

**Discussion Paper**  
**May 25, 2005**  
**Informal Consultation on the**  
**“Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chloralkali Sector”**

**The Chloralkali Partnership**

Some chloralkali plants, which produce chlorine and caustic soda, use mercury-cell technologies. Significant mercury use and emissions reductions can be achieved through the sharing of best management practices. The “Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chloralkali Sector” would bring together experts from around the world to share information and provide technical assistance on successful approaches for reducing or eliminating mercury 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 chloralkali facilities, as well as making available operational information that would, for example, 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 chloralkali process of particular facilities through 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 chloralkali process.
- Improve the availability of public information regarding the global consumption of mercury used in the chloralkali 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:

- Finalize 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.
- 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 chloralkali 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.
- Facilitate the transfer of successful approaches for reducing the use of mercury in the chloralkali process at the factory level.
- Produce the first global report of mercury consumption in the chloralkali sector by 2006.
- Conduct pilot projects over the next two years to demonstrate 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 United States and the UNEP Mercury Program welcome all stakeholders to participate in the Global Partnership for Mercury Reduction in the Chloralkali 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 and trade associations, national and international healthcare organizations, national and international 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 Angela Bandemehr in the Office of International Affairs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [bandemehr.angela@epa.gov](mailto:bandemehr.angela@epa.gov).