



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



20 May 2009

Subject: Zero Mercury Working Group as Interim Lead for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Supply and Storage

Dear Mr. Bender, *Michael,*

Thank you for your letter confirming interest of the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) to be the interim lead for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Supply and Storage. I recognize your support to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as the vehicle for "interim activities" on enhancing capacity for mercury storage and reducing the supply of mercury for example, primary mining, as mandated by GC25/5. Indeed, these activities will be done in parallel with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process that will elaborate a mercury globally binding instrument by 2013. I also agree with your recommendation to have a government to take on the role of becoming the lead in the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership on Supply and Storage.

UNEP will work closely with you in your proposed activities of a) revising the proposed UNEP draft storage-supply partnership business plan to align it with existing Mercury Partnership Advisory Group and UNEP guidance on plan development, taking into account recent developments, and reflecting input from stakeholders; b) encouraging further progress on the two regional storage projects currently underway; c) collaborating on funding should opportunities arise; d) inviting potential partners to join this new Partnership, as well as identifying a government lead or a co-lead.

I am grateful for the support of the ZMWG in all activities of the UNEP Chemicals Mercury Programme and I look forward to a continuing collaboration with you.

Yours sincerely,

Per M. Bakken

Head

Chemicals Branch

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

Mr. Michael Bender
Director
Mercury Policy Project/Tides Center

cc. Zero Mercury Working Group