

INFORMATION NOTE:

Results of the study on the possible effects on human health and the environment in Africa of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury

9 February 2009

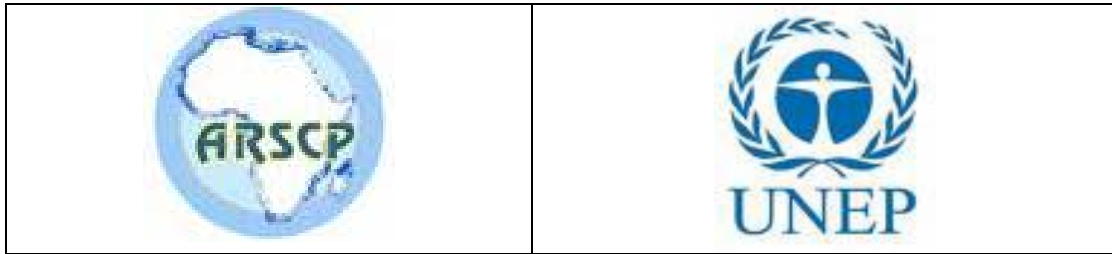
UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3 III requested UNEP to provide available information on lead and cadmium to address the data and information gaps identified in the Interim reviews of scientific information on lead and cadmium, to compile an inventory of existing risk management measures; and to report back to the next Governing Council at its 25th regular session in 2009.

Based on concerns expressed by African countries, UNEP is co-operating with The African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) in a project entitled "*Study on the possible effects on human health and the environment in Africa of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury*", which has been possible thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Sweden.

The aim of the study is to fill some of those data and information gaps identified in the Interim reviews of scientific information on lead and cadmium and for mercury information gaps identified elsewhere, and in particular to address the global flow of lead, cadmium and mercury in products. This task has currently being done by analyzing the trade, use and disposal of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury in Africa in order to assess how this can lead to adverse human and environmental effects due to the release of these toxic elements.

A full range of products have been assessed in order to be able to identify and focus on types of products that constitute to the main hazards to health and environment. The study consists of a comprehensive collection, compilation and analysis of data on trade and transfers of products to Africa based on available databases and sources. The study also quantifies the extent of the problem and includes case studies to describe concrete examples of how some products containing lead, cadmium and mercury can have adverse effects on the human health and the environment in Africa, but also examples of sound management of products containing these toxic metals.

The results of the above-mentioned study are intended to be presented on the morning of the 9th February 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants attending the Informal Workshop on Stakeholders' Information Needs on Chemicals in Articles/Products from that date onwards are very welcome to attend the discussions and presentation of this study. Should you have any questions with regard to this event, please contact Mr. Juan F. Caicedo R at jcaicedo@chemicals.unep.ch (Tel +41 22 917 84 27).



“Study of the possible effects on human health and the environment in Africa of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury” ¹

9 February, 2009 (am)

Geneva, Switzerland

Tentative Agenda:	
09:00 – 09:15	Introduction and background UNEP Governing Council on lead and cadmium: past, present and future, <i>UNEP</i>
09:15 – 10:20	Presentation of the results of the: Study of the possible effects on human health and the environment in Africa of the trade of products containing lead, cadmium and mercury, <i>African Roundtable of Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>
10:20 – 11:00	African case-study(ies)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 11:50	Asian case-study
11:50 – 12:10	Latin America case-study
12:10 – 12:50	Open discussion and wrapping up
13:00	<i>Adjourn</i>

¹ Made possible thanks to the generous financial contribution of the Nordic Council of Ministers to the Workshop and Sweden’s sponsor to the study.