



Distr.: General
28 July 2008

Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Mercury

Second meeting

Nairobi, Kenya

6–10 October 2008

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Report on activities under the UNEP mercury programme

Report on progress on strengthening the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

1. The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its decision 24/3 IV on chemicals management, established an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments for addressing the global challenges presented by mercury.
2. In addition, the Governing Council, in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the same decision, urged Governments and other stakeholders to continue and enhance their support for the UNEP mercury programme partnerships. It also requested the Executive Director, working in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen the UNEP mercury programme partnerships by taking a number of steps, including developing an overarching framework, expanding the number and scope of partnerships, enhancing the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership and endeavouring to secure adequate funds.
3. UNEP takes this opportunity to provide an update on activities undertaken to strengthen the partnership, particularly as they relate to discussions on options for addressing the global challenges presented by mercury.
4. Participants may also wish to consult information document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.2/INF/2, "Report on activities carried out under the partnership programme", which contains information on specific partnership area activities.

I. Consultations

5. UNEP has undertaken a number of consultations and similar initiatives to strengthen and enhance support for the UNEP mercury programme partnerships. Participants in the partnership areas developed business plans through meetings, teleconferences and e-mail consultations. The plans set out objectives, priorities and activities for the partnership areas. UNEP also prepared documents for the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, including a status report on the UNEP mercury programme

* UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.2/1.

partnerships (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/5) and a note on progress with the partnerships and the consultation process (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/OEWG.1/INF/8). UNEP held a consultation with partners and other stakeholders from 1 to 3 April 2008 in Geneva, for the purpose of discussing the Executive Director's development of an overarching framework for the partnership programme, including business plans, partnership goals and operational guidelines. The annex to the present note contains the report from this meeting (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/ Partnership.1/4).

II. Strengthening the UNEP mercury programme partnerships

A. Overarching framework

6. As noted above UNEP has developed an overarching framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in consultation with Governments and stakeholders, including current partners. It is presented in the meeting report annexed to the present document. The overarching framework will be forwarded to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session as part of the requested progress report on the implementation of decision 24/3 IV, as laid down in paragraph 38 of that decision.

7. The overarching framework establishes an overall goal for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership: 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.

8. New partners are invited to join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The Partnership is open to any Government, regional economic integration organization, international organization, industry or business organization, non-governmental or civil society organization or academic institution that supports the Partnership goal. It is open also to any other entity or individual who agrees to work toward that goal. Each entity or individual, upon becoming a participant of the Partnership, will contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities. The process for joining the Partnership is outlined in the overarching framework.

9. The overarching framework establishes a partnership advisory group, whose functions are to encourage the work of the partnership areas; to review the partnership area business plans in order to advise the partnership areas on the consistency of their business plans; to report to the Executive Director of UNEP on overall progress; to communicate overarching issues and lessons learned while promoting synergy and collaboration; and to report on activities undertaken within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The first meeting of the partnership advisory group is proposed for April 2009.

10. Business plans have been drafted for the following partnership areas: artisanal and small-scale gold mining; mercury cell chlor-alkali production; mercury air transport and fate research; mercury in products; mercury releases from coal combustion; and mercury waste management. The business plans are posted on the website of the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/new_partnership.htm).

11. The business plans set out the individual partnership area objectives and priority actions. While the overall Partnership goal and the partnership area objectives will remain largely the same over time, priorities and timelines will be updated regularly in the light of progress in implementation and changing circumstances. The business plans are designed to have the flexibility to allow for the perspectives of new partners to be taken into account and will be periodically reviewed.

B. Expanding the number and scope of partnerships

12. Decision 24/3 IV called for the expansion of the partnership programme to include new growing or related sectors such as vinyl chloride monomer production, non-ferrous metals mining and cement production and waste combustion. UNEP sought feedback from Governments and other stakeholders on these new and emerging areas, together with other emerging areas outlined in paragraph 19 of decision 24/3 IV, such as mercury supply and storage. A path forward for these new and emerging areas is described in the following paragraphs.

1. Vinyl chloride monomer production

13. Initial feedback indicates that vinyl chloride monomer production (VCM) is a regional issue and may be addressed in a regional context. UNEP is ready to facilitate regional discussions on the issue and will support requests for assistance in this area such as support for regional action planning, awareness-raising workshops and technical exchanges on best practices and innovative approaches.

2. Cement production

14. The European Cement Association is compiling worldwide data on the status of mercury emissions from cement kilns collected from public literature, scientific databases and individual company measurements. The Association will prepare a report setting out state-of-the-art knowledge on mercury formation mechanisms in cement production processes and demonstrating how to control and minimize mercury emissions from cement kilns using integrated process optimization. The report should provide the most comprehensive data set available on mercury emissions from the cement industry. Along with the UNEP report on atmospheric emissions requested by GC decision 24/3 IV, it will inform the development of partnership activities and will be presented to the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session. The Secretariat will seek further guidance in this area at the first meeting of the partnership advisory group.

3. Mercury waste management

15. The Government of Japan has initiated a partnership area on mercury waste management and will provide the lead and support for the partnership area for two years. The business plan for this partnership area may be viewed on the website of the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/new_partnership.htm).

4. Non-ferrous metals mining

16. No lead has been identified for this partnership area. A lead is necessary for coordinated activity to be actively pursued in this area.

17. A draft business plan for this partnership area was prepared by UNEP in collaboration with key stakeholders. It may be viewed on the website of the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/new_partnership.htm).

5. Mercury supply and storage

18. No lead has been identified for this partnership area. A lead is necessary for coordinated activity to be actively pursued in this area.

19. A draft business plan for this partnership area was prepared by UNEP in collaboration with key stakeholders. It may be viewed on the website of the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/partnerships/new_partnership.htm).

C. Enhancing the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership

20. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has agreed to act as the lead for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership area.

21. UNEP and UNIDO continue to work collaboratively with partners to enhance the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership. A partnership area meeting was held on 24 October 2007 in the margins of the Community and Small-Scale Mining Ethical Jewellery Summit in Washington, D.C.

22. The business plan for the partnership area has been developed. The plan recognizes that the issues raised by artisanal and small-scale gold mining are complex and that there is no single solution that can be applied to all sites.

23. UNIDO has developed a strategy for following up on phase 1 of the Global Mercury Project (funded by the Global Environment Facility) and has secured limited funding for doing so. After an analytical survey of needs, a prescriptive approach involving one or more of the activities planned for the project will be initiated. Those activities include:

- (a) Field-level technical activities such as inventories of project sites, environmental and health assessments and demonstrations of affordable and local technologies for improved gold processing;
- (b) Awareness campaigns related to the danger of mercury use;
- (c) Training of local trainers to disseminate information on technology to artisanal miners;
- (d) Assistance in the improvement of national and international policy.

24. More information, including an extensive database of related publications, is available on the project website at <http://www.globalmercuryproject.org>.

25. UNEP has initiated a regional project in South-East Asia under the Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in cooperation with a number of interested partners, focusing on Cambodia and the Philippines. The project will contribute to existing capacity-building efforts to address this challenging issue. Project objectives include securing Government commitment to addressing artisanal and small-scale gold mining; developing multi-stakeholder strategic plans for mercury release reduction in artisanal and small-scale gold mining; building on existing activities to address mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and building capacity for regional collaboration on the issue; and enhancing regional collaboration and coordination. A similar project in South America has been approved.

26. In terms of standards for gold production, the Madison Dialogue Metals Working Group is working to develop an information-sharing and harmonization system for responsible artisanal and small-scale metals production. This group is building on existing activities and initiatives and is being facilitated by EARTHWORKS, a non-profit organization to protect communities and the environment from the impacts of mineral development.

D. Endeavouring to secure adequate funds

27. The Executive Director sent a fund-raising letter dated 26 March 2007 to UNEP official focal points drawing attention to decision 24/3 IV and the need for funding to support the implementation of the decision, including work on partnerships. The United States of America subsequently pledged \$1,000,380 to support the work of partnerships. Additional funding is required to implement activities under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in line with priority actions established in the partnership area business plans.

28. Partners in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership have directly supported a number of projects. Other donors have expressed interest but no further funds have been made available to date.

29. UNEP has also taken other steps to secure funding, such as through raising limited funds through the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme. In addition the Executive Director announced on 26 June 2008 a \$1 million initiative on mercury aimed at building global capacity in line with the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building. The goal of the initiative is to limit the amount of mercury that finds its way back into the market from the waste stream. The initiative will build mercury storage capacity in Asia and South America and support important ongoing collaborative efforts to move away from primary mercury mining globally.

Suggested action

30. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.

Annex

Report of the meeting on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership was opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 1 April 2008 at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva by Mr. John Whitelaw, Deputy, Chemicals Branch, UNEP Division of Technology, Information and Economics (UNEP Chemicals). Opening remarks were made by Mr. Per Bakken, Head of UNEP Chemicals.

2. In his remarks, Mr. Bakken expressed pleasure that the meeting was attended by a large number of both government and non-government actors, which he saw as proof of wide interest in the problems posed by mercury releases and a sign that substantial progress could be made. He highlighted the genesis of the group's mandate in two decisions of the UNEP Governing Council, the latest of which, decision 24/3 IV, called on Governments and other stakeholders to strengthen partnerships under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as part of the global effort to deal with mercury and called on UNEP to hold the current meeting as a first step towards achieving that. Expressing confidence that partnerships could make a significant contribution to the reduction of releases of mercury to the atmosphere, he noted that in accordance with decision 24/3 IV the main objectives for the current meeting would be to agree on an overarching structure for the Mercury Partnership. He noted that the agenda for the meeting also included a review of existing partnerships and consideration of new areas in which additional partnerships might be established. He recalled that the Executive Director of UNEP would report to UNEP Governing Council at its next meeting on the development of the overarching framework.

II. Organizational matters

A. Officers

3. Mr. Gerald Musoke Sawula was elected Chair of the meeting by acclamation and also performed the function of rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. The meeting participants adopted the agenda set out below, on the basis of the provisional agenda which had been circulated as document UNEP/(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Organization of work.
4. Development of an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership.
5. Status of current and emerging partnership areas.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
8. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

5. Following a proposal from the secretariat, the meeting participants agreed to conduct their work in plenary session each day from 10 am to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and to establish contact or drafting groups only if necessary, in order to allow small delegations to participate in all deliberations. Participation by non-governmental representatives was encouraged.

D. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following countries and organizations participated in the meeting: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, European Commission, European Union, Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Health Organization, International Energy Agency Clean Coal Centre, Basel Action Network, CEMBUREAU – European Cement Association, Electric Power Research Institute, health Care Without Harm, Illinois Institute of Technology, International Council on Mining and Metals, Mercury Policy Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, Research and Education Center for Development, Transparency, S.A., World Chlorine Council, World Dental Federation, World Wildlife Fund – Guianas.
7. A complete list of participants is provided in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/INF/8.

III. Development of an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership

8. The meeting participants took up the agenda item with a brief introduction of the draft overarching framework set out in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/2 by a representative of the secretariat. As proposed by the Chair, the participants then heard a round of general comments on the draft framework, following which they went through the document section by section and made more detailed comments on its various provisions.

9. During his introduction the representative of the secretariat noted that in preparing the draft overarching framework the secretariat had taken into account both successful and unsuccessful elements of existing partnerships in other areas. The draft framework, he noted, was relatively short considering the complexity of the subject. Its aim, however, was not to answer all questions but rather to provide an overall goal, an organizational structure in which partnerships could operate, guidance on how they might operate and information on key issues such as finance, information exchange and monitoring while being straightforward, flexible, transparent and able to take account of the views of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

10. In considering the item the meeting participants took note of presentations from the leads of the five existing partnership areas and others on experience with the partnerships established in those areas. The participants' discussion following those presentations is summarized in chapter III of the present report (see paragraph 48 below).

11. During the discussion of the draft framework the representative of the secretariat recalled that decision 24/3 IV requested the Executive Director of UNEP, "...working in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders, to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme partnerships by", among other things, "...developing an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership." Consequently, and given the Executive Director's responsibilities, the role of the participants at the current meeting was to provide their views to the Executive Director on the issues to be addressed by the overarching framework. He stated that it would therefore not be necessary for the participants to agree on text or to agree on all points, as the Executive Director would prepare the final framework document taking into account all the views expressed. Several participants reiterated that understanding on a number of occasions during the meeting.

A. General comments

12. During the general comments many of those who spoke supported the view that voluntary partnerships had an important contribution to make to the goal of reducing the harm caused by releases of mercury to the environment. Several participants, however, stated that partnerships should be seen as a complement to a legally binding approach. One participant said that the current meeting was not the proper venue for discussing the question of whether a legally binding approach to mercury releases was necessary. Since views had been expressed on the issue however, the participant expressed support for the Global Mercury Programme, partnerships, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and addressing mercury issues through existing legally binding instruments such as the

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Another participant said that the framework should ensure that the Partnership would complement the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Another said that the framework should reflect how the body described in the draft framework as the partnership council, and the framework as a whole, would relate to other arrangements, in particular a legally binding instrument on mercury, should the UNEP Governing Council decide to pursue such arrangements. One participant echoed the view that voluntary partnerships had an important role to play but noted that such approaches could be based on voluntary funding.

13. The Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, on behalf of the Union, expressed support for a flexible, cost-efficient approach featuring a streamlined bureaucracy that could ensure structure, as well as operational guidelines that added value. She also voiced the view that UNEP should play a catalytic role in the partnership as a facilitator and secretariat and should not be placed in a position that would compromise its independence and neutrality.

14. Several participants, citing decision 22/4 and 24/3 IV, underscored the need for the draft framework to make sufficient reference to capacity-building among its goals, especially taking into account that the goals already included such highly technical matters as the development of non-mercury technologies. Several other participants echoed the view that capacity-building, awareness raising and information sharing were central concerns, and one said that they should be considered to be core activities and should feature in all partnerships. Another noted that the need to link the partnership to United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/215, which promoted partnerships, should also be explicit.

15. One participant, noting that various activities to address the global mercury challenge were already under way, stressed that the Global Mercury Partnership would need to be an attractive body that was easy to access if it were going to be the centre piece of voluntary efforts to deal with mercury. Another participant echoed the view that the partnership should be readily accessible, adding that it should allow for participation by various actors in each partnership area.

16. One participant expressed the view that the draft framework was well-grounded in decision 24/3 IV and therefore provided a good basis for the participants' deliberations. Several participants praised the draft for its conciseness. Another said that the draft framework already reflected issues, such as the need for flexibility, that other participants had identified as important. One, however, said that it appeared to focus on long-term measures at the expense of measures that might provide immediate benefits.

B. Detailed discussion

17. Several participants said that some of the functions of the body proposed in the draft overarching framework, and the role contemplated for UNEP by the draft framework, were such that if adopted as proposed they would go beyond the work programme of UNEP with respect to partnerships as set out in decision 22/4. The establishment of a clearing-house as contemplated in part 6 of the operational guidelines was given as an example of such a function. Several participants asked for clarification as to whether the Executive Director could implement such a result on his own authority or would be obliged to obtain approval from the UNEP Governing Council.

18. In response to that request the UNEP Senior Legal Officer said that any proposal that significantly altered the UNEP programme of work, otherwise had a significant impact on policy or had substantial budgetary implications would have to be approved by the Governing Council. Otherwise there was nothing in decision 24/3 IV that would require the Executive Director to seek the approval of the Governing Council before implementing what the participants at the current meeting might agree. It was also noted by the representative of the secretariat and several participants that quite apart from the strict legal requirements anything agreed by the participants that implied significant additional work on the part of UNEP would require additional funding and therefore as a practical matter would have to be approved by the Governing Council in connection with its consideration of the UNEP budget at its next meeting.

1. Preamble

19. During the discussion on the preamble, several participants stated that it should reflect partnerships as one element of a broader approach to address mercury. One participant suggested adding text into the preamble to indicate that the Overarching Framework would require decision making at the twenty-fifth session on the Governing Council. The secretariat, in response to this

suggestion, noted that the Overarching Framework is intended to be a long-standing document and that reference to upcoming meetings may not be appropriate for inclusion. Following the discussion, participants agreed that the following text would be used in the covering note to introduce the Overarching Framework to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session: ‘The attached document which informs the ongoing work of existing partnerships, responds to the call of the 24th Governing Council in its decision 24/3 paragraph 27 (a), for an overarching framework for strengthening the Global Mercury Programme. It has been developed under the auspices of the Executive Director in consultation with governments and other stakeholders. The document is forwarded to the 25th session of the Governing Council as part of the requested progress report on the implementation of decision 24/3, as laid down in paragraph 38.’

20. During the discussion of the revised text one participant, while recognizing that the reference in the preamble quoted decision 24/3 IV, suggested that obsolete technologies should not be characterized as new and emerging partnership areas, citing by way of example the production of vinyl chloride monomer using mercury chloride. He said that partnerships should promote clean technologies rather than obsolete and polluting ones. Further discussion on the advisability of establishing such a partnership was deferred for consideration under agenda item 5.

21. Following their deliberations the participants agreed to the text on this subject set out in the draft overarching framework found in annex I to the present report.

2. Goal

22. A representative of the secretariat emphasized that the goals set out in the document referred to the goals of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership rather than the UNEP Mercury Programme. It was noted too that the goals were required to reflect the priorities set out in decision 24/3 IV.

23. Following their deliberations the participants agreed to the text on this subject set out in the draft overarching framework found in annex I to the present report.

3. Organizational structure

4. Operational guidelines

24. The meeting participants discussed the organizational structure and the operational guidelines together.

25. The representative of the Secretariat said the proposed organizational structure set out in document UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/2 had three broad components: a body referred to as the partnership council, partnership areas and UNEP. The proposed structure was intended to balance the need for direction setting, guidance, transparency and inclusion with the need for flexibility and streamlining.

26. During the ensuing discussion there was considerable focus on the body or “partnership council” that might oversee the partnership programme, including consideration of whether such a body was necessary, what functions it might perform and the name for the body that might best reflect its functional roles. In the end there was general agreement that some form of body would be necessary but there was considerable debate on its role within the general structure of UNEP, whether it should make recommendations or decisions and the means by which it would report on its activities to the Governing Council of UNEP. Most participants who spoke said that the roles assigned to the body should not be too wide-ranging and should, within a light structural framework, focus rather on specific functions. There was general agreement that it should deliberate on cross-cutting policy issues, promote accountability and make recommendations but should not make decisions for the individual partnership areas. One participant suggested that it could also formulate recommendations to be transmitted to the UNEP Governing Council by the Executive Director. One participant, noting that the Global Mercury Partnership was part of the UNEP programme of work, said that the body established should not be allowed to usurp the role of UNEP, or allow UNEP to abrogate its responsibility, in implementing the partnership; there was agreement, however, that it could play an advisory role.

27. Several participants said that it was important to amend the provisions dealing with membership on the partnership council to ensure adequate representation by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to ensure gender balance. In that regard one participant said that a provision in the operational guidelines calling for partnership members to defray their own costs of participation could pose a hurdle to participation by those from developing countries. Several other participants, however, expressed support for that provision. A number of participants observed that there was a need for a mechanism by which the performance of the partnership could be evaluated and the results reported to the Governing Council.

28. Another participant expressed concern that the roles assigned to UNEP within the proposed structure, specifically those related to fundraising, guidance and technical assistance, might overstretch the organization's resources. Several participants questioned whether UNEP should be a member of the proposed partnership council, suggesting that its role should be limited to facilitation; it was also suggested that UNEP might be in a position of conflict as it would play a coordinating role and would review applications for membership on the partnership council by others while being a member itself. Regarding the latter point the representative of the secretariat referred to decision 22/4, in which the UNEP Governing Council invited UNEP to seek partnerships with other stakeholders, which he interpreted to mean that UNEP could itself be a partner. It was suggested too that the partnership area leads rather than UNEP should be charged with nominating members of the partnership council. The participants agreed that UNEP would be represented ex officio and agreed on the process by which the Executive Director of UNEP would invite representatives to serve as members.

29. The participants agreed that the partnership body described in the framework should be known as the Partnership Advisory Group.

30. Several participants said that the Partnership Advisory Group should not be involved in reviewing partnership area business plans or performance reports and proposed deleting text to that effect; the job, they said, should be carried out by the partnership areas themselves. Others objected to the proposal, saying such a review by the Partnership Advisory Group would promote coordination between and improvement of business plans, filling of gaps not covered by business plans and promoting transparency..

31. Following their deliberations the participants agreed to the text on this subject set out in the draft overarching framework found in annex I to the present report.

5. Business plans

32. During the discussion of the proposed business plan template set out in annex 2 of the draft overarching framework one partnership lead, representing two partnership areas, said that the template had proved to be very useful in the development of business plans for those areas. In response to a question regarding the flexibility of the proposed template, the representative of the secretariat said that it was intended only as guidance and an aid to consistency but was not meant to be followed inflexibly.

33. There was considerable discussion of whether the objectives for the partnership areas should be "ambitious". One participant suggested that the principle of feasibility should inform the identification of objectives for the partnership areas, saying that it was counterproductive to articulate objectives that could not be achieved. Some participants supported the idea, saying that it was necessary to raise expectations beyond those engendered by the status quo. It was also recognized that the objectives also had to be realistic, target-oriented, measurable and more specific than the overall goals of the Global Mercury Partnership.

34. Following their deliberations the participants agreed to the text on this subject set out in the draft overarching framework found in annex I to the present report.

6. Partnership clearing house

35. In discussions on the establishment of a clearinghouse as set out in the operational guidelines, a representative of the secretariat noted that UNEP Chemicals did currently facilitate information exchange on partnership activities and mercury. Establishment of a clearing-house under the Global Mercury Partnership was proposed in recognition of the Partnership's importance and would place a specific obligation on UNEP to service the partnership areas. The clearinghouse would be proactive in gathering the full range of mercury-related information. Several participants pointed to the need to convey that the clearing-house would build on an existing platform of the current arrangements under UNEP. Following discussion it was agreed that the section of the guidelines on the clearinghouse should be deleted and that the text describing the clearinghouse function would be added in section 9 on roles and responsibilities. The remainder of section 6 was deleted.

36. Following their deliberations the participants agreed to the text on this subject set out in the draft overarching framework found in annex I to the present report.

7. Liability

8. Public communications

37. The participants agreed that section 7, on liability, and section 8, on public communications, of the draft operational guidelines were not necessary for the framework.

9. Roles and responsibilities

38. During the discussion on roles and responsibilities one participant suggested that fundraising, providing guidance and technical assistance to partners and attracting new partners should not be the sole responsibility of UNEP and should also be a responsibility of partners. One participant expressed the opinion that in developing business plans the partnership area leads should reflect the priorities of national plans and priorities; another suggested that that might be problematic due to the wide divergence in those plans and priorities. It was noted that facilitating the development of business plans might cover a wide spectrum of activities, including assisting Governments to understand how partnership areas complemented their national plans. It was agreed that reviewing plans should be the responsibility of all partners, and not limited to the leads.

39. Following their deliberations the participants agreed to the text on this subject set out in the draft overarching framework found in annex I to the present report.

C. Statements following discussion of the draft overarching framework

40. Following the participants' agreement on the text of the draft overarching framework a number of participants made statements, asking that they be reflected in the current report.

41. The Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, speaking on behalf of the Union, made the following statement:

“On behalf of the European Union, the Slovenian Presidency reiterates that the European Union believes that effective partnerships play an important complementary role in our overall objective of taking further long-term international action to reduce risks to human health and environment deriving from mercury emissions. The European Union welcomes the work of existing partnership areas and urges the partners to continue the efforts. We also remain convinced that the overall goal and priority action can only be realized efficiently and effectively by a legally binding instrument.

The European Union welcomes these constructive consultations of UNEP on an overarching framework for a mercury partnership programme.

The European Union underlines the need to consider the potential financial and policy implications when implementing the overarching structure and therefore believes that Governing Council should be invited at its twenty-fifth session to endorse the approach as part of the further request from the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session to review and assess the options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments, as laid down in paragraph 28 of decision 24/3.”

42. The representative of the United States of America made the following statement:

“The United States would like to express appreciation to UNEP for its actions to meet the commitments of the Governing Council mercury decision by supporting and strengthening the partnerships and identifying new areas for partnerships.

We are pleased with the outcomes of this meeting, and the Overarching Framework document generated. We welcome the new leadership and partnership participation expressed at this meeting.

The United States is committed to continuing to support the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. We are pleased with the progress and hard work reflected in the partnership business plans and support the continued use of the business plans to advance the goal of the Partnership.

However, we recognize that additional support is needed to ensure that the full potential for mercury reductions through partnerships is realized.

To maximize the effectiveness of these efforts, we encourage governments, organizations, and all stakeholders to further support and participate in the partnership program, to share their collective experience, expertise and resources in addressing mercury.

There is great potential for reducing mercury releases, improving health and environmental conditions in the near-term, both locally and globally through collaborative global efforts on partnerships.”

43. Following the statements from the European Union and the United States of America a number of other representatives made comments.
44. The representative of Norway expressed support for the statement made by the Slovenian Presidency. He said that Norway appreciated the work of the partnerships and would continue to contribute to them but nevertheless remained convinced that both voluntary and legally binding measures to reduce mercury pollution would be best served by a legally binding framework.
45. The representative of Switzerland said her country strongly supported the statement by the European Union and believed that the global concern with mercury could be effectively addressed only through a legally binding instrument.
46. The representative of India, noting that the UNEP mercury programme was operated entirely on the basis of voluntary funding and had achieved significant progress, said that while it might be desirable to establish a legally binding instrument on mercury it might be preferable to remain on a voluntary footing unless any legally binding instrument was backed by significant new funding to enable industry to make a transition to non-mercury-based products and processes.
47. The representative of China said that his country was fully aware that it was an important actor with respect to nearly all aspects of the mercury issue. China, he said, would continue to support strongly the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and seek to find commonalities with other countries in a search for feasible and realistic measures to address the global mercury problem while bearing in mind national circumstances.

IV. Status of current and emerging partnership areas

48. Introducing the item, the representative of the secretariat presented an information note reviewing global multi-stakeholder partnerships (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/INF.7). The note outlined a number of key implementation issues in global multi-stakeholder partnerships based on a review and analysis of four existing initiatives from the environment and health sectors: the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, the Forest Stewardship Council, the Stop Tuberculosis Partnership and the Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases. The review aimed to facilitate strengthening of the Global Mercury Partnership by drawing lessons in four key areas: partnership formation, resourcing issues, monitoring and review processes and partner commitment and participation. With respect to governance he suggested that it was important to adopt an arrangement that suited the specific purposes and circumstances of a given partnership and noted that all four of the partnerships analysed in the review featured separate coordinating and decision-making bodies.
49. Presentations were then made by the partnership leads in the five partnership areas of the Global Mercury Partnership (artisanal and small-scale gold mining; mercury cell chlor-alkali production; mercury releases from coal combustion; air transport and fate; and mercury-containing products) (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/INF.1–5). In their presentations, the leads focused on the draft business plans already in place in each of the existing partnership areas.
50. In the discussion that followed the presentations one participant argued for a switch from mercury cell processes to membrane cell plants in the chlor-alkali sector as a means of phasing out mercury entirely. He said that in his country significant reduction of mercury emissions and mercury imports in that sector had been achieved through such an approach as well as best practices and good housekeeping without the use of fiscal incentives, carbon credits or accelerated depreciation. His country's experience, he said, showed that significant gains through voluntary measures were achieved. With respect to mercury in products, however, he said that there was a need for international standards for mercury content in products as well as proper recycling and disposal methods to prevent releases. He cited fluorescent tubes as an example of a product in which mercury content varied widely and which was not subject to effective collection and disposal methods.
51. A number of participants pointed to the importance of the robust participation of developing countries in partnerships despite any financial implications that might have; one suggested that the presentations by the leads of the existing partnership areas showed that such participation was lacking.
52. A representative of the secretariat stressed that the review of the global multi-stakeholder partnerships had clearly demonstrated the importance of measurable and ambitious but achievable targets, including in the short and medium term, to maintaining commitment as well as the importance of targets being owned by partners in an inclusive process at the global, national and regional levels. One of the current weaknesses of even the most successful partnerships, he said, was the lack of

inclusiveness of certain areas and countries. In that regard, capacity-building to support national initiatives and provide opportunities for engagement at the national level were crucial.

53. In response to questions on the added value of having a unifying body or advisory arrangement, one of the partnership leads stressed the importance of having a unifying body or advisory group that could act as a mechanism for accountability and tracking progress, providing assistance and identifying needs and gaps. One participant suggested that one of the key benefits of such a body was its role in leveraging financial and other resources.

54. Another participant, taking the partnership on artisanal gold mining as an example, asked how partnerships would benefit from interaction with other partnership areas. Responding, a representative of a non-governmental organization, describing partnerships in which it was involved on the substitution of mercury in healthcare devices, said that such interaction facilitated the sharing of experiences that led to the transfer of technology and financial resources. It also, he said, offered partners the chance to pursue a common greater goal. Another participant, referring to a similar healthcare project, emphasized the importance of such initiatives to making progress on the global mercury programme. A governmental participant echoed the view partnerships did indeed add value, saying that having stakeholders coalesce around an issue was in itself beneficial in that it generated a widespread awareness of the benefits that bilateral programmes didn't achieve.

55. In response to a question on the role of UNEP with respect to the partnership, a representative of the secretariat noted that in both of the health-related partnerships reviewed in the document, the World Health Organization (WHO) acted as the secretariat and, therefore, all of their financial, legal and administrative matters were subject to WHO guidelines. In the documents of one of the partnerships, WHO was described as a legal entity. In both partnerships on the other hand, WHO played a central role and held a fixed seat in the partnership's governing body. The clearinghouse mechanism for the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, although housed within UNEP, was a separate entity with clear boundaries between the secretariat, the clearing house and the functions that UNEP would have as a partner.

56. In further discussion under the item, the leads from the existing partnership areas indicated the steps they would take to pursue, within their areas, directions that would reflect the outcomes of the current meeting.

57. The meeting participants discussed emerging partnership areas or areas that had potential for partnership development. The five areas discussed were vinyl chloride monomer production; cement production; non-ferrous metals mining; reducing global mercury supply; and mercury waste management.

58. A number of participants underlined that mercury supply and new partnership areas should be dealt with by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group. While recognizing that a number of important areas were listed for new partnerships, several participants questioned the proposed expansion into new areas and suggested that efforts should focus instead on strengthening existing partnership areas and ensuring that they benefited from adequate support in terms of stakeholders and resources. A number of participants called for the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to consider the relationship between voluntary and legally-binding measures. One participant called for the pace of voluntary measures to be steadied pending the outcome of such discussions. One participant said that work that was under way and envisaged within existing and in new and emerging areas on mercury supply issues was exciting and expressed the hope that it would expand.

59. With regard to vinyl chloride monomer production, one participant called for more emphasis on research on a mercury-free alternative for the mercury catalyst in that process, best practices in production processes to control releases of mercury as well as a cost-benefit analysis to be carried out on the change from mercury-containing processes to non-mercury-containing processes. Another noted that countries might have available to them mechanisms for discouraging the expansion of existing vinyl chloride monomer plants and the establishment of new plants. One participant questioned the value that would be added by establishing a partnership area to address vinyl chloride monomer production, given the very small number of countries involved and alternative arrangements available to address the issue. Nonetheless another participant underlined the value of continuing to work on the issue in the partnership context. A representative of the secretariat noted that the secretariat would continue to work with China and others in taking the issue of vinyl chloride monomer production forward.

60. With regard to waste management, the representative of Japan announced that her country would take the lead on the proposed mercury waste management partnership area and presented the

draft business plan for the area. Many participants who spoke thanked Japan for offering to assume the lead in that area and indicated a willingness to work with Japan on the issue. A number of participants noted the importance of mercury waste management but expressed concerns regarding the long-term storage or disposal of mercury waste. One participant said that the Partnership Advisory Group should consider that issue and explore opportunities to develop a partnership area on mercury storage.

61. One participant pointed to the importance of working in conformity with the Basel Convention and said that the Basel Ban Amendment needed to come into force to protect developing countries from hazardous waste. Another participant pointed to the need for increased focus on capacity-building in developing countries on mercury issues, including at the community, customs and university research levels. He said that there was a particular need for awareness-raising on mercury in cosmetics.

62. The representative of a group of participants expressed concern over the suggestion in the document on the proposed partnership on reducing global mercury supply that trade could be effectively restricted through voluntary means. The representative said that trade restrictions depended on legally binding measures. The same representative noted that the Rotterdam Convention did not “control” trade as suggested in the document, but merely provided information for policy makers.

63. A representative of the secretariat thanked participants for their comments and noted that UNEP, in its work on the Global Mercury Partnership programme, was guided and mandated by decisions of the Governing Council. Those decisions called for, among other things, a separate work process to be pursued to look at long-term arrangements for mercury and work to continue on enhancing the partnership programme. A great deal of work was already being undertaken on a voluntary basis aimed at resolving the issue of mercury in the long term. The secretariat would continue to identify such work and draw it to the attention of the Governing Council and the Open-ended Working Group.

V. Other matters

64. Noting that the name “Global Mercury Partnership” had a particular connotation in English, the representative of the secretariat expressed concern that the nuances of the phrase were not lost when it was translated into the other five official United Nations languages. He accordingly asked the meeting participants to consider the matter and to submit any suggestions they might wish to make to the secretariat on how the name may be appropriately reflected in the five official United Nations languages.

VI. Adoption of the report of the meeting

65. The meeting participants adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/Partnership.1/L.1), as orally amended, on the understanding that the secretariat would be entrusted with finalizing the report to reflect the amendments made during its adoption and the discussions that took place during the afternoon session of the last day of the meeting.

VII. Closure of the meeting

66. The meeting was declared closed at 6.15 p.m. on Thursday, 3 April 2008.

Annex I

Overarching Framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Cover note: Introduction

The attached document, which informs the ongoing work of existing partnerships, responds to the call of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council in its decision 24/3, paragraph 27 (a), for an overarching framework for strengthening the Global Mercury Programme. It has been developed under the auspices of the Executive Director in consultation with Governments and other stakeholders. The document is forwarded to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session as part of the requested progress report on the implementation of decision 24/3, as laid down in paragraph 38. It is presented without formal editing.

Preamble

UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9 called for mercury partnerships between governments and other stakeholders as one approach to reducing risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury and its compounds to the environment. This call is consistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/215 "Towards Global Partnerships" that defines partnerships as "...voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits" (Paragraph 2). In response to UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9, five partnership areas were identified in 2005: mercury release from coal combustion, artisanal and small scale gold mining, mercury cell chlor alkali production, mercury in products, and mercury air transport and fate research.

In Decision 24/3 part IV, UNEP Governing Council recognized "that current efforts to reduce risks from mercury are not sufficient to address the global challenges posed by mercury" and concluded, therefore, "that further long-term international action is required to reduce risks to human health and the environment and that, for this reason, the options of enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments will be reviewed and assessed in order to make progress in addressing this issue."

In Paragraph 27 of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 part IV, UNEP was tasked with working in consultation with Governments and stakeholders in strengthening the UNEP mercury programme partnerships by:

"... (a) Developing an overarching framework for the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership through, among other means, organizing a meeting of partners and other stakeholders, including:

- (i) Development of business plans;
- (ii) Identification of partnership goals;
- (iii) Development of operational guidelines;

(b) Expanding the number and scope of partnerships to include new, growing or related sectors such as vinyl chloride monomer production, non-ferrous metals mining and cement production and waste combustion;

(c) Enhancing the artisanal and small-scale gold mining partnership through, among other things, increased cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, exploration of innovative market-based approaches and dissemination of alternative capture and recycling technologies;

(d) Endeavouring to secure adequate funds for the Global Mercury Partnership efforts."

Furthermore, the UNEP Mercury Programme is guided by the seven priorities set out in Paragraph 19 of the UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 part IV:

- " (a) To reduce atmospheric mercury emissions from human sources;
- (b) To find environmentally sound solutions for the management of waste containing mercury and mercury compounds;
- (c) To reduce global mercury demand related to use in products and production processes;
- (d) To reduce the global mercury supply, including considering curbing primary mining and taking into account a hierarchy of sources;
- (e) To find environmentally sound storage solutions for mercury;

(f) To address, considering the results of the analysis referred to in paragraph 24 (d) below¹, the remediation of existing contaminated sites affecting public and environmental health;

(g) To increase knowledge on areas such as inventories, human and environmental exposure, environmental monitoring and socio-economic impacts.”

The development of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will complement and support the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3. It has been developed in consultation with governments and other stakeholders. It should be viewed as a dynamic document that will be reviewed and updated in the light of experience with its application.

1. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Goal

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is 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.

The partnership areas should support the overall goal of the Partnership through contributing to the following objectives, consistent with the priorities set out in paragraph 19 of Governing Council Decision 24/3:

- Minimization and, where possible, elimination of mercury supply considering a hierarchy of sources, and the retirement of mercury from the market to environmentally sound management.
- Minimization and, where feasible, elimination of unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land from anthropogenic sources.
- Continued minimization and elimination of global use and demand for mercury.
- Promoting the development of non-mercury technologies where suitable economically feasible alternatives do not exist.

To achieve these objectives the partnership areas should also:

- Strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
- Share and exchange information.

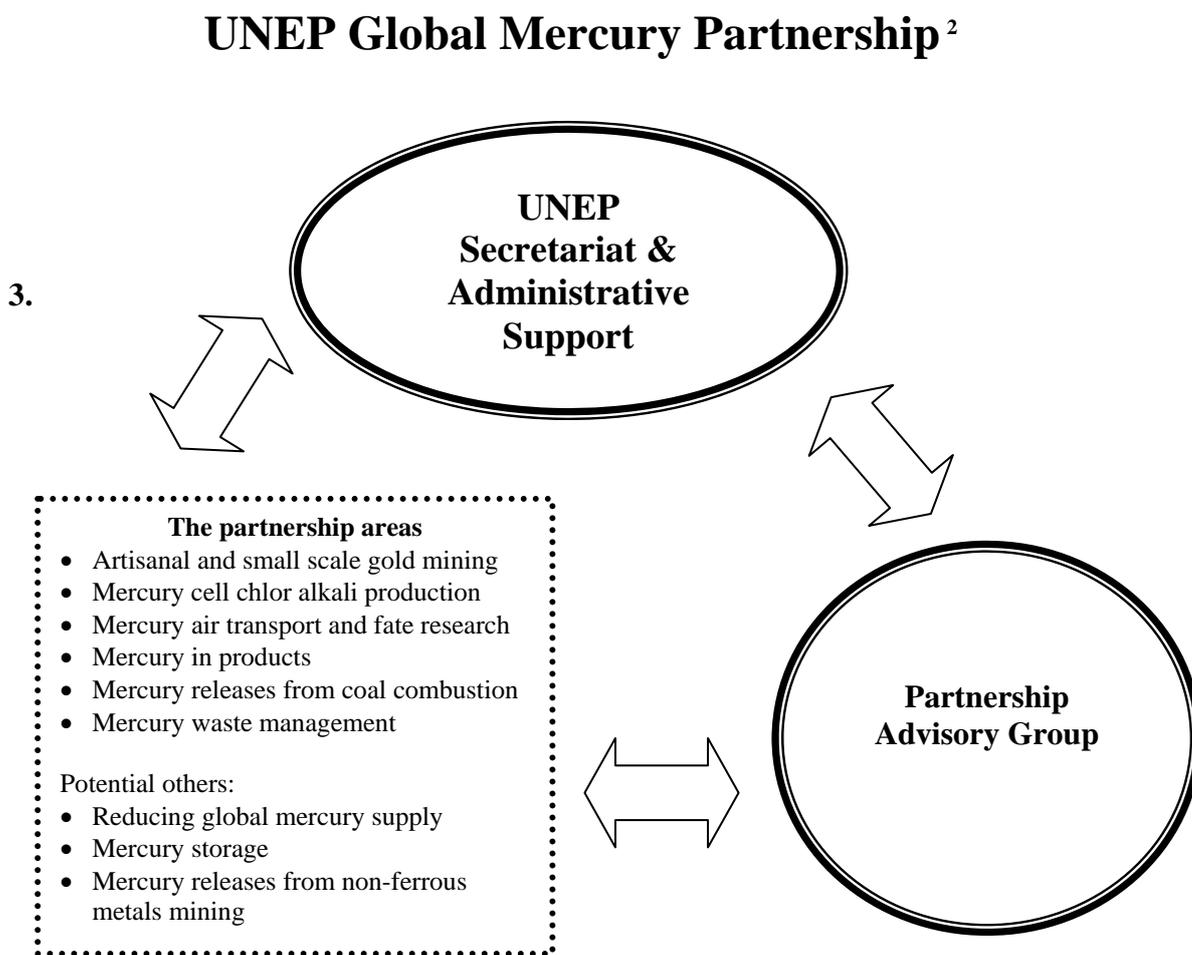
¹ UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 Part IV Paragraph 24.d:
Requests the Executive Director to prepare a report, drawing on, among other things, ongoing work in other forums addressing: ... Site-based contamination '(d) An analysis of information on the extent of contaminated sites, the risks to public and environmental health of mercury compound releases from such sites, environmentally sound mitigation options and associated costs and the contribution of contaminated sites to global releases.'

2. Organizational Structure

The organizational structure will facilitate meeting the overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the objectives of the partnership areas in a transparent, inclusive, flexible and effective way.

The organizational structure set out in Figure 1 below will provide broad oversight, coherence, direction and facilitation. It will assist partners in coordinating objectives and serve as a body for deliberation on cross-cutting issues. It is designed to be accountable and sustainable in nature and allow for effective monitoring and review.

Figure 1 - Organizational Structure



The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is comprised of representatives of governments, regional economic integration organizations, and major groups and sectors (including NGOs, science and industry)

² As of April 2008, the individual partnership areas addressed the issues of Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining, mercury cell chlor alkali production, mercury air transport and fate Research, mercury in products, mercury releases from coal combustion, and mercury waste management. Other areas were in the process of being considered and initiated.

3. Operational Guidelines

The Operational Guidelines set out in Annex 1 accommodate the wide scope of issues under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, maintaining flexibility in undertaking the partnership area activities in a transparent, accountable and inclusive way. The Operational Guidelines are to be applied to all aspects of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, including the proposed Partnership Advisory Group and the partnership areas.

4. Business plans

Business plans are called for under UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3. The structure for the plans is outlined in Annex 2 to provide guidance to the partnership areas.

The business plans should have the flexibility to allow for perspectives of new partners to be considered and included within them. Business plans should also be periodically reviewed. While the goal and objectives would largely remain the same over time, priorities and timelines will need to be updated regularly in the light of progress in implementation and changing circumstances.

5. Information Exchange

UNEP will share and disseminate information on relevant issues, develop and disseminate outreach materials and support partners as requested in addressing responsibilities.

6. Financial Resources

Financial resources are required to operate the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The partnership area objectives and business plans should provide clarity for potential donors and finance institutions and assist in mobilizing resources in a systematic, focused and harmonized way to meet the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

7. Evaluation

The partnership areas will report biennially to UNEP in accordance with the UNEP reporting format³. UNEP will facilitate reporting of progress to governments, including the UNEP Governing Council or its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.

Reporting will include tracking partnership activities and partner contributions as well as assessing effectiveness, and measuring the impact of partnership activities on the achievement of the overall goal. The reports will enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The reports will be made available through the Partnership Secretariat's web-site.

³ UNEP will develop a systematic reporting format and timeline for the partnership areas.

Overarching Framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership - Annex 1

Operational Guidelines

The present guidelines govern the operations of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

1. The Partnership

(a) The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, consistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/215 "Towards Global Partnerships" and will support the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

(b) The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership operates through partnership areas⁴ that address issues of priority as identified by Decision 24/3 paragraph 19 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

2. Participation

(a) The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is open to any government, regional economic integration organization, international organization, industry or business organization, non-governmental/civil society organization or academic institution that supports the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership goal. It is open also to any other entity or an individual who agrees to work towards the goal of the Partnership.

(b) Each entity or individual, upon becoming a participant of the Partnership (hereinafter referred to as a "partner"), will contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.

(c) To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Such letters of intention should be submitted to:

Head, UNEP Chemicals
Mercury Programme
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch

Such letters of intention will be made public through the Partnership Secretariat's web-site.

⁴ As of April 2008, the individual partnership areas addressed the issues of Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining, mercury cell chlor alkali production, mercury air transport and fate Research, mercury in products, mercury releases from coal combustion, and mercury waste management. Other areas were in the process of being considered and initiated.

3. Partnership Advisory Group

(a) A Partnership Advisory Group, composed of up to 25 members, is established to serve the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

(b) The Partnership Advisory Group will be comprised of representatives of governments, regional economic integration organizations, and major groups and sectors (including NGOs, science and industry). The Partnership Advisory Group membership shall include participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and shall take into account geographical representation and gender balance.

(c) UNEP Executive Director shall invite the following representatives to serve as members of the Partnership Advisory Group:

- (i) The partnership area leads.
- (ii) Partners nominated from the partnership areas.
- (iii) Other representatives, as may be needed to meet the compositional requirements of paragraph b.

The Executive Director may invite additional representatives to participate on an intermediate basis in the Partnership Advisory Group when new partnership areas are established.

(d) The Partnership Advisory Group members will select a Chair who will serve for a two year term. The Chair may be re-elected and may serve a maximum of two terms.

(e) UNEP will be represented as ex-officio in the Partnership Advisory Group and will provide the Secretariat.

(f) The functions and responsibilities of the Partnership Advisory Group will include the following:

- (i) To encourage the work of the partnership areas consistent with the overall goal and operational guidelines of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
- (ii) To review the partnership area business plans in order to advise the partnership areas on the consistency of their business plans with the overall goal and the operational guidelines of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
- (iii) To report to the Executive Director of UNEP on overall progress.
- (iv) To communicate overarching issues and lessons learned while promoting synergy and collaboration across partnership areas.
- (v) To report on activities undertaken within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

4. Meetings

a. Partnership Advisory Group

- (i) The Partnership Advisory Group will meet at least on an annual basis and at such other times as deemed necessary.
- (ii) Meetings may be in person, by conference call or by any other means.
- (iii) The Partnership Advisory Group will act by consensus of its members.
- (iv) Observers may attend meetings of the Partnership Advisory Group.–
- (v) Members and observers are expected to cover the costs of their participation. Nevertheless, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through its Secretariat shall undertake efforts towards obtaining funding to assure the participation of members from developing countries and countries with economies and transition and NGOs.
- (vi) Reports of the meetings of the Partnership Advisory Group will be made available through the Partnership Secretariat's web-site.

b. The partnership areas

- (i) Partners will meet at least on an annual basis and at such other times as deemed necessary.
- (ii) Meetings may be in person, by conference call or by any other means.
- (iii) The partnership areas will act by consensus of the partners thereof.
- (iv) Observers may attend meetings of the partnership area upon its invitation or the invitation of its partnership area lead, provided that there is no objection from a partner taking part in that meeting.
- (v) Partners and observers are expected to cover the costs of their participation. Nevertheless, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through its Secretariat shall undertake efforts towards obtaining funding to assure the participation of members from developing countries and countries with economies and transition and non-governmental organizations.
- (vi) Each of the partnership areas will designate a lead who will serve for a two year term. The lead may be re-elected.

5. Amendment to the Operational Guidelines

- (a) Any Partner may propose changes to previously approved Partnership operational guidelines. Partners proposing any such amendment should submit a written explanation regarding the proposed amendment to the Partnership Secretariat. Proposals for amendments to the operational guidelines will be submitted to the Partnership Secretariat who would review them and submit them to the Partnership Advisory Group for consideration.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- (a) Roles and responsibilities are consistent across partnership areas and consistent with the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, while recognizing the unique contributions of individual partners.

Role of the partners

- (b) The partners in the partnership areas will, *inter alia*:
 - (i) Initiate and undertake activities under the partnership area, conferring with other partners as needed.
 - (ii) Share information within their respective organization on the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the partnership areas.
 - (iii) Report to ~~on~~ partnership leads on their activities within the partnership areas in terms of progress and results, in a timely manner, that can be used to monitor and review partnership progress and assess partnership results against agreed objectives.
 - (iv) Be proactive in identifying additional activities, strategies, and resources that would contribute to achieving the partnership objectives.
 - (v) Agree on a lead for the individual partnership areas.
 - (vi) Be active in fundraising on behalf of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
 - (vii) Provide guidance and technical assistance to the partnership areas.
 - (viii) Help bring new partners to participate in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, as appropriate.

Role of the partnership area leads

- (c) The lead for each of the partnership areas will:
 - (i) Convene and chair the business planning and other meetings.
 - (ii) Facilitate the development of business plans.
 - (iii) Encourage input and the sharing of information and strategies among all individual partners in the partnership area.

- (iv) Share and disseminate information regularly including providing reports on progress, lessons learned, and best practices to UNEP for wider public dissemination.
- (v) Act as representative of the respective partnership area on the Partnership Advisory Group.
- (vi) Report to UNEP on behalf of the partnership area.

Role of UNEP

- (d) UNEP, subject to the availability of resources, will:
 - (i) Provide administrative and secretariat support.
 - (ii) Facilitate the reporting of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to governments, including, where appropriate, the Governing Council or its subsidiary bodies.
 - (iii) Be proactive in fundraising on behalf of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
 - (iv) Provide guidance and technical assistance to the partnership areas.
 - (v) Help bring new partners to participate in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, as appropriate.
 - (vi) Serve as ex-officio on the Partnership Advisory Group.
- (e) Included in its role under (d) above, UNEP shall provide the following support for information exchange activities:
 - (i) To disseminate information to the Partners on relevant issues.
 - (ii) To operate and maintain a website to provide easy access to information, partner activities, and resources.
 - (iii) To maintain a list of contacts.
 - (iv) To help to gather appropriate information for countries.
 - (v) To develop and disseminate public outreach materials about the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
 - (vi) To develop and disseminate technical materials for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
 - (vii) To make meeting reports and other relevant materials publicly available.

Overarching Framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership - Annex 2

Business Plan Template

I. Summary of the Issue (max of 250 words)

The summary highlights why this particular issue is important in the context of the overall UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. It provides the reader with some context of the issue.

II. Objective of the partnership area

The objective should reflect desired outcomes of the partnership area. Objectives are to be clear, measurable, target-oriented and realistic while at the same time being clearly linked to the ambitious goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Objectives will contribute to concrete results in a systematic way.

III. Priority actions

This section identifies the key priority activities for the partnership area (suggest three to five priority actions). The partnership area priority actions link to the objective.

IV. Partner efforts and timelines

This section delineates the major contributions of the partners for each of the priority actions, including overarching, bilateral and collaborative efforts:

- Efforts must be clearly link to the partnership area objective(s).
- Brief specific descriptions of efforts are provided, with costs, timeframes, targets and milestones, as appropriate and available.
- Contact information is provided for all efforts.

V. Opportunities

This section notes other concepts and ideas that are of potential interest to the partnership area in terms of meeting the partnership area objectives but that are not being pursued in the current time frame. This allows the partners to log 'good ideas' that may need more scoping and/or are currently unfunded. It also allows partners to communicate with each other on interesting efforts for future business plans and may generate interest of new partners and enhanced transparency.

Opportunities should clearly link to the partnership area objectives and be as specific as possible.

VI. Evaluation

Common to all of the partnership areas:

The partnership areas will report biennially to UNEP in accordance with the UNEP reporting format⁵. Reporting will include tracking partnership activities and partner contributions as well as assessing effectiveness, and measuring the impact of partnership activities on the achievement of the overall goal.

⁵ UNEP will develop a systematic reporting format and timeline for the partnership areas to follow.

In this section, the partnership areas shall:

- Outline the indicators of progress in meeting the partnership area objective(s).
- Describe how the partnership area will undertake performance measurement and reporting.

VII. Resource Mobilization

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the associated partnership area business plans are a way of mobilizing resources in a systematic, focused and harmonized way. The partnership area objectives and business plans should provide clarity for potential donors and finance institutions. If partners wish to leverage funding for particular projects, details should be outlined within this section for partner consideration.

The partners are encouraged to contribute financially and also to offer in-kind assistance.

Partners can develop specific initiatives, work with non-partners, or pursue projects consistent with partnership objectives. It is hoped that the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will serve as a mechanism to consolidate and leverage funding for large, strategic projects.

Partners are encouraged to apply for funding to relevant funders and regional organizations. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition can submit requests for funding to UNEP under the UNEP Mercury Small Grants Program (see www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/Overview-&-priorities.htm). UNEP and other partner implementing agencies stand ready to assist countries to develop proposals addressing mercury issues under the SAICM Quick Start Programme (see www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp.htm).

VIII. Business Planning Process

The process in developing and reviewing business plans will be outlined in this section. Partnerships will take stock of efforts and test direction and productivity in moving forward and will adjust planning accordingly.

IX. Linkages

It is understood that the partnerships undertake cross-cutting work. Key related activities should be listed in this section, including:

- Cross-cutting activity internal to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership efforts
- External to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership efforts

X. Partners

This section is a list of partners, and the key points of contact. It also identifies the partnership lead and any other relevant information.
