



## MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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MPUE: 14/1/26

September 5, 2005

Mr. John Buccini  
Director  
UNEP Chemicals  
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Geneva  
SWITZERLAND

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To	Mr. John Buccini	From	Mr. Earl Nesbitt	
Co./Dept.	UNEP Chemicals	Co.	MPUE	
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Dear Mr. Buccini,

### Re: Governing Council Decision 23/9 IV on the Mercury Programme

Your letter dated May 20, 2005 on the captioned subject refers.

Trinidad and Tobago convened a Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Mercury Pollution in January 2005. The Workshop was held in collaboration with UNEP Chemicals as well as the Basel Convention Caribbean Regional Centre. The purpose of this workshop was to:

- Raise awareness of the global, regional and local nature of mercury pollution problems and assist countries to identify and prioritize mercury issues within their borders and within their region;
- Raise awareness of the potential options to reduce exposures, uses, and releases of mercury;
- Promote action, both immediate and long-term, at both national, regional and global levels to protect human health and the environment from mercury releases (in line with UNEP GC decision 22/4 V);
- Promote the exchange of information on problems and solutions;
- Prepare countries for future discussions of further measures for addressing the significant global adverse impacts of mercury (in line with UNEP GC decision 22/4 V).

The following projects were recommended for consideration:

- Comprehensive inventory on sources, uses and releases
- Synoptic study on persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances (including mercury and methyl mercury) in environmental samples, food stuff and human biomarkers with a view to establish baseline data and identify populations at risk
- Demonstration projects involving pollution prevention opportunities e.g. alternatives to dental amalgam, mercury seals for trickling filter plants mercury vapour lamps, fluorescent lamps, etc
- Public awareness campaign on the use of mercury free products, technologies and processes as well as environmentally sound recycling practices
- Development of best environmental practices and best available techniques for disposal and remediation of stockpiles.

The Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment endorses this initiative of UNEP Chemicals in providing a medium to pool and post the submissions of the interested parties so as to initiate priority action areas to reduce the release of mercury into the environment. It is hoped that the proposals submitted from this Ministry shall allow for meaningful and realistic action amongst all stakeholders.

Sincerely



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*Earl Nesbitt*

Permanent Secretary (Ag.)  
Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment