

**Revised Discussion Paper Following the Informal Consultation on the
“Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-alkali Sector” held on May 25, 2005
Portland, Maine, United States
June 21, 2005**

On May 25, 2005 an informal consultation on the “Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-alkali Sector” was held in Portland, Maine. Additional details on the informal consultation can be found in the meeting report, also on the [UNEP website](#). Both the [revised discussion paper](#) and [the meeting report](#) reflect the current state of the discussion. Further comments will be taken into account as stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss this partnership within the structure of their national government or organization, and to consider the development and implementation of pilot projects under the partnership.

The Chlor-alkali Partnership

Some chlor-alkali plants, which produce chlorine and caustic soda, use mercury cell technologies. Significant mercury use and emissions reductions can be achieved in this production process through immediate actions such as the sharing of best management practices or, when warranted, introduction of non-mercury cell technologies. The “Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-alkali Sector” would bring together governments, international organizations, national and international companies, trade associations, healthcare, and environmental organizations, international funding institutions, and other interested stakeholders from around the world to share information and provide technical assistance, with a focus on developing countries, on successful approaches for reducing or eliminating mercury use in particular facilities.

Proposed Goal of the Partnership

The Partnership would seek to make information available on public policy and industry experiences for improving the environmental performance of mercury cell chlor-alkali facilities, as well as making available operational information on, for example, non-mercury cell technology, or provide mercury exposure information for factory workers and operations. The Partnership would also seek to promote the reduction or elimination of global mercury releases in the chlor-alkali process of particular facilities through conversion to non-mercury cell technology or the adoption of best management practices.

Proposed Objectives of the Partnership

- Exchange information and expertise on methods for improving the environmental performance of mercury cell factories.
- Transfer and apply best management practices for reducing or eliminating releases from the chlor-alkali process.
- Improve the availability of public information regarding the global consumption of mercury used in and released by the chlor-alkali production process to establish a baseline for reporting on future reductions.

Proposed Initial Actions of the Partnership

The partners could agree to work together to:

- Pursuant to [the decision of the Governing Council](#), consider options for reporting procedures and evaluation of mercury reductions.
- Exchange information on approaches and programs for reducing or eliminating mercury from the chlor-alkali process. The information would come from both the public sector, where governments have taken steps to address mercury releases and provide safety information for workers, as well as from the private sector, where advancements in mercury reductions have been achieved. Information could be shared by developing a clearinghouse on the [UNEP website](#).
- Develop a work plan with an identified time line for this phase of the partnership, including mobilizing the necessary resources to address initial projects under the partnership and initiating implementation of such projects.
- Facilitate the transfer of successful approaches for reducing and eliminating the use of mercury in the chlor-alkali process at the factory level.
- Produce the first consolidated global report of best available information on mercury consumption in the chlor-alkali sector by 2006.
- Conduct pilot projects over the next two years to assist facilities in determining the appropriate approach to address mercury, such as conversion to non-mercury cell technology or demonstration of best practices for reducing mercury use in the manufacturing process by providing on-site technical assistance and training in countries identified during the course of the partnership meetings as in need of assistance.

Becoming a Partner

[The UNEP Mercury Program](#) welcomes all stakeholders to participate in the Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-alkali Sector. Generally, a partner is an entity who indicates a willingness to contribute time, resources, or expertise to implement the partnership, which would be designed to advance the objectives of the [2005 UNEP Governing Council decision](#). Partners can include national, state or provincial governments, international organizations, national and international companies, trade associations, healthcare, and environmental organizations, international funding institutions, and other interested stakeholders. As partners, we would hope to work together very closely to ensure the success of this partnership by working to identify the elements and mechanisms necessary to achieve the objectives of the partnership. Interested partners or participants should contact either [Mr. John Buccini](#), Director of the UNEP Chemicals Program, or his staff members: [Ms. Aase Tuxen](#) or [Mr. Juan Caicedo](#).