitoring in an ASGM context.

Dental amalgam

16. WHO participated in the Pathways Symposium, Kings College, London, 14-15 July 2016. The purpose of this symposium was to explore implementation of the phase down approach to dental amalgam set out in article 4 and annex a part 2 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The symposium was a collaboration among WHO, UNEP, the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), World Dental Federation (FDI) and the International Association of Dental Manufacturers (IDM). A summary of the symposium summary was produced and disseminated via global media and other communication channels. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/dentistry/Pathways/About-the-meeting.aspx>

Mercury and methylmercury in fish

17. The current guideline levels for methylmercury in the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) are 0.5 mg/kg for non-predatory fish and 1 mg/kg for predatory or piscivorous fish species. The Committee has recognized that the risks of consumption of fish species with the highest mean content of methylmercury in the classes $0.5 \leq 1$ mg/kg and ≥ 1 mg/kg may outweigh the benefits of eating fish with higher EPA+DHA (long chain fatty acids) content.

18. The 11th session of the Joint FAO/WHO CCCF, 3-7 April 2017, Brazil, considered a number of issues relating to levels of methylmercury in fish. The Committee decided to continue its approach of establishing Maximum Limits for methylmercury, while screening for total mercury. The Committee agreed to start new work on Maximum Limits for fish (Tuna, Alfonsino, Kingfish/Amberjack, Marlin, Shark, Dogfish and Swordfish). Further data on total mercury and methylmercury in fish has been requested. <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/en/>

19. FAO and WHO are collecting monitoring data and information through the GEMS/Food Programme¹⁴ on levels and trends of mercury in fish in order to support the ongoing discussions on standard setting.

Biomonitoring

20. The WHO Regional Office for Europe, with input from WHO Headquarters, has been actively working with UNEP on the implementation of a global monitoring project to gather baseline information on mercury levels at a number of global sites. The project, entitled *Development of a Plan for Global Monitoring of Human Exposure to and Environmental Concentrations of Mercury*, funded by the GEF and which will run until the end of 2017, aims to harmonize approaches for the monitoring of mercury in humans and the environment, and strengthen capacity for the analysis of mercury in humans and the environment. WHO is implementing the biomonitoring component (including analysis of mercury contamination of human scalp hair, cord blood and urine) of the project. WHO has prepared a survey protocol (which will be published), related standard operating procedures for sampling and mercury analysis, as well as procedures for the monitoring of mercury and methylmercury in fish and shellfish. Pilot surveys to assess exposure to mercury are being implemented in seven countries in four UNEP geographical regions. The project national coordinators and laboratory analysts from participating countries were trained in Slovenia in February 2016. Proficiency testing has been organized for national laboratories to check analysis quality.

Other activities and collaborations

21. The WHO Regional office for Europe co-organized a side-event on mercury monitoring at the Seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (INC7), 10-15 March, 2016

22. WHO participates in, and provides the Secretariat for, the IOMC Mercury Group, established to coordinate the work of the IOMC organizations on mercury, in particular, to support a harmonized approach in the implementation of MIA and NAP projects.

23. WHO participates in the DC ASGM round table quarterly meetings in Washington DC organized by the Natural Resources Defense Council, to exchange information on projects, programs and networking opportunities to foster further collaboration among institutions.

¹⁴ <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/CFD-ScientificAdvice-2017.pdf>

24. The PAHO Virtual Campus on line learning platform will deliver a course on Health Sector involvement in implementation of the Minamata Convention, from June to September 2017. The course will be delivered in Spanish.
25. PAHO is exploring further work with partners on mercury in skin lightening products, in follow up to this issue being identified as a priority by participants in the Caribbean workshop.
26. Information on mercury use in health care has been included in the PAHO Smart Hospitals Toolkit.
http://www.paho.org/disasters/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1742%3Asmart-hospitals-toolkit&Itemid=911&lang=en

World Health Assembly

27. As requested during the 70th World Health Assembly, the WHO Secretariat will report to the 72nd and 74th World Health Assembly on implementation of WHA Resolution 67.11. The reports will be contained within the progress report on implementation of the *Road map to enhance health sector engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond*. The road map, which was approved by the 70th World Health Assembly includes specific reference to the health sector supporting ratification and implementation of the Convention.
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