



Atoms for Peace

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国际原子能机构

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Environment Laboratories

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In reply please refer to: 45599445

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Mr Jacob Duer
Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch
Economy Division
UNEP Chemicals Branch DTIE
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Chatelaine
GENEVE
SWITZERLAND

2020-03-30

Dear Mr Duer,

Thank you for your e-mail dated 26 August 2019, inviting the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to become a partner of the UNEP Environmental Global Mercury Partnership. It is my pleasure to accept your invitation and to submit the respective registration form.

I understand that the participation in the UNEP Environment Global Mercury Partnership is voluntary and non-binding, functioning on an “opt-in” basis, and that participation may be unilaterally discontinued at any time by the IAEA.

It is also my understanding that any partner organization is expected to provide the in-kind support or funding necessary to support its own engagement in the initiative.

Further to your request to signify support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how the IAEA will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, please note that the IAEA Environment Laboratories are assisting countries inter alia in the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of their environmental monitoring of hazardous pollutants, such as trace elements like mercury and its organic species. Some of the primary activities include: development of criteria for generating high-quality data for monitoring programmes; validation and distribution of recommended analytical procedures for determination of mercury and methyl mercury in different environmental samples and at different concentration levels; production of matrix certified reference materials; organization of global inter-laboratory comparisons; training and capacity building of laboratory practitioners from Member States laboratories; and assisting Member States with mercury monitoring when requested.

These activities are implemented by

- 1) Providing fit-for-purpose and fully validated analytical procedures for the determination of mercury and its species in biota and sediment according to the requirements of the accepted international standards. Specific guidelines for the analysis of mercury and its species in biota comprising recommended methods for sampling, sample preservation and preparation, instrumental analysis, data treatment and uncertainty evaluation could be developed upon receiving a mandate for this.

- 2) Producing and distributing matrix certified reference materials, with certified mass fractions of mercury and methyl mercury in biota and sediment. Other reference material of specific biota species can be produced and certified within a timeframe of 2-3 years, subject to the availability of raw material and funding.
- 3) Organizing of targeted proficiency tests and inter laboratory comparisons for the analysis of trace elements including Hg and MeHg in marine matrix samples, such as fish, mussels, clams, marine sediment to check laboratories performance.
- 4) Reporting of Interlaboratory Comparisons routinely provide a list of laboratories that have taken part in the exercise and could therefore be used to identify laboratories capable to participate in Hg monitoring.

The IAEA Environment laboratories are prepared to assist the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership and IAEA Member States to establish or strengthen environmental mercury monitoring efforts through the above listed activities.

In order to facilitate effective communication as we initiate cooperation, we identified as contact point for the IAEA Sylvia Sander (S.Sander@iaea.org), Section Head, Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory, IAEA Environment Laboratories. I am looking forward to cooperation under the UNEP Environment Global Mercury Partnership.

I would greatly appreciate the confirmation to become a member of this partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. Mokhtar', written over a horizontal line.

Najat Mokhtar
Deputy Director General
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet provides an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address:
www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances

GOAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP

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.

PARTNERSHIP AREAS

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to take immediate actions to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Established in 2008, the partnership supports immediate actions on mercury in parallel to the negotiations of a mercury convention.

The following partnership areas have been initiated:

- 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;
- mercury waste management;
- mercury supply and storage; and
- mercury releases from cement industry.

OUR PARTNERS

More than 100 partners from IGOs, NGOs and private sector:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership;
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities;
- Network with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

BECOMING A PARTNER

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.

Letters should be submitted to :

Head of Branch
UNEP Chemicals Branch DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: metals.chemicals@unep.org

In submitting this letter, UNEP requests partners to complete the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be acknowledged by UNEP. Your confirmation letter will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals Branch web site.



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

PARTNERSHIP AREA

Please check the partnership areas to which your organization intends to contribute to:

- 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
- mercury waste management
- mercury supply and storage mercury supply and storage
- mercury releases from the cement industry

Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.

ORGANIZATION NAME

NAME, FUNCTIONAL TITLE
 OF REPRESENTATIVE

ADDRESS OF
 ORGANIZATION

TEL. No.

EMAIL

FAX No.

WEBSITE/URL

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

- Government
- Regional economic integration organization
- Non-government Organization
- Industry
- Scientific community
- Other, please specify: _____

*UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal. The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to: