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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Report on activities of the interim secretariat during the period before entry into force of the Convention: cooperative activities with other relevant actors

Progress report on cooperation and coordination with other actors

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries, 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 the 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 five 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 Industrial Development Organization (annex III); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (annex IV); and World Health Organization (annex V). The reports are set out in the annexes as received, without formal editing by the secretariat.

4. Information on activities of the Global Environment Facility is provided in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.6/INF/6.

* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.6/1.

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Annex I

Information submitted by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Introduction

1. The present note is submitted to the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Minamata Convention on Mercury by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS Secretariat), to inform the work of the INC.

2. The report describes the activities of the BRS Secretariat in relation to the implementation of the Minamata Convention and highlights the ongoing cooperation and coordination between the BRS Secretariat and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest.

3. In paragraph 27 of the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions adopted by each respective extraordinary meeting of the conferences of the parties to the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions in 2013,[1] the conferences of the Parties expressed their interest and signalled their readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In paragraph 28 of the same decisions, the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions, respectively, invited the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest to the four conventions.

4. Paragraph 12 of resolution 1 adopted by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries in October 2013 requested the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant actors, including the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise. Paragraph 5 of resolution 3 adopted by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries invited the BRS Secretariat to cooperate closely, as appropriate, with the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest.

Activities undertaken within the framework of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

5. 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 recognize the close relationship between the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention on issues related to the management of mercury wastes, including on the updating of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

6. In its decision BC-11/5 on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention invited parties to consider serving as lead country for the updating of the technical guidelines and also invited parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group established by decision IX/15 and to inform the Secretariat thereof by 30 June 2013.

7. In July 2013, Japan informed the Secretariat of its willingness to lead the work on the updating of the technical guidelines. As at 31 July 2013, 30 experts from parties, non-party States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and industry had been nominated to and participated in the work of the small intersessional working group. The list of nominated experts is available on the Basel Convention website.[2]

[1] Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1.

[2] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/MercuryWaste/tabid/2380/Default.aspx

8. Japan, in close consultation with the small intersessional working group, prepared revised draft updated technical guidelines which were made available on the website of the Basel Convention on 23 December 2013 for comments by parties and others by 31 March 2014. Based on the comments received, Japan will prepare the revised draft updated technical guidelines for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting, on 16-19 September 2014. The Open-ended Working Group is expected to review the draft and invite Japan and the small intersessional working group to continue the task of updating the technical guidelines and to submit the next revised document for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its twelfth meeting, on 4-15 May 2015.

9. In meeting the objectives of Article 10 of the Minamata Convention, the BRS Secretariat cooperates with UNEP Chemicals to develop a practical sourcebook on mercury storage and disposal. The Secretariat provided advise on the concept note for this initiative and will be involved, as appropriate, in the future work of UNEP Chemicals and the International Solid Waste Association so as to ensure coherence between the Sourcebook and the updated technical guidelines on mercury wastes.

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 participated in the third meeting of the Waste Management Partnership area that was held on 9-12 December 2013 in Manila, in the Philippines. The Secretariat provided information on the updating of the technical guidelines to the Business Plan of the Mercury Waste Partnership area, as requested by Japan as lead country. In addition, and as a follow up to the project for the development of inventories and management plans for hazardous wastes containing or contaminated with mercury in Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay, the Secretariat is planning to disseminate the experience and results of the project in cooperation with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Uruguay through webinars and online training.

11. In the course of workshops and webinars undertaken by the BRS Secretariat to facilitate entry into force of the amendment to the Basel Convention adopted in 1995 (Ban Amendment), discussion and questions related to ratification of the Minamata Convention were raised by Government participants. The activities and discussions provided an opportunity to share information and experiences, particularly related to the ratification process and areas of common interest of both conventions.

12. The Expert Working Group on environmentally sound management (ESM), a Group established by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to develop and implement actions to facilitate the implementation of ESM, is in the process of developing fact sheets on priority waste streams, which include wastes containing or contaminated with mercury. The fact sheets are intended as a collection of practical, user-friendly information for policy makers on the ESM of priority waste streams under the Basel Convention. It is expected that the fact sheets will be finalised at the Group's third meeting in January 2015.

Activities undertaken within the framework of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

13. Mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkyl mercury compounds and alkyloxyalkyl and aryl mercury compounds are contained in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and are subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. Information on final regulatory actions by Parties on this group of mercury compounds, as well decisions with respect to the future import of the chemicals are included in the biannual PIC circular published by the Secretariat.

Activities undertaken within the framework of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

14. The BRS Secretariat participates in the meetings of the Experts Group to develop guidance on best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for controlling emissions, as called for in Article 8 of the Minamata Convention. Experience and expertise are shared with the Expert Group regarding the Stockholm Convention's Guidelines on best available techniques and

provisional guidance on best environmental practices and the Basel Convention's technical guidelines for the ESM of mercury wastes.

15. The BRS Secretariat is providing 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 planned in 2014. As part of the support provided and similar to the opportunity provided by the activities to facilitate entry into force of the Ban Amendment, the BRS Secretariat shares experiences and lessons learned from the ratification and implementation of the BRS conventions, including their amendments and protocols. This relates particularly to steps and technical modalities to follow for the deposit of the instrument to consent to be bound by a multilateral environmental agreement. As at 20 June 2014, the BRS Secretariat assisted with the organization of the workshops held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (19-21 March 2014), Nairobi, Kenya (23-23 April and 28-30 April 2014) and Dakar, Senegal (9-11 July and 14-16 July 2014). As part of this support, the Secretariat also assists with the organization of webinars in preparation and as follow up the above-mentioned sub-regional workshops.

16. In response to a request by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their ordinary meetings in May 2013, the BRS Secretariat is organizing four regional meetings to assist parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to prepare for the meetings of the conferences of the parties that will be held back-to-back in 2015.[3] The two-day regional preparatory meetings will be convened in conjunction with regional workshops to further support ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention in March and April 2015. The back-to-back events will feature joint discussions and provide opportunities to exchange information on experience gained from the implementation of the BRS conventions and on areas of common interest to the four conventions.

17. During the annual joint meeting to enhance cooperation and coordination between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions on 27-29 November 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, the regional centres exchanged information on the current activities involving the Minamata Convention as well as possible future activities. A number of Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres are currently undertaking activities to reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury. For example, the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil is carrying out two projects, funded by the Regional Centres Small Grants Programme of the BRS Secretariat, with the overall objective of providing training on sampling and analyzing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury in various environmental matrices. Two training courses are being organized and hosted in regional centre laboratories: the first will be held for Central American countries and the second one will involve English-speaking small-island developing States in the Caribbean Region.

18. At the institutional level, the BRS Secretariat and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention have taken steps to enhance their cooperation on various matters, such as on the organisation and servicing of INC and COPs meetings, on joint outreach and communication as well as on other joint initiatives (e.g. preparation of a background note on mainstreaming chemicals and wastes into sustainable development goals, within the framework of the Environment Management Group, and as a contribution to the post 2015 development agenda). Cooperation is also ongoing concerning the harmonization of the calendar of events and activities in order to reflect Minamata meetings on the website of the conventions.

[3] Paragraph 2 of decisions BC-11/20, RC-6/19 and 6/25.

Annex II

United Nations Development Programme

Subject: Input document for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Minamata Convention on Mercury

I. UNDP's Mercury Programme

UNDP promotes the Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC) and Waste as an important aspect of our work to reduce global poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNDP's targets unsustainable management approaches of chemicals and wastes, as well as unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including poor design and material choices. These issues are the root causes for resource depletion, waste generation and pollution, impeding sustainable human development.

Since 2002, UNDP has been supporting various activities projects and programmes with the objective to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to reduce releases of Mercury into the environment and minimize human exposure to the toxic substance.

Such programmes have entailed activities which reduce mercury use and exposures in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM); reduce the use of Mercury in products (such as medical devices, energy efficient lamps, dental amalgam, etc.); reduce releases of Mercury from unsound disposal and recycling practices (e.g. open burning and incineration of e-waste and healthcare waste), as well as other Mercury waste related interventions.

Predominantly, such activities are being carried out with financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through its Chemicals and Waste Focal Area[4]. However, various other donors have also provided UNDP over the years with financial resources in order to reduce Mercury releases.

During GEF-6 UNDP will continue to support countries to determine national requirements to ratify the Convention and, subsequently, support the development of project proposals and programme implementation to reduce mercury releases.

II. UNDP's Mercury experiences (2002 – 2011):

Global Mercury Project (2002)[5]: The initiative was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by UNIDO, implemented by UNDP and co-financed by the National Governments involved in the project (Brazil, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe). The six pilot countries located in key transboundary river/lake basins were assisted during five years to overcome barriers to the adoption of best practices and pollution prevention measures to limit the mercury contamination of international waters from ASGM. The project was concluded in August 2007 and the major results achieved are covered in the UNIDO INC-6 contribution document.

Global Medical Waste Project (2008 – 2014): During GEF-4 the Global Medical Waste Project (www.gefmedwaste.org), implemented by UNDP in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the NGO Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), mainly focused on reducing UPOPs releases, however a small project component was financed through the IW focal area in order to undertake Mercury reduction efforts. The Mercury Component of the project achieved the following:

- Introduced Mercury-free medical devices in the project model hospitals in the 7 project countries ensuring that all hospitals were Hg-free by the end of the project.
- Developed awareness raising resources on health & environmental impacts of mercury and on international standards for device accuracy.
- Conducted awareness-raising workshops in Argentina, India, Latvia, and the Philippines, and organized an Asia Regional Conference on "mercury free health care" in Manila in partnership WHO and HCWH

[4] Before the GEF had a Chemicals Focal Area – Mercury related activities were supported as part of the International Waters Area.

[5] Section taken from the UNIDO contribution to the GEF-6 INC document.

- Demonstrated proper clean-up and storage of mercury waste from the health care sector in each project country.
- Demonstrated centralized collection and sequestration (e.g. ~ 1 ton of mercury containing waste was collected in Latvia).

III. UNDP Mercury Projects developed from 2011 to June 2014 (GEF-5):
Phasing-out Mercury from the healthcare sector (thermometers, sphygmomanometers, dental amalgam, etc.)

Building on the experiences of the GEF Global Medical Waste project and the strong partnership between UNDP, WHO and the NGO Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), several projects which contain components that aim to phase-out Mercury containing devices from the health-care sector and improve waste management practices were developed for **Egypt, Honduras**, **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Uruguay**, as well as a regional Africa project (covering **Ghana**, **Madagascar**, **Tanzania** and **Zambia**).

Life-cycle management of Mercury containing products (e.g. CFLs, tubes)

- **Uruguay**: The project aims to develop national capacity to support the life-cycle management of Hg containing products and their wastes. This include the collection, decontamination and safe storage of Hg containing products, in particular CFLs, tubes, dental amalgam and Mercury containing medical devices).
- **Kazakhstan:** This energy project aims to achieve energy saving and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transformation of the lighting production market, and will include the phase-out of incandescent lamps and replacement by energy efficient lighting. The project also contains a component to create a system of collection, recycling, and storing of mercury containing lamps.

Reducing the use of Mercury in artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM)

- **Honduras**: In its PPG preparatory phase (PIF approved), the project aims to improve the reduction and elimination of Mercury in ASGM.
- **Burkina Faso**: Within the scope of a UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI), a study was undertaken which assessed suitable economical instruments to be introduced in the ASGM sector to ensure that economic agents adopt measure which preserve the environment. Policy recommendations were also made to improve the management of Hg in the ASGM sector and introduce Hg related priorities in sectoral polices.
- **Cambodia**[6]: UNDP supported the Government and partners in the Extractive Industries (EI) sectors to develop these areas in a way that will bring economic and social benefits to the country. Within the scope of a UNDP-UNEP SMC mainstreaming project, UNDP provided particular support in the area of ASGM.
- **Brazil**, **French Guyana** and **Suriname**[7]: UNDP and the EU supported an assessment on small-scale gold mining and its impact in the transboundary areas of northeast Brazil (states of Amapá and Pará), French Guiana, and Suriname, and identified best practices in SSGM with the objective to assess whether SSGM and biodiversity conservation can go hand-in-hand.

Improving the recycling of electronic wastes and reducing releases of toxic and hazardous emissions (including Mercury)

UNDP is supporting the reduction of POPs and Persistent Toxic Releases by Environmentally Sound Management throughout the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Associated Wastes in **China** and **Egypt**. Although e-waste project components have no particular funding

[6] UNDP (2011) "*Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM): Policy Options for Cambodians*" Available at http://www.un.org.kh/undp/media/files/Policy%20Brief-Artisanal%20and%20Small-Scale%20Mining-Eng.pdf
[7] UNDP (2011) "*Small Scale Gold mining in the Transboundary areas of Brazil, Suriname and French Guyana. Social and Environmental Issues*" Available at http://suriname2013.com/reality/undp-gold-mining-in-brazil-french-guiana-and-suriname/

allocation for Mercury, Mercury is one among various toxic chemicals being addressed by improving the management, recycling and disposal of E-Waste.

Mercury Initial Assessments (MIAs)

In accordance with UNDP's commitment to support governments in fulfilling their legal obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a limited number of proposals of enabling activities for the development of Minimata Initial Assessments (MIA) were submitted and approved during GEF-5, these include **Mauritius** and **Georgia**. Additional MIA proposals were submitted for a global MIA project covering five countries (**Bangladesh**, **Mauritania**, **Mozambique** and **Samoa**) in partnership with UNITAR, as well as national EA MIA project for **Costa Rica**. As funding under GEF-5 was exhausted, the approval of these EAs has been postponed to GEF-6. In addition, UNDP is working with countries, which have signed the Minamata Convention, to develop and finalize additional EA proposals that will be submitted in the beginning of the GEF-6 replenishment period.

IV. Minamata and beyond (GEF-6)

In accordance with UNDP's commitment to support governments in fulfilling their legal obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNDP will support countries to determine national requirements to ratify the Convention and, subsequently, develop the programmes towards implementation of the necessary activities with the ultimate objective to reduce mercury emissions. As such, UNDP is supporting countries in the development of project proposals for GEF-6 submission, through the following 5 signature programmes:

1. Minamata Convention Initial Assessments (MIAs)
2. Phasing-out Mercury from the Health Care Sector
3. Reducing the use of Mercury in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)
4. Life Cycle Management (LCM) of Mercury containing products and wastes
5. Reducing release of Mercury from Secondary Metallurgical Production Processes and Energy Generation.

For more information, please contact Ms. Monica Gaba, UNDP Mercury focal point at monica.gaba@undp.org.

Annex III

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Subject: Input document for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Minamata Convention on Mercury

I. UNIDO's Mercury Programme

UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. To achieve these goals, UNIDO promotes Green Industry by undertaking green public investments and implementing public policy initiatives that encourage environmentally responsible private investments. Promoting sound chemicals management is a key component of the Green Industry Initiative, to support sustainable consumption and resource efficiency, and minimize pollution and environmental degradation.

UNIDO's Mercury Programme is leading and facilitating the introduction of clean 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, and technology transfer.

The Programme started in 1994 with some individual projects focusing on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in the Philippines, Ghana and Tanzania; however, it grew in importance with the development of the Global Mercury Project in 2002. The initiative was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by UNIDO, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and co-financed by the National Governments involved in the project (Brazil, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe). The six pilot countries located in key transboundary river/lake basins were assisted during five years to overcome barriers to the adoption of best practices and pollution prevention measures to limit the mercury contamination of international waters from ASGM. The project was concluded in August 2007 and the major results achieved are as follows:

- More than 100 local experts and miners trained in new technologies, both on usage and how to build them using locally available materials;
- More than 30,000 miners trained, more than 25,000 community members sensitized on problems posed by the sector and their solutions;
- 15,000 brochures distributed, 75 media reports, nine publications in international journals, three chapters in books, two books, 37 papers in conference proceedings; and,
- Six international water basins benefited from significant reduced pollution at project sites on the Amazon River, the Java Sea, the Mekong River, the Nile River, Lake Victoria and on the Zambezi River.

From 2011 to June 2014, the Mercury Programme has raised US$ 22.5 million, including US$ 10.1 million of project funds directly managed by UNIDO. Currently, the Programme operates in 15 countries. The GEF has been its major donor, representing 34% of the total funds. The Governments of Finland and France have also provided bilateral support to the countries through UNIDO.

Based on UNIDO's experience in promoting environmentally sound management of mercury in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, the Organization plays an important role as co-lead of the ASGM partnership area in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership. UNIDO is also an active member of other areas of the Partnership, including mercury waste, mercury in products, chlor-alkali and mercury storage.

II. Projects developed from 2011 to June 2014

In the last years, UNIDO's Mercury Programme has initiated eight projects, including two regional initiatives. Five of these projects are focusing on the ASGM sector, two projects on mercury waste management, and one on non-ferrous metal smelting.

A. Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining

- The Francophone West Africa Regional project aims to strengthen 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 May 2015. The project is funded by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), the GEF, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and co-financed by the U.S. Department of State, the European Commission, UNEP, UNIDO and the National Governments involved. In addition to finalizing national strategic plans in each country, comprehensive health education and technology training programs are been developed and delivered. The project is also providing assistance for mining communities to obtain FAIRMINED® Gold certification in order to address social, environmental, and economic development issues.
- "Implementing Integrated Measures for Minimizing Mercury Releases from Artisanal Gold Mining" is another regional project been developed by UNIDO, in Latin America. The project aims to reduce the use and emissions of mercury in ASGM, in Ecuador and Peru, by promoting low-mercury and mercury free technologies at local pilot sites, from October 2012 to September 2015. The initiative is also promoting innovative financial tools, supporting the formalization of ASGM miners and providing relevant information on the health risks posed by mercury. The initiative is funded by the GEF and co-financed by UNIDO; National Geologic, Mining & Metallurgy Research Institute (INIGEMM); the Peruvian Ministry of Environment and the U.S. Department of State.
- In the Philippines, UNIDO is implementing a project that seeks to reduce at least 50% of mercury use, emissions and exposure at local pilot sites by introducing low-mercury or mercury free technologies. Transfer of techniques and technology as well as training programmes on the health risks of mercury are also been developed. The project is funded by the GEF and co-financed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the U.S. Department of State, Ban Toxics, Dialogos, and UNIDO. It was initiated in August 2013 and will be concluded in August 2015.
- Sound management of mercury to reduce the risks associated with its use in ASGM was also promoted in Colombia, from January 2011 to December 2012, in a project financed by the departments of Choco and Antioquia as well as local partners. The objective was achieved by strengthening artisanal miners' capacity through trainings based on safer and cleaner practices of gold mining.
- A similar project, initiated in August 2012, is being developed in Côte d'Ivoire where inventories of gold mining sites are carried out and a National Action Plan developed. The project, to be concluded in 2014, is co-financed by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

B. Mercury Waste Management

- A preparatory project to facilitate the fulfillment of the obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury was initiated in Argentina, in November 2013. The project aims to facilitate the discussion among key stakeholders and conduct in-depth analyses of the existing legal framework and of locally available BAT and BEP for the management of mercury and waste containing mercury. On this basis, a proposal for potential changes to the legal/policy framework of the country and for a small-scale pilot demonstration project for temporary and final disposal of mercury and waste containing mercury are being prepared. The initiative is funded by the GEF and co-financed by UNIDO, the Asociación Argentina de Médicos por el Medio Ambiente (AAMMA), and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America. It will be concluded in November 2015.
- UNIDO is also implementing a project on mercury waste management in Mongolia, as from November 2013 to October 2015. The objective of the initiative is to develop national guidelines for environmentally sound management of waste containing mercury and demonstrate sound mercury remediation and stabilization techniques at the pilot scale in mercury hot-spot areas contaminated from previous mining activities. Practical guidelines for the environmentally sound collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of waste containing mercury will be established and implemented at local and national levels. The project is funded by the GEF and co-financed by the

Mongolian Ministry of Nature and Green Development, the Mongolian Ministry of Health, Mireco (private sector) and UNIDO.

C. 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 are being demonstrated at two pilot sites. The project is also establishing coordination and monitoring system, and proposing policy reform for mercury management in the zinc smelting sector. The initiative is funded by the GEF Trust Fund 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 will be concluded in 2014.

III. Minamata and beyond

In accordance with UNIDO's commitment to support governments in fulfilling their legal obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Organization has submitted to the GEF-5 replenishment period six proposals of enabling activities for the development of Minimata Initial Assessments (MIA). All the project proposals (Armenia, China, Comoros Nigeria, Vietnam and Yemen) were approved. In order to facilitate the early entry into force of the Convention, UNIDO will support countries to determine what is needed to ratify the Convention and, subsequently, to provide a basis for any further work towards implementation of the necessary activities to reduce mercury emissions. Other MIA proposals are being finalized, including a regional project with seven countries in the West Africa Region, which will be submitted in the beginning of the GEF-6 replenishment period.

UNIDO, as the lead agency for the ASGM area of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, will play an important role in the development of the NAPs, required by the Minamata Convention for the countries with more than insignificant use of mercury in ASGM operations. Two NAP proposals are being developed and will be submitted in the beginning of the GEF-6 replenishment period.

Most of the identified issues relating to mercury are industrial by nature, which reinforces the increasing and significant role that UNIDO has in the coming years supporting governments and private sectors in fulfilling their legal obligations under the Minamata Convention. In the last years, the Organization has expanded its technical assistance, including new mercury industrial sectors in UNIDO's portfolio such as mercury waste management, zinc smelting and chlor-alkali production. Currently, the Mercury Programme is involved in preparing projects of large scale and impact as the transfer of low mercury catalyst and mercury free technologies from industrial production of Vinyl Chloride Monomers as well as the technology transfer and conversion to membrane cell technology use in the chlor-alkali sector.

As part of UNIDO's engagement with the private sector to build local productive capacity, enhance social inclusion and promote environmental sustainability, the Organization has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japanese company Nomura Kohsan Co. Ltd.. Under the agreement, UNIDO and Nomura Kohsan agree to cooperate closely on projects in order to prevent mercury wastes to contaminate the environment, ensuring the appliance of BEP and BAT to extract mercury from waste, and to identify long-term solutions for the storage of mercury.

In the next years, 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 global mercury emission reductions through technology transfer. Together with the financing partners, UNIDO stands ready to continue and expand its assistance to the signatories of the Minamata Convention to ensure its rapid ratification and to continue demonstrating concrete results at local and global levels.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ludovic Bernaudat, UNIDO mercury focal point at L.Bernaudat@unido.org

Annex IV

Information for the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury

(Bangkok, 3-7 November 2014)

Cooperative efforts of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in relation to the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention

Introduction/Context

1. UNITAR's training and capacity building programmes in chemicals and waste management support developing countries and countries in economic transition in their efforts to address the sound management of chemicals. In the design and implementation of its programmes, UNITAR emphasises the following guiding principles in order to promote a sustainable and country-owned process:

- a ***country-driven process*** through which partner countries assess and identify their needs and link related activities to national environmental and development objectives;
- a ***multi-stakeholder approach***, involving representatives from various government ministries as well as concerned parties outside of government; and
- an ***integrated approach*** which addresses all stages of the chemical life cycle and emphasises the multi-disciplinary nature of chemicals and waste management.

2. UNITAR offers a range of services and is actively assisting developing countries and countries in economic transition to develop capacity for the sound management of mercury. Particularly since INC-5, UNITAR has scaled up activities directly related to the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention.

3. This note summarizes relevant UNITAR activities implemented through partnerships with Participating Organisations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

Support of Ratification and Early Implementation of the Minamata Convention

4. During INC-5, various participants expressed the importance of interim work and activities prior to the entry into force of the Minamata Convention in order to support and accelerate ratification of the instrument by countries.

5. With the financial support of Switzerland, UNITAR has initiated a global project to support 15 countries in 2014-2015 to develop initial capacity and take steps towards ratifying the Convention and identifying early action for implementation. The project provides a rapid response to support the momentum generated by INC-5 and helps pave the way for more in-depth Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) activities supported by GEF.

6. During the course of 2014, country projects have been initiated in the Philippines, Senegal, Uruguay, and Zambia. Five additional country projects will be initiated during the course of the year.

7. Expected outputs from each country project include:

- Preparation of a national Ratification Dossier in line with national procedures and requirements.
- Implementation of specific activities in support of the ratification process, such as an initial legal review and awareness raising activities, in response to national needs and priorities.
- Initial actions outlining priorities to meet requirements for early implementation.

8. In addition, a number of supporting activities will be executed in order to maximise the ability of project countries to share experiences and lessons learned, for example, from the process of ratification of other chemicals and wastes conventions.[8] Opportunities will be explored to make use of existing structures and other meetings related to ratification and/or national coordination and synergies for chemicals and waste management agreements taking place during 2014-15.

Minamata Convention Initial Assessments

9. In support of GEF-funded MIAs and through partnerships with GEF Implementing Agencies (i.e. UNDP, UNEP, and UNIDO) and other IOMC participating organizations (e.g. WHO), UNITAR is serving and stands ready to serve as an executing agency to support MIA projects. UNITAR offers to support actions on preparing national mercury management profiles, including legal and infrastructure assessments, and inventories of mercury releases and stocks.

10. As of July 2014, UNITAR is working towards executing the following GEF-funded activities:

- MIA in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in collaboration with UNIDO.
- MIA in the Comoros, in collaboration with UNIDO
- MIA in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo), in collaboration with UNIDO and WHO.
- Strengthen national decision making towards ratification of the Minamata Convention and build capacity towards implementation of future provisions in Bangladesh, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Samoa, in collaboration with UNDP.
- Information exchange, capacity building and knowledge generation during MIA development in 3 regional GEF projects, in collaboration with UNEP.

11. Through the UNITAR/IOMC *National Profile Guidance Document* (which was updated in 2012), more than 100 countries have developed or updated National Chemicals Management Profiles. Information gathered for the National Profile can be a critical first step by providing a baseline of infrastructure-related information that can serve as the basis for the planning required for actions under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Building on this, UNITAR can provide technical support to countries on preparing mercury profiles.

Mercury:Learn

12. In collaboration with UNEP, UNITAR developed in 2013-2014 Mercury:Learn (http://mercury.unitar.org), an online training and knowledge sharing platform which has an initial focus on mercury releases inventories. Currently the platform includes online training modules based on UNEPs Toolkit on Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases (Level 1 and 2, 2013). The platform provides tutorials and training lessons that countries can use to develop mercury releases inventories.

13. During the course of 2014, Mercury:Learn will be further developed to collect and showcase information on lessons learned by countries on preparing for ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. The Platform will be a centre for capacity building and knowledge generation on mercury management and issues related to the Minamata Convention.

For Further Information

14. Further information on UNITAR activities, programmes, and services in the field of sound chemicals management can be found at www.unitar.org/cwm.----

[8] Article 14.2 of the Minamata Convention refers to: "Capacity-building and technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 1 and Article 13 may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, including existing regional and subregional centres, through other multilateral and bilateral means, and through partnerships, including partnerships involving the private sector. Cooperation and coordination with other multilateral environmental agreements in the field of chemicals and wastes should be sought to increase the effectiveness of technical assistance and its delivery."

Annex V

The role of the World Health Organization in implementing the Minamata Convention on mercury

1. The Convention preamble recognizes the activities of WHO in the protection of human health related to mercury. Article 16 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 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".

2. A range of established WHO activities will support Parties to ratify and implement the Convention. WHO plays a leading role in providing health-related evidence and raising public awareness about the health implications of mercury exposure through the publication of authoritative risk assessments, health information and advocacy materials on mercury. WHO sets health-based guidelines for mercury exposure through air, drinking-water and food.

3. Since 2008, WHO and Health Care Without Harm have managed a Global Initiative to substitute mercury fever thermometers and sphygmomanometers with non-mercury alternatives. A range of technical guidance and tools are available to this end. In 2014, WHO is preparing 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.* This guidance aims to assist Ministries of Health with planning and leading the development of the system-wide (national) strategies that will now be required.

3. WHO develops tools, guidance and training materials to support countries to address the public health impacts of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). Materials developed have been piloted in Mongolia, and will be further elaborated during an expert meeting to be convened by WHO in October 2014. This work will result in a toolkit on ASGM and health to aid countries in addressing the health impacts of ASGM, including development of the required national public health strategies that form part of National Action Plans. The toolkit comprises the following:

a. Guidance on how to conduct a rapid assessment of the health situation of ASGM miners and their family members;
b. Teaching materials for use in training health care providers about how to 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;
c. Guidance on how to articulate public health strategies on ASGM including as part of wider National Action Plans developed with different sector stakeholders (e.g. mining, environment, etc.).

4. WHO promotes oral health and fosters international dialogue and establishes the health evidence-base relating to dental amalgam and alternatives. In partnership with UNEP, WHO has implemented pilot projects in three countries in West Africa relating to the phase down in use of dental amalgam.

5. WHO publishes training materials to educate health workers, provides guidance on identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure, develops protocols on human biomonitoring for mercury and methods for the estimation of the burden of disease attributable to mercury.

6. Support is provided to Member States to investigate and respond to disease outbreaks due to mercury exposure and to establish poisons information centres. Fostering of the International Health Regulations (2005) core capacities for chemicals also assists in implementation of the Minamata Convention, as will WHO's work to achieve universal health coverage.

7. In May 2014, the 67th World Health Assembly welcomed the formal adoption by Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in October 2013, and agreed 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* (refer to other paper). The resolution, among other things, encourages WHO Member States to take a series of actions, and provides a mandate to the WHO Secretariat to support Member States in this regard.

8. In undertaking this work WHO collaborates when appropriate with other organizations of the UN system, including ILO, UNEP and UNDP, and with the Secretariat to the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, among others.

9. In 2013 and 2014 WHO has been actively working with UNEP, UNIDO and UNITAR in the development of Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan projects, with the aim of contributing to those projects authoritative health advice, tools and expertise. With its Headquarters, 6 Regional Offices and more than 160 offices in countries WHO can play an important role in project implementation, in particular in engaging the health sector.

10. WHO provides the Secretariat to the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, which is actively coordinating work of the nine Participating Organizations on mercury (refer to separate section)

11. Annex 1 provides information on a number of WHO materials available to support countries in ratifying and implementing the Convention.

Index to Key Information from the World Health Organization relevant to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Update 4 July 2014

1. The present document provides an updated index to key information resources from the World Health Organization, relevant to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Mercury and Health

2. WHO Fact Sheet in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs361/en/

Thermometers (for medical use) and Sphygmomanometers

3. *Replacement of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care: Technical guidance,* WHO 2011.
English: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241548182_eng.pdf
Spanish: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789243548180_spa.pdf
Russian: http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/195475/Replacement-of-mercury-thermometers-and-sphygmomanometers-in-health-care-Rus.pdf?ua=1

Skin Lightening Products

4. *Mercury in Skin Lightening Products.* WHO Information Sheet, 2011.
Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at:
http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/mercury/en/

Dental Amalgam

5. *Future use of materials for dental restoration,* 2010. Report of meeting convened at WHO HQ, Geneva, Switzerland 16-17 November 2009.
http://www.who.int/entity/oral_health/publications/dental_material_2011.pdf

Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining

6. *Mercury Exposure and Health Impacts among Individuals in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Community: A Comprehensive Review.* Full scientific publication of this WHO-commissioned study, 2014. *Environmental Health Perspectives*; DOI:10.1289/ehp.1307864
http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1307864/

7. *Mercury Exposure and Health Impacts among Individuals in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Community.* WHO Information Sheet, summary of the full review, 2013. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at: *http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/mercury/en/*

WHO Health Guidelines on air, drinking-water and dietary intake

8. *WHO Air Quality Guidelines*, for inorganic mercury (inhalation) the guideline was set in 2000 (page 157-161). TWA 1ug/m3 annual average http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/74732/E71922.pdf

9. *WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality,* 4th Edition (2011) for inorganic mercury 0.006mg/L http://www.who.int/entity/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/9789241548151_ch08.pdf

10. *WHO Guidelines for dietary intake of methyl mercury and inorganic mercury* (update 2010). FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake for methyl mercury (maternal intake to protect the foetus) is 1.6 ug/kg bw, applicable to dietary exposure from fish and shellfish. Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake for inorganic mercury is 4 ug/kg bw, applicable to dietary exposure to total mercury from foods other than fish and shellfish. http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/mercury_recent/en/index.html

WHO Protocol for human biomonitoring

11. Current status of WHO work: WHO is coordinating the development of standardized protocols for human biomonitoring surveys for mercury, and planning pilot testing in volunteer countries, under the mandate of the Parma Declaration commitments to reduce early life exposure to environmental pollutants. http://www.euro.who.int/en/data-and-evidence/environment-and-health-information-system-enhis/activities/human-biomonitoring-survey (information in English and Russian).

Harmonized methodologies for estimating health impacts

12. *Mercury: Assessing the environmental burden of disease at national and local levels.* Environmental Burden of Disease Series, No. 16. WHO, 2008. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596572_eng.pdf English
http://www.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/78130/1/9789243596570_spa.pdf?ua=1 Spanish

13. *Guidance for identifying populations at risk from mercury exposure*, (UNEP/WHO, 2008) English: http://www.who.int/entity/foodsafety/publications/chem/mercury/en/index.html Executive summary available as UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/19 in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish at http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Negotiations/INC2/tabid/3435/Default.aspx

Risk Assessment, health and safety information for workers

14. *Elemental mercury and Inorganic mercury compounds: Human health aspects.* WHO/IPCS Concise International Chemical Assessment Document (CICAD) 50, 2003. Summary in French and Spanish (http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/cicad/en/cicad50.pdf)

15. *International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC) on a number of mercury compounds*, available in numerous languages http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/icsc/en/

World Health Assembly Resolution

16. *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*. World Health Assembly Resolution WHA67.11, May 2014. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha67.html

Resources on Cyanide, relevant to ASGM

17. *Hydrogen cyanide and cyanides*. WHO/IPCS Concise International Chemical Assessment Document (CICAD) 61. Summary in French and Spanish http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/publications/cicad/en/cicad61.pdf?

18. *International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSC) on a number of cyanide compounds*, available in numerous languages http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/icsc/en/

19. IPCS/CEC *Evaluation of Antidotes Series, Volume 2, Antidotes for Poisoning by Cyanide*. Published in 1993, however the information on antidotes remains correct. http://www.inchem.org/documents/antidote/antidote/ant02.htm

20. *IMAI district clinician manual: Hospital care for adolescents and adults*, Vol 1 (Chapter 3.8 concerns management of poisoning, page 188 is cyanide) http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/77751/1/9789241548281_Vol1_eng.pdf?ua=1

Web pages

21. WHO/IPCS home page: English, with versions in Chinese, French, Russian http://www.who.int/ipcs/en/

22. WHO/IPCS 10 Chemicals of Major Public Health Concern, Mercury page, English with versions in Chinese, French, Russian: http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/mercury/en/