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**Mr. John Buccini**  
**Mercury Program Director**  
**UNEP Chemicals**  
**Email: mercury@unepchemicals.ch**

Dear Mr Buccini

Referring to your letter dated on 20 of May 2005 regarding the implementation of the UNEP Governing Council decision 23/9 IV on the mercury program, I have the honour to inform you that me as an individual academic member of staff and as the founder and manger of the Palestinian Association for Chemical Science PACS. PACS is NGO that deal with the environment issues and the protection of the environment from chemicals and hazard material is one of our missions. We considers the issue of dealing and management of chemical material that including mercury and its compounds as an important issue on its agenda. However Palestine as occupied land has suffered and still suffering from the Israel occupation which led to a significant limitation on the performance and developments in all the Palestinian life aspects that included the environmental section. As a sequences of the disengagement plan and the new political situation that created as a result of the disengagement plan, we are expecting a huge industrial revolution in Palestinian, and this with no doubt will be combined with so many problems and bad effects on the environment. In PACS we have prepared a plan in order to monitor and to improve the environmental

situation in Palestine that with a co-operation and coordination with the local, national and international governments, NGO'S, Universities and stakeholders.

In Palestine; mercury has been used and still in use in numerous products including pesticides, fungicides, paints, household equipments, thermometers batteries and gold processing and dental amalgam. The last four fields of mercury use regard as the most significant of mercury releases and their uses are contributing to air, water and land in a remarkable figures that due to the lack of experience in getting rid off and management of mercury and its compounds as well as the other heavy metals and chemicals in Palestine.

PACS and *via* UNEP partnership is aiming and looking forward to contribute to the international efforts to prevent the unnecessary use of mercury and its compounds and exchanging experience, ideas and share information and provide technical assistance with the international community in order to prevent and reduce mercury use.

On the base of the above we will be pleased to hear that UNEP will take in consideration our effort in improving the environmental situation on Palestine as developing country, and would agree to accept our membership in the mercury program.

Best regards

Rami Y. Morjan