



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Advisory Group
Tenth meeting**
Geneva, 23 November 2019

**Proposals for updates to the UNEP Global Mercury
Partnership Overarching Framework**

Introduction

1. Mercury partnerships were initiated in 2005 by the UNEP Governing Council (Decision 23/9) and formalized in 2008 through the development of the Overarching Framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.
2. The Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership would like to propose updates to the current version of the Overarching Framework, to reflect a number of evolutions, including the adoption and entry into force of the Minamata Convention as well as practices under the Partnership.
3. The PAG may wish to consider the updates proposed by the Secretariat in Annex I to the present note and discuss whether additional changes may need to be needed.

Annex I

Proposals for updates to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Overarching Framework

Layout and visual identity

4. The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership has developed a visual identity, including logo, which the Secretariat would like to suggest are reflected in the Partnership Overarching Framework document layout. In addition, UNEP has since October 2019 a new logo and visual identity.

Organizational evolutions within UNEP

5. Further to organizational evolutions within UNEP, information on the cover pages as well as contact details of UNEP, including websites addresses, need to be updated.

Introduction

6. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

The [attached present](#) document, which explains 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 was forwarded to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session where progress made by the Partnership was welcomed and the continued involvement of UNEP in the Partnership was endorsed. [It has been subsequently revised and updated to reflect latest developments.](#)

Preamble

7. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

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

[In Decision 25/5 part III, UNEP Governing Council, amongst others commended “the Executive Director and members of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership for their progress in developing and implementing the Partnership as a vehicle for immediate action on mercury”; welcomed “the progress made by the Partnership in creating an overarching framework for immediate action in the priority areas identified in decision 24/3, section IV” and endorsed “the continued involvement of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Partnership”.](#)

[In Decision 26/3 part II, UNEP Governing Council acknowledged “the progress made by the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme, including under the Global Mercury Partnership and other initiatives”; urged “Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership” and “all partners to continue their efforts to take immediate steps to reduce risks from mercury exposure”. It further requested “the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake specific actions in the context of the Global Mercury Partnership to strengthen the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to initiate or further develop their national inventories of mercury”.](#)

[In Decision 27/12 part III, UNEP Governing Council welcomed “the efforts by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to take immediate action on mercury through the Global Mercury Partnership”, urged “all partners to continue their efforts” and “Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support, participate in, and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership”. It further requested “the Executive Director to continue to provide the necessary support to the Global Mercury Partnership”.](#)

[In Decision 25/5 part III, UNEP Governing Council had also requested “the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury”. This mandate was reaffirmed by the Governing Council through its decision 26/3. The negotiations process led to the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 10 October 2013 at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Kumamoto, Japan. The Minamata Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017. The objective of the Convention is to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.](#)

[The Global Mercury Partnership has played an important role in helping build momentum for a global legally-binding instrument on mercury, and contributed knowledge to negotiators, other stakeholders and the public during the negotiations process through the entry into force of the Convention. It worked closely with stakeholders to assist in the timely ratification and implementation of the Convention. The Partnership currently focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention, on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.](#)

The [Overarching Framework Document](#) development of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership ~~will complement and support the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3. It has been~~ was developed in 2008 in consultation with governments and other stakeholders ~~and has been~~ subsequently revised and updated to reflect latest developments. It should be viewed as a dynamic document that will be reviewed and updated in the light of experience with its application.

Section 1. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Goal

8. The Secretariat would like to suggest adding at the end of the section the following text:

[In undertaking its work, the Global Mercury Partnership and its partnership areas should focus on:](#)

[- Supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention;](#)

[- Providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and](#)

[- Delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.](#)

Section 2. Organizational Structure

9. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

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~~ aims to provide broad oversight, coherence, direction and facilitation. ~~It will~~, to assist partners in coordinating objectives and to serve as a body for deliberation on cross-cutting issues. (...)

10. In figure 1 (Organizational Structure), the Secretariat would like to suggest adding the Partnership Area on “Mercury releases from the cement industry”. The PAG may wish to discuss whether it wishes to establish a Partnership Area on “Mercury releases from non-ferrous metals mining” or leave it as “potential other” Partnership Area, as well as whether to bring any other change(s) to established or potential Partnership Areas.

11. The Secretariat would also like to suggest the following adjustments:

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is comprised of representatives of governments, regional economic integration organizations, [international organizations, industry or business organizations, non-governmental/civil society organizations or academic institutions that support the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Goal as well as any other entities or individuals who agree to work towards the Partnership Goal.](#) ~~and major groups and sectors (including NGOs, academia, science and industry)~~

Section 7. Evaluation

12. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

(...) UNEP will facilitate reporting of progress to governments, including the ~~UNEP Governing Council~~ [United Nations Environment Assembly](#) or its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate.

[Regular reports on activities undertaken within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will also be submitted to meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.](#)

Annex I – Operational Guidelines - Section 1. The Partnership

13. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship (...), 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) [and of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.](#)

Annex I – Operational Guidelines - Section 2. Participation

14. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

- (...)
- [\(d\) UNEP may request additional information from potential partners based on UNEP's rules and policies.](#)
- [\(e\) Participation in the Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP.](#)

Annex I – Operational Guidelines - Section 3. Partnership Advisory Group

15. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

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

Annex I – Operational Guidelines - Section 4. Meetings

16. The Secretariat would like to suggest the following adjustments:

- (...) (b) The partnership areas (...)
- (vi) Each of the partnership areas will designate a lead [or co-leads](#) who will serve for a two year term. The lead(s) may be re-elected.