



Great Lakes Center for Occupational  
& Environmental Health at the  
University of Illinois at Chicago



A WHO Collaborating Center

September 23, 2020

Head, Chemicals and Health Branch  
UNEP Economy Division  
Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Dear UNEP:

Please accept this letter of interest to join the Global Mercury Partnership from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. We house a designated Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization in the realms of Occupational and Environmental Health, a status that we have enjoyed since 1996; we have recently received re-designation through 2024.

Under contract from WHO, we completed a [literature review](#) and developed a curriculum for primary healthcare providers who care for individuals exposed to mercury through work in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. This curriculum was pilot-tested in Ghana and evaluated by a panel of connoisseur environmental health educators. We are most interested in making this curriculum widely and freely available; we would like to collaborate with UNEP, to this end.

Our WHO CC is embedded in the division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at UIC-SPH, where we educate university students at the baccalaureate, master, and doctoral levels, and provide continuing education courses. We also do community outreach, education and advocacy. Notably, our Great Lakes Children's Environmental Health unit does public outreach and education related to prevention of dietary mercury intake. Also, our researchers are working on a point of care test for mercury levels, as well. There are likely many areas of overlap where we could engage with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Thank you for your consideration of our application to become a UNEP-GMP partner.

Kind regards,

Linda Forst, MD, MPH  
Director, Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Health  
Professor and Senior Associate Dean



# 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](http://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 2005<sup>1</sup>, 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch  
Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme**  
Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: [metals@un.org](mailto:metals@un.org)



# UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

## PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Please check the partnership area(s) to which your organization intends to contribute to:

- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- Mercury releases from coal combustion
- Mercury cell chlor-alkali production
- Mercury waste management
- Mercury air transport and fate research
- Mercury supply and storage
- Mercury in products
- Mercury releases from the cement industry

> Please specify in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the selected partnership area(s).

## ORGANIZATION APPLYING TO BECOME A PARTNER

Name of Organization:

Type of Organization:

Government	Industry
Intergovernmental Organization	Academia
Non-governmental Organization	Other, please specify

Mailing Address:

Postcode: City: Country:

E-mail:

Telephone: Website:

## ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Ms.

First Name: Last Name:

Functional Title:

Section / Department:

E-mail:

\* 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 its 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:

**Head, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division  
United Nations Environment Programme**

Palais des Nations  
8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
E-mail: metals@un.org