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Dear Dr. Younes:

In response to your request regarding progress on implementation of mercury partnerships pursuant to the Governing Council Decision 23/9, please find attached the World Chlorine Council's report on the chlor-alkali industry's efforts and contributions to support the partnerships.

The World Chlorine Council (WCC) has been an active supporter of the UNEP Global Mercury Programme and has made a sustained effort to help mercury-based chlorine producers around the world reduce mercury uses and emissions. As part of this effort, WCC agreed to support and contribute to the *Global Partnership on Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-Alkali Sector*. The Global Mercury Partnership builds upon WCC's long-standing commitment to share best practices globally for reducing the use and release of mercury from mercury-cell chlor-alkali facilities. WCC has strived with governments, chlor-alkali producers, and UNEP to help make this partnership a success.

WCC has contributed significant time, expertise and financial resources to the implementation of *Global Partnership on Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-Alkali Sector*. WCC's financial and in-kind contributions to the Partnership have exceeded USD \$100,000.

The WCC believes the *Global Partnership on Mercury Reduction in the Chlor-Alkali Sector* has directly resulted in tangible reductions of mercury use and emissions. Furthermore, we believe that the Mercury Chlor-Alkali Workshops and demonstration projects developed through the partnership can be utilized as pilot programmes for implementation in other countries. As such the Partnership represents the most efficient and effective way to further reduce global mercury use and emissions from the chlor-alkali sector.

WCC looks forward to working with governments and other stakeholders in continuing to implement the partnership and thereby effectively contribute to international efforts to reduce the use and release of mercury.

The World Chlorine Council® is a global network of national and regional chlor-alkali associations in over 27 countries. The WCC membership includes associations and companies in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America; representing over 85 percent of global chlorine and caustic-soda production. Additional information regarding the WCC can be found at www.worldchlorine.com.