

# **Second Global Forum on Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining**

**Lima, Peru**

**3-5 September 2013**

*Meeting Location: Hotel Meliá*

*Av. Salaverry, 2599, 00000, Lima, Peru*

## **Introduction**

In January 2013, over 140 member governments of UNEP agreed to a treaty to control global mercury pollution. The use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM) is a key sector covered by the new convention. Countries with ASGM in their territories will be required to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use in ASGM.

UNEP and its partners in the Global Mercury Partnership will convene a global forum on ASGM from 3-5 September 2013 in Lima, Peru. The meeting will be conducted in English with French and Spanish simultaneous interpretation.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide technical and policy information to governments and other stakeholders that will assist countries in meeting their obligations related to ASGM under the new treaty. The forum will also be an opportunity for countries to share experiences and engage in a dialogue on the broader range of issues associated with ASGM.

The Second Global Forum will review the challenges and opportunities surrounding the sector; provide an overview of the implications of the Minamata Convention on Mercury with respect to AGSM; discuss national strategic planning approaches to reducing mercury use in the sector; provide training on inventory development; discuss technical and formalization guidance that could play a role in addressing ASGM issues; discuss success stories, including large-scale and small-scale models of working together. More information is available at

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmall-ScaleGoldMining/SecondGlobalForumonASGM/tabid/106375/Default.aspx>

Note: For reasons of economy and environment, delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the meeting/information documents to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

## Proposed Draft Agenda as of August 20, 2013

- 8:15 - 9:00 Registration
- 9:00- 9:15 Welcome remarks
- 9:15-9:45 Participant introductions
- 9:45-10:15 **THE ASGM CHALLENGE GLOBALLY**
- Moderators:** Natural Resource Defence Council (NRDC) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- Mercury Movie
  - What is ASGM - Size, Location, Diversity, Economy, Stakeholders, Issues
  - Solutions - Technical, Financial, Policy
  - The global gold trade and its relationship to ASGM
- 10:15- 11:15 **OUTCOME OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION PROCESS: MINAMATA CONVENTION**
- Moderator:** UNEP
- 11:15-11:30 BREAK
- 11:30-13:00 **SESSION 1: EXPERIENCES IN DEVELOPING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS**
- Moderator:** Natural Resource Defence Council
- Panellists:**  
Representatives from Asia and the Pacific (Government of Philippines)  
Representatives of the Latin America and Caribbean region (Government of Colombia and the Government of Peru)
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00- 16:30 **SESSION 2: IMPORTANCE OF INVENTORY DEVELOPMENT**
- Moderator:** Artisanal Gold Council
- Panellists:**  
UNEP  
Artisanal Gold Council  
Presentations and group discussion
- 16:30 - 18:00 **PLENARY**
- DAY 2**
- 8:30-9:30 **MORNING REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS**
- Regional groups will be tasked with reviewing a series of questions in preparation for the

day ahead.

9:45-10:00

**OPENING DAY 2**

**Moderator:** UNEP

Summarize previous day and map out current day

10:00-11:30

**SESSION 3: TECHNICAL APPROACHES TO REDUCING MERCURY USE**

**Moderator:** Sustainable Artisanal Mining (SAM) Project

**Panellists:**

UNIDO

Alliance for Responsible Mining

Bantoxics!

Discussion and questions (including summarised results of answers to morning regional consultations relevant to this panel session).

11:30- 11:45

BREAK

11:45-13:30

**SESSION 4: LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

**Moderator:** Natural Resource Defence Council

**Panellists:**

Alliance for Responsible Mining

Government of Peru/ Red social

Government of Ethiopia

Balifokus

Discussion and questions (including summarised results of answers to morning regional consultations relevant to this panel session).

13:30-14:30

LUNCH

14:30-17:30

**SESSION 5: HEALTH ISSUES RELATED TO ASGM**

**Moderator:** Artisanal Gold Council

**Panellists:**

CETEM, Brazil

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

UNIDO

Artisanal Gold Council

Panel session and discussion

17:30 - 18:00

**PLENARY:**

Report back from break-out groups

### **DAY 3**

8:30-9:30

#### **MORNING REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS**

Regional groups will be tasked with reviewing a series of questions in preparation for the day ahead.

9:45-10:00

#### **OPENING DAY 3**

Summarize previous day and map out current day

10:00-11:30

#### **SESSION 6: FINANCING THE TRANSITION AWAY FROM MERCURY**

**Moderator:** UNEP

**Presenters:**

Global Environment Facility

UNIDO

United States Department of State

Discussion and questions (including summarised results of answers to morning regional consultations relevant to this panel session).

11:30-11:45

**BREAK**

11:45-13:00

#### **SESSION 7: CREATION OF NEW PLATFORMS FOR COORDINATION COOPERATION AND REPORTING**

**Moderator:** Sustainable Artisanal Mining (SAM) Project

**Panellists:**

Government of Peru

World Bank communalities and small scale mining program (CASM)

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

13:00-14:00

**LUNCH**

14:00-15:30

#### **BREAK OUT GROUP ON COOPERATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFO EXCHANGE**

Discussion and questions (Why do we need new platforms for coordination and cooperation?)

15:30 - 16:30

#### **PLENARY:**

Report back from break-out groups and ideas for future information exchange/cooperation;

16:30-17:00

#### **SUMMARY FINAL DISCUSSION**

## ANNEX 1

## Reference Materials for Participants

A number of reference materials are listed below that will be referred to during the Global Forum. Delegates are expected to be familiar with this information and material in advance of the meeting.

For reasons of economy and environment, delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to the meeting and not to request additional copies.

- **Draft text of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

[http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/INC5/5\\_7\\_e\\_annex\\_advance.pdf](http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Mercury/Documents/INC5/5_7_e_annex_advance.pdf)

The final language versions of the Convention text will be posted as soon as they are finalized. The advance language versions of the draft text of the Minamata Convention on Mercury are available at: <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/MinamataConvention/DiplomaticConference/tabid/105832/Default.aspx>.

- **Technical aspects of Mercury and Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining**

*A PRACTICAL GUIDE: Reducing mercury use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining:*

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/TechnicalGuidanceDoc/tabid/104260/Default.aspx>

**Available in English and French.**

*Draft Technical measures for incorporation into the U.N. International guidelines on mercury management in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (UNIDO), June 2007.*

Spiegel SJ, Veiga MM. *International Guidelines on Mercury Management in Small-Scale Gold Mining*, Journal of Cleaner Production (2009), doi: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2009.10.020

- **National Action Planning**

*Guidance Document: Developing a National Strategic Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (UNEP), June 2011.* Available at:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/NationalStrategicPlan/tabid/53985/Default.aspx>

**Available in English, French and Spanish**

Examples:

Philippines: <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/2011-06-03%20NSP-ASGM.FINAL.2011.pdf>

- **Legal and financing the transition away from mercury**

Formalization of the ASGM sector including case studies. Available at:

<http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/PrioritiesforAction/ArtisanalandSmallScaleGoldMining/FormalizationoftheASGMSector/tabid/79426/Default.aspx>

GEF guidelines: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/>

## ANNEX 2

### Questions for participants

your country/organization \_\_\_\_\_

Before the workshop, participating governments are asked to complete this questionnaire and bring to the forum. Kindly also mail this to UNEP ([usman.tariq@unep.org](mailto:usman.tariq@unep.org) and [rolac.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:rolac.chemicals@unep.org)) as soon as possible but no later than 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013. This will provide the forum with more information about the ASGM sector and allow a richer conversation. If it is not possible to answer all these questions, please just respond as completely as you can. Your answers will be a part of the meeting report unless otherwise instructed.

#### Sectoral profile questions:

- How many people are engaged in ASGM mining in your country (Please provide an approximate range)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Where does mining take place within the country (throughout, or concentrated geographically)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who does the mining? (Check all that apply)  
 family landowners     migrant workers     immigrant workers  
 workers hired by landowners     women     children involved in the work  
 Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- How many women and children are involved in the sector? \_\_\_\_\_ women \_\_\_\_\_ children
- How much gold do these miners produce each year? \_\_\_\_\_ grams, \_\_\_\_\_ in MT (metric tonnes)
- What price do miners get for gold? \_\_\_\_\_ per ounce, \_\_\_\_\_ % below spot price
- How do the miners get access to mercury? (check all that apply)  
 gold shop  
 dentist office  
 mine owner  
 other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- How much do the miners pay for mercury? \_\_\_\_\_/liter or per kilo
- Are miners sensitive to price of mercury? (would they use less if it cost more?) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have an estimate of how much mercury miners use to produce gold? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, what is your estimate? \_\_\_\_\_ grams mercury/1 gram gold produced?  
  
How did you make this estimate?
- What are the common technologies and practices used by the miners? (check all that apply)  
 crushing and grinding with mercury (e.g. whole ore amalgamation)  
 crushing and grinding, followed by concentration, with mercury added to concentrates  
 mercury-free, chemical-free processes such as gravity concentration (using sluices, centrifuge, shaking table etc)  
 chemical leaching process (such as cyanide leaching) on ore  
 chemical leaching process (such as cyanide leaching) on tailings

- If mercury is used, how is amalgamation performed? How is the amalgam burnt?
- Are retorts used when amalgam is burned? yes, usually sometimes rarely never
- How do miners purify the gold (if they do)? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the level of local knowledge about alternatives to mercury? High  Low
- Are programs or trainings available regarding alternatives?  Yes  No  
If so, what are the adoption rates for these alternatives?  High  Low
- How well do miners understand the dangers of mercury? Don't know  Know but don't care   
Know but have no alternative
- Who buys the gold from the miners? Where does the purchase take place (eg, in the field? At gold shops?)
- Do the gold buyers purify the gold?  Yes  No  
If so, how – do they use any mercury capture methods when purifying the gold?  Yes  No

Environmental Questions:

- What are the kinds of impacts you know about or have observed? (please check all that apply)
  - deforestation
  - mercury contamination
  - cyanide contamination
  - sedimentation or other impact on water bodies
  - other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you can, please provide detail on the scale of the impacts, such as the number of acres or hectares affected. (provide photos if possible)

- Are there any special studies or data collected on environmental contamination or health impacts from ASGM that have been performed in your country, of which you are aware?  
Yes  No  Can you provide these? \_\_\_\_\_

Legal/social questions:

- What is the legal/regulatory status of small scale mining?  
 legal  extra-legal  illegal

What is the legal status of mercury use?  
 legal  not legal

- How are miners typically organized?
  - individuals or family groups
  - owners with paid labor or shared profit model
  - cooperatives
  - other (specify)
- How do miners typically access capital? \_\_\_\_\_
- Besides the artisanal and small scale miners, who are the key stakeholders at national regional and local levels, including government and community-based organizations active in mining communities? Please list and provide contact information where possible.

Non-governmental organizations \_\_\_\_\_

Civil society organizations \_\_\_\_\_

Health Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Education Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Industry Ministry \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry of Mines \_\_\_\_\_

Local Government \_\_\_\_\_

Provincial Government \_\_\_\_\_

Large Scale Mines \_\_\_\_\_

Questions related to Minamata Convention obligations:

- Has your country developed a national inventory of mercury use in ASGM? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  
- Was the ‘UNEP toolkit to estimate the releases of mercury to air, land and water from various sources’ used for this estimate? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
  
- What do you see as the gaps in the inventory? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- What activities has your government initiated to prepare for the Minamata Convention? Specifically, what activities address obligations under the ASGM Article 7 (see attached)? \_\_\_\_\_ -

Ideas for Assistance

- What specific kinds of assistance would be most helpful to your country in implementing obligations under the Convention?

	Need NOW	Need in future
Technical assistance		
Training on doing mercury inventories	_____	_____
Training on alternative mining techniques to reduce or eliminate mercury use and release	_____	_____



Training on mercury capture during purification	_____	_____
On-line training of miners and processors	_____	_____
 Policy development		
Setting up formalization system	_____	_____
Land tenure/property rights/cadastre system	_____	_____
Facilitation of national action plans	_____	_____
 Marketing approach		
Developing supply chains to maximize mercury-free	_____	_____
Addressing health impact issues	_____	_____
Training for environmentally-sound management of mercury	_____	_____
 Mercury storage		
National action plan on storage- facilitation	_____	_____
Training, technical criteria of facilities	_____	_____
Other (please describe)	_____	_____

Ideas for information exchange or regional coordination

One of the key outcomes from this forum could be recommendations on the types of coordination and cooperation countries would like to see, and what kinds of information sharing would be useful.

- Is sustainability or replicability of successful projects an issue in your country? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

- If so, how can this be encouraged? Do you have an example of a project to showcase? Please detail:

\_\_\_\_\_

- Do you see coordination of assistance as important in your country? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If so, what is the best mode for coordination, in your view? \_\_\_\_\_-

Are regional workshops truly useful? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Would on-line coordination be more cost-effective and useful? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

- Are there coordination networks in place now that could be expanded to include ASGM? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

(please provide details) \_\_\_\_\_

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