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October 30th, 2020

Re: Letter of support to join UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Dear Global Mercury Partnership representatives,

With this letter, the Clínica de Direitos Humanos e Direito Ambiental e Mestrado em Direito Ambiental (“Clinic”) of the University of the State of Amazonas expresses its interest to join and become a member of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, especially in the area of artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM).

Contamination of air, soil, and water by mercury is a global problem. In Brazil, this is one of the most serious environmental and public health problems and, paradoxically, the most neglected in remote regions. Besides the gold mining activity in which mercury amalgamation is largely used, recent studies have proved acute exposure scenarios in areas where it is large-scale projects, like hydroelectric dams and deforestation. Furthermore, the environment contaminated by mercury is difficult to repair. When mercury is deposited in human tissues, serious and irreversible injuries appear, affecting most seriously mining workers, children, women of childbearing age, pregnant women, and beyond them, future generations. Ingestion of fish contaminated with mercury is the major cause of exposure of Amazonian populations to mercury because it is the main source of food to them.

The Clinic’s project entitled “Mining Socio-environmental Impacts on Indigenous Peoples and Riverine Communities in the Amazon” works on issues especially related to mercury use and contamination through ASGM. The project aims to develop the content of the digital platform on the risks of human exposure and the environmental contamination to mercury using a friendly

human rights language to improve access and understanding of information in the public domain on the issue. The dissemination of information on the serious consequences for human health and the environment due to exposure to mercury can contribute to reducing the risks of intoxication, diseases, and environmental degradation. Many people are not warned of mercury exposure and its consequences, so it is important to inform them about the research results and educate them with the guidelines to prevent mercury intoxication (for example, to decrease the consumption of carnivorous fish or to eat more tropical fruit among others). The development and maintenance of a highly interactive digital platform for the project will provide wide dissemination of the results and products of the developed research.

The Clinic is interested in joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership in order to share information and content with organizations that share the goal of the 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.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our application and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Silvia Loureiro
/s/ Silvia Loureiro



UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Yellowfin Tuna, Courtesy NOAA Fisheries, © Photo by Jeff Muir

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:

web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership

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 between various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve its goal.

Initiated in 2005¹, the Partnership today focuses its work on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; on providing state of the art knowledge and science on mercury; and on delivering outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury.

¹ UNEP Governing Council Decision 23/9

The Partnership is structured around eight 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
- Mercury waste management
- Mercury supply and storage
- Mercury releases from the cement industry

OUR PARTNERS

Over 190 partners from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and academic institutions:

- Support the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contribute resources or expertise to the development and implementation of Partnership activities.
- Network with other organizations, agencies, entities and 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. The letter should also specify how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the Partnership.

Together with this letter, UNEP requests interested entities or individuals to also complete and submit the registration form (see reverse). Participation in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP. Partners' letters of support will be made public through the UNEP's website.

SUPPORT LETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO:

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