



**World Health  
Organization**



**Global Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint**

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## **Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint/Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Friday 10 May 2019, 14:30- 16:30 Geneva time

Teleconference meeting

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Joanna Tempowski, who noted that it had been six months since the previous meeting. Desiree Narvaez also welcomed participants to the meeting and invited Walker Smith to chair the meeting.

#### **2. Organizational matters**

##### **a. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the agenda with no changes.

##### **b. Organization of work**

Walker Smith introduced the organization of work.

#### **3. Review of progress in implementing the Business Plan of the Global Alliance**

##### **a. Presentation of the final draft LPA Activity report for 2017-2018**

Angela Bandemehr introduced the report noting that all comments received had already been taken on board.

The Advisory Council took note of the report.

##### **b. Presentation of the final draft LPA Action Plan for 2019-2020**

Ms. Bandemehr introduced the report noting that 4 action areas had been agreed and all comments taken on board apart from one from Colombia that still needed to be incorporated requesting that an action to work with the ILO be added to the action plan under action area 1. Angela noted that ILO had recently become a partner and that this action was appropriate.

The Advisory Council agreed the action plan.

c. Report by Advisory Council members on progress under the 2017-2018 Action Plan

**Kenya:** Regretfully Farida Were's microphone could not be accessed therefore her update was provided by email. From Farida's email, she reported that the East Africa technical standard of 90 ppm total lead has been approved at the secretariat level and is now waiting for gazetting by partner states after which it will be mandatory in the member states of the East Africa community.

**Colombia:** Rodolfo Alarcon reported that there had been limited progress in the previous 6 months. A newsletter had been published and an inventory of paints, specifically decorative paints with emphasis on lead content had been made. Along with the inventory Colombia was working on preparing 2 guidelines, the first to the private sector – a paint manufacturing company – offering alternative technology to substitute use of lead; and the second to the government providing an action plan on how to address lead in paint from the point of view of government. The guidelines would be shared when finished, planned for the second half of 2019. Participation in the GEF project was scheduled to start the following month. Colombia will be engaging in a regulatory effort on lead paint, which will take some time. Colombia noted that the Ministry of Health policy brief on lead in paint was provided in a link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/DE/PES/resumen-politica-pinturas-plomo.pdf>

**Moldova:** Elena Jardan presented progress in Moldova. She said a country action plan would be developed shortly. Four specific areas are targeted to develop a regulation for the elimination and control of lead in paint to be reviewed by the Cabinet of Ministers. A circular letter had been developed and disseminated to national stakeholders and the nomination of an additional person to include in the intersectoral working group was expected. Work was underway to translate the model law and to consider how to initiate the development of the regulation. The regulation will target producers and suppliers of paints. Working with other national stakeholders a country road map had been developed. For now, there still remain many technical questions for which assistance, in particular legal expertise, was required from WHO, UNEP and USEPA.

Further to a request for clarification on the differences between the regulation being drafted and the chemicals law that was already elaborated, Ms. Jardan said that a law was in place but for lead in paint it was still necessary to include all provisions and restrictions based on the model law. Harmonization with EU law is on a two-year timeline, however with health sector backing it was agreed to develop a lead in paint regulation sooner and not wait the 2 years to harmonize with EU law.

**ABA-ROLI:** Jay Monteverde reported that ABA-ROLI-ROLI worked with the UNEP Regional Office for North America to host an embassy briefing during lead paint week in 2018. Presentations were made on raising awareness on lead poisoning and lead paint as a source of lead exposure. ABA-ROLI-ROLI has contributed to providing support to various countries for reviewing draft laws, regulations, statutes or standards in collaboration with UNEP, WHO, USEPA, IPEN and others. Recent collaboration included support to South Africa, Zambia and the East African Community.

With relation to the launch of the GEF project, ABA-ROLI had participated in the workshops already held, and plans to attend future ones. Discussions had been held on the model law, what it recommended and how it reached its recommendations. There was continued setting up of ABA-ROLI roles and tools to use in implementing the GEF project with relation to coordinating and providing support. Two regional leads were identified in Europe/Eurasia – staff lawyers in the Kyrgyzstan office in Bishkek; and a lead for Latin America and the Caribbean region based in Mexico City, who would assist in the organization and coordination for those regions. Preparations were in place for the GEF project that included tracking legal support activities. The tracking system would be launched within a couple of weeks. An online platform would be established for project executing agencies to coordinate and communicate with others.

**IPEN:** Jeiel noted that IPEN had participated in the lead in paint week of action for 2018 with 35 IPEN partner NGOs in 32 countries. A newsletter to circulate and post on the IPEN website was being

finalized. IPEN was working with a partner in South Korea on a paint study which would be released in the following month. There was close coordination with the Zambia children's environmental health foundation regarding the Zambia draft law and technical assistance and advice provided regarding the draft, which had been submitted to the Zambian government.

IPEN had participated in the past workshops and would participate in the future ones. In the forthcoming week an IPEN NGO partner in Vietnam would speak at an Asian coatings conference to discuss the issues of lead paint in Asia and updating regulations in Vietnam. In June, a colleague from Kenya would speak at an East African coatings meeting. IPEN is working with a partner organization in Zambia to provide technical input to a new draft law.

An additional SME Philippine paint company producing 589 paints had been certified under the IPEN third-party certification scheme as producing lead-safe paints. This brings the number of certified paint manufacturers in the Philippines to three.

Regarding South Korea he clarified that there was a voluntary paint standard of 600ppm with limited scope. One other standard over 100,000 ppm referred to industrial paint; however, such paints can be bought online and could be used in homes., IPEN will work with an NGO partner to lower the standard to 90ppm and to place industrial paints within their scope.

**IPPIC:** Raleigh Davis highlighted the Lead Paint Alliance Regulatory Tool Kit, which includes information regarding the paint industry perspective and which was being used to promote government and industry awareness related to area 1 of the action plan (establishing lead paint laws). The Toolkit includes information on the basis for the recommended 90 ppm restriction, what it means in practice and the difference between decorative and industrial paints. Positive case studies are promoted to show that it is possible to put controls in place. Additionally, the relationship with a broader chemicals management agenda was highlighted and further, understanding of the industry role.

Industry representatives went to the Regional workshop in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and others were expected to participate in the workshops for Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific. Next steps include engaging critical raw material suppliers where there might be unknown sources of lead and emphasizing sources and pathways of lead exposure.

The Serbian Cleaner Production Center (CPC) is spearheading the development of Paint Reformulation Guidelines for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), for which IPPIC has received comments from industry. The Guidelines are draft and in the process of being revised as informed by stakeholder input and SME pilot demonstrations to occur over the next year.

**USEPA:** Angela Bandemehr noted USEPA's role as an executing partner of the GEF project. USEPA was assisting UNEP to develop a coordinated process and improve communications. USEPA is participating in all workshops and assisting ABA-ROLI and UNEP in reviewing laws that are being developed. USEPA was looking for ways to raise awareness on lead in paint at meetings they attend and looked forward to the social media campaigns being developed by UNEP.

**WHO:** Joanna Tempowski reported on the lead in paint prevention week held at the end of October 2018. As in previous years a range of campaign material had been developed. The resource package, which provides guidance on how to conduct a campaign and key messages on lead paint, was updated, and a video message with statements from the Deputy Director General of WHO on why it was important to take action on lead paint. A total of 82 events were registered, involving 73 organizations in 50 countries, the majority using the resource package and posters, with a wide range of different activities such as media campaigns, TV interviews and lectures. She noted that the Advisory Council members were heavily involved. 2018 was the first time that certificates were issued to everyone who participated and positive feedback was received from that initiative, which would be continued henceforth. She said the report for the 2018 Week of Action was a little delayed but would be circulated shortly.

d. Status of pending laws

i. Overview

Ellie McCann gave a summary of the current status of pending laws. She said the status was being tracked by ABA-ROLI-ROLI and assistance was being provided through an ad hoc group, including USEPA, WHO, IPEN, ABA-ROLI-ROLI, until the GEF Project legal support process is functional.

**AFRICA:** The East African community was in the process of revising regional lead paint standard to be 90ppm total lead. Rwanda was drafting a new regulation to implement this standard and would communicate that at the Africa workshop. South Africa is not currently officially part of the GEF project but is in the process of revising a regulation in place that has a 600ppm lead limit in paint. The existing law was not sufficiently effective so a broader one with 90ppm for all paints was being planned. Zambia has drafted a law with a mandatory 90ppm for all paints, which was currently in public review, and for which comments had been provided. Once final it would be incorporated into a regulation.

**ASIA:** Cambodia was working on an overall environmental code and had planned to add lead paint to the code. However, it now appears that lead paint had been removed. Assistance had been provided to them over the past couple of years and confirmation of the status of lead paint in the environmental code is awaited. In the past, the Chinese government had expressed interest in improving their laws on lead paint, which is poorly enforced. We understand that China may now be working with an industry association to revise the law or develop a new regulation. Specific collaboration was underway with Viet Nam as there was a high level of interest from them to pursue a limit on lead in paint. The Viet Nam Chemicals Agency is now a partner of the Lead Paint Alliance.

**CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE:** Much information from the region had been provided during the recent workshop and Moldova's report at the beginning of the present meeting. Ukraine and Kazakhstan were working on a regulation. Ukraine had been given comments on their draft law, which was based on the model law. It was now with the cabinet of ministers.

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** Brazil has a law in place and is now developing an improved law. Given the current change in government further information would be needed on progress. CARICOM: a draft regulation on technical standards was circulated on lead content in water-based paints which was surprising given there is usually no lead in those paints. Hence further information was being sought. Jamaica was discussing a regulation, but nothing had yet been initiated. Mexico had a limited law with a 600 ppm limit. They aim to lower the limit to 90ppm; while nothing has yet been seen it was hoped that the proposed revision will soon be out for public comment. Colombia also reported at the present meeting.

- ii. East African Community standard development  
[Report submitted by Farida Were by email as reported above]

e. Report on UN Environment Assembly 4th session

Desiree Narvaez reported on the outcome of UNEA4. Resolution 9 on the sound management of chemicals and waste was submitted by the EU and its member states, the African Group and Switzerland. Para 14 addressed a task to the Executive Director and thereby to the UNEP Chemicals and Health branch, subject to the availability of resources and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to prepare a report by 30 April 2020 on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment identified by SAICM, the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO). This should include an analysis of existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, in particular for lead and cadmium.

The new GCO II will include an analysis of regional and policy frameworks and the ability to reach the 2020 goal in the section related to lead and cadmium 14 (f). UNEP will request Advisory Council assistance to deliver on this request. Further information will be provided by UNEP on other resolutions related to the implementation of the pollution plan.

UNEA held a successful science business forum. There was a strong interest in lead in paint although the event also included lead in batteries.

#### **4. Projects and Activities**

##### **a. SAICM GEF project lead paint component**

##### **i. Overall project progress to date**

Desiree Narvaez recalled that the GEF project inception workshop was held in January. Funded project executing partners that participated were: ABA-ROLI, IPEN, NCPCs – Serbia, Jordan, China, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador, in addition to non-funded executing partners USEPA and IPPIC. There is now a global executing team, a regional partner's executing team and a regional coordinating mechanism. The executing agency in UNEP is SAICM within the Chemicals and Health branch which will handle both the administrative and technical components.

Regional workshops are planned. The CEE workshop was held in Almaty. In May the Africa workshop will be held in Cote d'Ivoire; in May the Latin America and the Caribbean workshop will be held in Panama; and in July the Asia workshop will be held in Bangkok. These all relate to output 1.2 on Legal Support. For output 1.1 on SME Support, NCPC launches are continuing. One in Jordan took place in March. One for Latin America will be held in Lima for Peru, Panama and Colombia. A final one in China is scheduled for July. Work with SMEs in Nigeria and Indonesia by IPEN will begin soon.

##### **ii. Regional workshops**

Joanna Tempowski reported on the CEE workshop which was held in March. That first workshop had been organized fairly quickly. Representatives were present from 10 out of 12 countries participating in the project. The workshop was well organized thanks to the local UNEP office in Almaty. Dual presentations were made in Russian and English. All countries presented on their national situation. There were 3 blocks of countries: those that had technical regulations on paint; those aligning with REACH; and independent countries. These three groups have different needs.

Representatives from the Ukraine paint industry were positive in their support for phasing out lead in paint. Roadmaps were available from 6 governments: Belarus, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine. These need to be reviewed. The regional team having regional representatives from UNEP and WHO are working in close collaboration with their counterparts in Geneva offices.

##### **iii. SME support activities**

Desiree Narvaez reported on the Paint Reformulation Guidelines. The Guidelines were put together by NCPC Serbia and are ready for use in the pilot demonstration projects with SMEs. The first workshop held in Jordan was an opportunity to present the Guidelines. NCPCs in GEF Project countries will work with the Global and Regional Teams to reach out to the governments in those countries. Jordan currently has a 600ppm lead paint standard which they are planning to strengthen through efforts being undertaken with the environmental, industrial and health ministries as well as other stakeholders. The key reaction of industry when the Guidelines were presented concerned economic feasibility of paint reformulation to use non-lead additives. Industry was assured that it was

economically feasible, which was an important message for them to hear. NCPC Jordan has at least 4 further SMEs who will use the Guidelines in a pilot demonstration project.

Additional comments are expected on the Guidelines, which will be informed by and finalized after the conclusion of the pilot demonstration projects.

b. Communication and outreach, website, newsletter

Desiree Narvaez reported on the status of the UNEP website and uploading of information related to lead paint onto that website as well as on regional workshops updated to the SAICM website.

Joanna Tempowski reported on the updated interactive map of countries with lead paint laws in the WHO Global Health Observatory as well as information materials on lead.

Angela Bandemehr reported on USEPA assisting the Secretariat in developing the Lead Paint Alliance newsletter to be published quarterly. She reached out to the Advisory Council for input. An unformatted draft, normally ready for distribution by end of May in time for World Environment Day, was sent to the Advisory Council and included information on the GEF project and on progress on laws. The newsletter will include a Partners' Corner that will note new partners. The Advisory Council section will promote the progress on activities in the action plan. Updates are included in the current newsletter from IPEN, Colombia, Kenya and Moldova.

EU REACH has an update on lead chromate; the European Chemical Agency has been requested to clarify the language and the implications of the update.

## **5. Resource mobilization for the Global Alliance**

Desiree Narvaez reported that, for the present, the key source of funding was solely from GEF. Fund raising was still continuing but as yet no clear pledge had been received from any other donors on activities to support the Lead Paint Alliance. Joanna Tempowski added that the funds under the GEF project were small given the number of countries and all their needs. Resource mobilization should be kept on the agenda so that the Alliance can develop some ideas for fundraising.

## **6. Any other business**

Elena Jardan reported that producers of lead paint in Moldova want levels of lead lowered. With regard to alternative paint technologies, she looked forward to the guidelines being developed by Colombia being shared. The Government of Moldova and the Ministry of Health had organized lead paint prevention week and agreed on the need to take action for lead in paint and to have a positive outcome. A brief note on SAICM in Moldova would be presented to the World Health Assembly in May.

Raleigh Davis reported on yellow 64 and yellow 65 – pigments used to replace yellow lead chromate pigments. She said these were now scarce and expensive due to problems with production in China. An industrial incident on the site where an intermediate for the pigment was made had affected production. She said it might take about 1 year to resolve the situation and meanwhile producers in India were being contacted as a possible alternate source.

## **7. Closure of the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 16.30.

### **Advisory Council – Participants of the meeting**

ABA-ROLI-ROLI: Jay Monteverde

Colombia: Rodolfo Alarcon, Alba Luz Castro, and Gilberto O’Farrill

IPEN: Jeiel Guarino

IPPIC: Raleigh Davis

Kenya: Farida Were

Moldova: Elena Jardan

UN Environment: Desiree Narvaez, Meera Laurijssen, and Victor Estellano (UNEP).

US CDC: Sharunda Buchanan

USEPA: Walker Smith, Angela Bandemehr, Ellie McCann

WHO: Joanna Tempowski