The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and its Contribution to the Minamata Convention

Briefing on the Outcome of the 6th Meeting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group

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Partnership Origins and Objective

- Initiated in 2005 by a decision of the UNEP Governing Council.
- Worked in parallel, and contributed, to the INC negotiations from 2009-2013.
- **Overall Goal**: to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.
Currently 133 Partners

• Open to all stakeholders who share the Partnership’s overall goal
• Current membership is 133 Partners
  – 26 governments, 6 UN agencies, 101 civil society/industry/individuals

• Benefits of membership:
  – Access to a network of experts, policymakers, and donors
  – Assistance coordinating global and regional projects
  – Ability to share and receive relevant information and data

• Becoming a Partner is easy! (See Partnership website for details or email metals.chemicals@unep.org)
The Eight Partnership Areas

1. **ASGM** - UNIDO, NRDC
2. **Coal combustion** - IEA Clean Coal Centre
3. **Chlor-alkali** - US EPA
4. **Products** - US EPA
5. **Transport and fate** - CNR, Italy
6. **Waste management** - Japan
7. **Supply and storage** - Spain, Uruguay
8. **Cement** - WBC Cement Sustainability Initiative
Partnership Contribution to the Minamata Convention

• Goal of the Partnership parallels objective of the Convention
• Partnership areas parallel specific articles in the Convention
• Partnership’s efforts will assist countries with ratification and implementation
The 6th Partnership Advisory Group Meeting

- 31 October – 1 November 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand (immediately preceding INC6).
- The Partnership Advisory Group comprises the partnership area leads as well as nominees from each partnership area.
- Observers from governments, civil society, industry, and IGOs
- Chaired by Mr. Atle Fretheim (Norway)
Outcomes from the 6th Partnership Advisory Group Meeting

Overall:

- Affirmed the Partnership’s unique and critical role in assisting countries ratify and effectively implement the Minamata Convention.
- The Partnership will continue to support implementation of the Minamata Convention at the national and regional level.
Outcomes from the 6th Partnership Advisory Group Meeting

Communication:

• Increase outreach and communication to help governments take advantage of Partnership assistance.

• Continue to provide a platform for information sharing, and project and donor coordination.

• Foster increased cooperation among and between Partnership areas to create synergies and avoid duplication of effort.
Outcomes from the 6th Partnership Advisory Group Meeting

Scientific, Technical, and Capacity Building

- Work more closely with the INC and its committees on scientific and technical issues.
- Continue to build linkages between the scientific and technical communities and policy makers.
- Work closely with the GEF’s Chemicals and Waste Focal Area to investigate how the Partnership can support the execution of GEF projects.
Outcomes from the 6\textsuperscript{th} Partnership Advisory Group Meeting

Strengthening the Partnership:

- Continue to seek funding for many important projects, and promote the Partnership’s role in donor coordination.
- Continue to recruit new partners, especially among national governments.
- Consider restructuring partnership areas to better address complex, cross-sector problems.
- Undertake an evaluation to revisit Partnership structure and priorities in light of the adoption of the Convention.
Concrete Next Steps

- Web site improvements.
- More frequent communication among partnership area leads to foster cross-cutting projects.
- Update business plans to reflect priorities in light of the Minamata Convention.
- Information sharing with the INC Bureau in the intersessional period.
For more information:


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