**MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON ARTISANAL SMALL SCALE GOLD MINING PROJECTS**

**JOINT INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT**



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**BY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, GHANA**

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# 1.0 Background:

Mercury and mercuric compounds (particularly methyl mercury) have long being recognized as chemical substances, which have significant adverse neurological and other health effects on humans and the environment. Harmful effects on unborn children and infants are of particular concern. In 2003 a global assessment report by the erstwhile Governing Council (GC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), now United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), provided sufficient evidence to warrant international action to reduce the risks of exposure to mercury and its compounds to human health and environment. Countries were therefore urged to adopt goals for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases. The UNEP on its part also initiated technical assistance and capacity building activities to meet these national goals.

An intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to prepare a legally binding instrument on mercury was subsequently established by UNEP. The work of the INC was commenced in 2010. One hundred and forty (140) countries agreed the text of the Convention on January 9 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, after three years of meetings and negotiations. It was subsequently adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013, and will enter into force 90 days after fifty (50) States deposit instruments of ratification, acceptance and accession. Currently, 128 countries in the United Nations have signed whilst 38 countries have ratified it Convention.

Major highlights of the Minamata Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of products and processes, control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The Convention also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.

Ghana became a signatory to the the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 24th September 2014, in New York. An inception workshop on Early Ratification of the Minamata Convention was held in October 2015 through a collaborative effort of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and funding from the Government of Switzerland. In April 2016 the ratification of the Minamata Convention received approval by Cabinet and the Convention was subsequently ratified in October 2016 by the fourth session of the sixth parliament of the fourth Republic of Ghana.

# 2.0 Joint Inception Workshop (Introduction, Objectives and Outcomes):

Activities planned towards the early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Ghana include: (1) the preparation of a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector; and (2) the preparation of Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided funds to enable Ghana execute the two activities through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) respectively.

Ghana organized a joint inception workshop for the development of the MIA and NAP on ASGM from 25 – 27 January , 2017, at the Swiss Alisa Hotel, Ridge-Accra. The objectives of the workshop were, among other things, to;

* Raise awareness of policy makers and the general public on the mercury menace, its environmental and health concerns and the need for national action;
* Provide an overview of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
* Highlight the national status on Mercury management;
* Explain the objectives of the MIA/NAP projects and define the roles of partners (UNDP, UNITAR, EPA, and the local stakeholders);
* Establish a national coordination mechanism; and
* Draft project activities and action plans for implementation.

The workshop, which attracted participants from various Ministries Department and Agencies as well as selected key industry and Civil Society Organizations, development partners, research and academia had the following expected outcomes;

1. To Establish a Project Coordinating Committee
2. To develop and approve an operational Terms of Reference for the Project Coordinating Committee and elect a chair; and
3. To develop project activity plans.

# 3.0 Opening:

Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi, the Acting Director of the Chemicals Control and Management Centre of the EPA of Ghana called the Joint Inception Meeting to order around 9.20am on 25th January 2017 with an opening prayer. This was followed by the introduction of the participants and partners present at the workshop. Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi outlined the objectives and expected outcomes of the joint inception meeting as outlined above.

## Remarks and Speeches

### 3.1.1 Opening Remarks by Ag. Executive Director of the Ghana EPA:

The Acting Executive Director of the EPA of Ghana, Mr. John Pwamang, delivered the welcome address in which he acknowledged the support from UNITAR, UNIDO, UNDP and all key stakeholders present. He expressed concern about the discrepancy between actual quantities of mercury in use by ASGM operators and the quantities officially recorded by regulators. He emphasized that only 38 Metric Tons of Mercury was officially imported to Ghana in 2016, which might not be a true reflection of the actual amount of Mercury in the country.

### 3.1.2 Address by Development Partners:

**UNITAR:**

Mr. Nelson Manda, the representative of UNITAR informed participants that UNITAR was in attendance to support Ghana in the implementation of the Minamata Convention. He thanked everyone for coming and wished the black stars of Ghana well.

**UNIDO:**

The UNIDO representative, Ms. Rodica Ivan emphasized the importance of the MIA and NAP and stressed on the unique joint inception meeting which was the first of its kind, which is being organized by Ghana. She reminded participants that Mercury is a very dangerous chemical and management of dangerous chemicals is one of the sustainable development goals. She thanked EPA for inviting international organizations to the event.

**NRDC**

Ms. Susan Keane of Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) said the NRDC was participating in the NAP to provide technical support including the national ASGM assessment, and NAP development. She added that the world was looking up to Ghana to come out with a solution to reduce the use and exposure to mercury in the ASGM sector.

**UNDP:**

The UNDP country representative Mr. Louis Kuukpen in his statement said meetings like the inception were small interventions that can go a long way to help achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). According to him the inception meeting is a good platform to bring people to share ideas and push the SDGs forward. He commended the leadership role of EPA in coordinating activities between the MIA and the NAP and expressed hope that that Ghana would be able to develop a sustainable plan for Mercury management.

### 3.1.3 Keynote Address by Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation:

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), delivered the keynote address. She stressed on the adverse and neurological effects of Mercury on humans and the environment and urged all stakeholders present to help draw out strategies to help reduce the use of mercury in the artisanal and small scale mining industry and if possible to eliminate it. He also mentioned the need to control the release of mercury in industries such as the cement industry and encouraged all international organizations to support the programme in terms of finances and technical expertise.

The opening session was concluded with a group photograph after screening a video of the Minamata disease.

# 4.0 Stakeholder Institutions Present:

The following institutions were represented at the Workshop

**A. Development Partners**

1. United Nations Development Programme
2. United Nations Industrial Development Organization
3. United Nations Institute for Training and Research
4. World Health Organization
5. International Labour Organisation
6. World Bank
7. Natural Resources Defense Council
8. US Embassy in Ghana

**B. Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**

1. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
2. Environmental Protection Agency
3. Ministry of Finance
4. Ministries of Trade and Industry
5. Minerals Commission
6. Water Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial
7. Ghana Health Service of the Ministry of Health
8. Ministry of Justice
9. Ghana Revenue Authority Customs Division
10. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
11. Ministry of Gender
12. Ghana Chamber of Mines
13. Ministry of Interior
14. Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
15. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
16. University of Mines and Technology
17. University of Ghana

**C. Civil Society Organizations**

1. Friends of the Nation Ghana
2. CAN –Ghana (NGO)
3. HATOF-(NGO)
4. Chamber of Commerce
5. ASMAN
6. Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners (GNASS)
7. Environment Youth Action Network (EYAN)
8. Ecological Restoration
9. Solidaridad West Africa
10. Federation of Ghana Goldsmiths and Jewelers
11. Kasa Ghana
12. WIM and AMN

# 5.0 Workshop Activities:

5.1 MIA Specific Activities:

The First Day of the Workshop was devoted to MIA Specific Activities as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No | Activity | Summaries[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| 1. | Introduction to Mercury and the Minamata Convention and Ghana’s Participation in the Process- Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi Ag. Director, CCMC-EPA | Dr. Adu-Kumi briefly presented the Minamata Convention and mercury. He discussed the chemistry and toxicology of mercury emissions (natural and anthropogenic sources), transport and persistence in the environment, the food-chain and the associated health and environmental effects including highlights on the various articles; annexes and obligations of Parties to the Minamata Convention; the steps in implementing the Convention; the Initial Assessment of the MIA; the contents of the NAP and the step-wise process in developing the National Action Plan. He walked participants through the status implementation of the Convention in Ghana, the roadmap towards the implementation of the Convention and the way forward towards a successful implementation of the Minamata Convention. |
| 2. | Introduction to MIA Project: MIA Activities, outputs and expectations  Roles of Partners-UNDP, UNITAR, EPA and National Stakeholders – Mr. Nelson Manda- UNITAR | Mr. Nelson Manda- UNITAR introduced participants to the MIA project, highlighting article 20 of the Convention, which takes into account the development, and execution of implementation plans under domestic circumstances needed to meet the obligations of the Convention. He discussed the activities of the Minamata Initial Assessment, the outcomes including effective monitoring and evaluation, the barriers to the outcomes and the various roles played by the Partners. He mentioned some of the partners and their roles including UNDP acting as an Implementing Agency for GEF, playing a supervisory role, cooperating with UNITAR on the implementation, engaging stakeholders amongst others; UNITAR to identify country needs, provide technical guidance in the planning of project activities, support the national team during data collection, analysis and preparation of the National Mercury Initial Assessment, liaise between UNDP and EPA amongst others; the EPA who are responsible for co-executing the project, appointing the project manager, identifying and inviting relevant stakeholders to participate in the project, supervising project activities on a day to day basis by ensuring that they are fully aligned with the project objectives and national development goals , amongst other responsibilities. |
| 3. | UNDP-GEF and MIA Implementation- Mr. Etienne Gonin | Mr. Etienne Gonin Highlighted UNDPs involvement in mercury activities. He mentioned UNDPs long history of work from ASGM through to healthcare waste management and engagement in support to the Mercury Initial Assessments and National Action Plans, which are mostly funded by the GEF emphasizing on some UNDP-sponsored mercury projects implemented in Africa. He established the relationship between some of the SDG goals and the Minamata Convention. He clearly specified UNDPs involvement in implementing the MIA to include providing support to countries through international expertise in the technical field, building national capacity for implementation of the Convention, sharing experiences with other countries in an all-inclusive national process, establishing long term corporation between Ghana EPA and UNDP on flagship projects. |
| 4 | Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Sound Chemicals Management including experiences with the management of mercury in Ghana- Mr. Lovelace Sarpong, Senior Programme Officer – EPA, Ghana | Mr. Lovelace Sarpong walked participants through the existing legislation on mercury in Ghana including environmental requirements and mercury waste management under the newly passed Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917). He described the permitting process for mercury importation and use in the ASGM sector and pointed to the fact that the existing national laws do not adequately meet the objectives of the Convention. He proposed updating of existing legislation or enactment new ones in order to be fully compliant with the obligations of Convention on becoming a party. |
| 5 | Industry Perspective – Ghana Cement: Raw Material Process of Clinker Production- Mr. Joseph Mensah, GHACEM | Mr. Joseph Mensah from GHACEM (a local cement manufacturing company in Ghana) took participants through mercury emission and exposure in the cement industry and the process of clinker production. He clearly indicated that GHACEM does not produce Clinker but imports clinker as raw material for cement production. He emphasized efforts to reduce energy consumption and minimize emissions, especially to air by use of filters and substitution of conventional fuels with alternatives including use of waste-derived fuels with sufficient calorific value, known as alternative fuels. |
| 6 | Health Perspective of Mercury Management (Mercury added products)- Dr. Edith Clarke, GHS | Dr. Edith Clarke took participants through the health perspective in mercury management and efforts to reduce mercury exposure, public health and the consequences of methyl mercury. She explained the risk of consuming mercury-contaminated fish by pregnant women and its effect on their unborn babies highlighting on efforts to reduce exposure to mercury in the health sector by introducing mercury-free alternatives in the short term, reducing the use of unnecessary mercury equipment in the medium term and supporting a ban on mercury equipment in the long term. |
| 7 | National Waste Management- Ghana Perspective-Mr. Joseph Edmund-Deputy Director, EPA, Ghana | Mr. Joseph Edmund presented the Ghanaian perspective of Waste Management. He defined and classified waste, which included the definition from the Basel Convention. He pointed the institution mandated to manage waste as stipulated in Ghana’s Local Government Act (Act 462) and highlighted some of the challenges of solid waste management in Ghana. He also took participants through the newly passed Hazardous and Electronic Waste Management and Control Act, 2016 (Act 917). |
| 8 | Status of UNDP Mercury Project in Health Sector | Mr. Richard Amfo-Otu took participants through the status of the UNDP Mercury Project in the Health Sector in some African countries including Ghana. He stated that the health sector has been identified as sources of Unintentionally Produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) and mercury releases into the environment due to the technologies used. He outlined the objectives of the Healthcare Waste Management project of which some are to implement best environmental practices, practicing non-incineration, use of mercury-free technologies, helping African countries to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention and helping to reduce the use of mercury in the healthcare sector in support of the Minamata Convention. He highlighted challenges faced with the inventory on mercury added products in health facilities as part of the activities to phase down mercury in healthcare facilities to include personnel’s refusal to declare actual number of mercury containing devices in some facilities, unwillingness to switch from mercury containing devices to mercury free devices, etc. He concluded by establishing the synergies between the healthcare waste management project, the MIA and NAP. |
| 9 | Group Work  National Mercury Priority Areas  What are the Priority Sectors?  Why are they priority sectors?  Who are the stakeholders what are their roles? | Participants were put into groups to identify and give short presentations on the priority sectors in the National Mercury Management, the reasons why they are priority sectors and identification of the various stakeholders and their roles. (see Appendix xx for group work report). |
|  | Closing Remarks for the day by Mr. Ebenezer Appah-Sampong, Deputy Executive Director, Technical Services, EPA, Ghana | The Deputy Executive Director in charge of Technical Services, EPA Ghana, Mr. Ebenezer Appah-Sampong, gave the closing remarks by stating that the day’s activities had been very successful since participants had been educated on mercury, and its associated health and environmental risks. He emphasized that EPA is committed to the process and all institutions, industries, the general public and stakeholders have their roles to play in the implementation of the obligations under the Convention. He concluded by expressing his appreciation to all partners, participants and charged all to be good stewards of the environment. The day ended with a closing prayer delivered by Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi around 5pm. |

5.2 NAP on ASGM Specific Activities:

The second day of the workshop was devoted to NAP specific activities as follows;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Activity | Summaries |
| 1. | * Introduction to the Project * Minamata Convention Perspectives * NAP Project activities, output and expectations * Roles of partners; UNIDO, NRDC, WHO, EPA and National Stakeholders   \_ Ms. Rodica Ivan, UNIDO | Ms. Rodica Ivan from UNIDO gave the first presentation of the day. Her presentation was in two parts, which covered UNIDO’s engagement in the sustainable management of chemicals and wastes and UNIDO’s experience in ASGM. In her presentation, she stated that the work of UNIDO is to assist in the implementation of the Basel, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions. She mentioned UNIDO’s history of over 20 years engagement in artisanal and small scale gold mining and concluded with a case study of a project in Mongolia aimed at reducing the exposure of mercury to human health and the environment through promoting sound chemicals management.  The second part of her presentation was based on UNIDO’s experience in ASGM. The aim of the presentation was to facilitate exchange on lessons learnt from UNIDOs work with the ASGM sector within Africa. She gave the situation of NAP development in African countries and the challenges, which included official approval, data collection and the misuse of funds amongst ministries. She mentioned various examples of UNIDOs activities in ASGM undertaken in Africa and resources available for implementing such project. |
| 2. | Challenges of Regulating ASGM in Ghana  Structural  Regulatory  Environmental Impacts  Socio-economic- Ms. Justice Seyire Dzadra EPA Mining Department | Ms. Justine Dzadzra from the Mining department of the EPA gave a presentation on Small Scale Gold Mining in Ghana. She gave a background on Mercury and Mercury emissions and defined what constituted ASGM as gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production. She then elaborated on some of the obligations of the Minamata Convention and the key challenges facing the EPA with regards to enforcement and permitting of artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Ghana. She concluded with the impacts of mercury on water resources, land, socio-economic impacts, and environmental impacts such as air quality, noise and blast induced variation and occupational health and safety |
| 3. | NAP Guidance -  Ms. Susan Keane NRDC | Susan Keane from NRDC gave a presentation on Mercury use in Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining, its challenges and opportunities. She gave the global profile of ASGM stating that ASGM is a source of employment for 10-20 million miners in over 70 countries worldwide, especially in rural areas. She added that ASGM could be associated with some of social problems such as child labor, land tenure issues, conflict, migration and other social instability. She stated that around 1600 tons of mercury is used annually, with ASGM being the largest global source and proposed avoiding bad practices and reducing mercury exposure in the short-term and switching to mercury free technologies such as the Gravity-only processes and Chemical Leaching Processes in the long-term solution as some of the innovative measures to reduce exposure. |
| 4. | Role of Civil Society in Mercury Management in Ghana – Mr. Solomon Ampofo, Friends of the Nation | Mr. Solomon Kusi-Ampofo of the Friends of the Nation (FoN) gave a presentation on the role of civil societies/NGOs in mercury management issues in Ghana. He elaborated on some of the interventions of the FoN assisting the ASGM industry to manage mercury. His recommendations included sound mercury management including formalization, reduction of emissions and releases, and reduction in the risks of mercury exposure. He also stressed on the need for stakeholder consultations and effective intersectoral engagements between health and other relevant institutions on ASGM. He concluded by stating the roles NGOs/CSOs in implementing the NAP, which includes the promotion of mercury-free technology, awareness creation, stakeholder consultation, knowledge sharing, baseline inventory and research inventory. |
| 5. | Experiences from other Africa Countries –  Mr. Yomi Banjo of UNIDO | Mr. Yomi Banjo of UNIDO, Nigeria, presented the experiences from other African countries. He compared the country profiles of Ghana and Nigeria, which included the GDP, Population, type of government and export commodities. He pointed out how Ghana can share the experiences and take advantage to achieve the expected project outcomes. He concluded by identifying the possible challenges such as change in government policies, engaging non-professionals in project execution, and problems identifying priority sectors. |
| 6. | ASGM – Miners View - | A representative from ASGM shared his view on the ASGM sector in Ghana and the challenges they encounter. He informed participants of a nation-wide training that was conducted by the association throughout the country to educate inhabitants from mining areas on the adverse effects of mercury on their health and the environment. He disclosed that a lot of research has been done by the University of Mines and Technology to replace mercury. He said is looking forward to completely eradicate the use of mercury in ASGM and appealed to all stakeholders to extend a helping hand to the association in terms of finances and expertise to push the agenda forward. |
| 7. | Health Implications of Hg use in the ASGM Industry- Dr. Edith Clarke | Dr. Edith Clarke of the Ghana Health Service gave a presentation on mercury health concerns relating to the ASGM. She stated that ASGM communities are exposed to a wide range of environmental, health and occupational hazards thus a broad public health approach is proposed in the development of public health strategies on ASGM, as an integral component of the NAP. She outlined the scope of health activities to be carried out within the NAP project in Ghana which included the rapid assessment of health situation, engagement of stakeholders, assessment of existing institutional capacities to respond to health issues associated with ASGM. She concluded by highlighting on a few strategies to attain synergies in implementing the MIA. |
| 8. | Group Presentations on ASGM mercury management priority areas. | Participants were put into groups to discuss ASGM mercury management priority areas.  Some of the steps provided by Group members included the transportation of mercury to the mining site by traders and importers, storage of mercury by site managers, distribution of Mercury and amalgam burning to extract the Gold.  The second group members categorized the priority areas into four broad groups Importation, Distribution, Handling/Usage and Disposal. They went on to identify the stakeholders as Importer, Ministry of Trade, Customs, EPA, retailers, miners, mining communities and financial institutions.  The third group prioritized Trade and supply, inventory, awareness creation, alternative technologies, capacity building, legal and regulatory reforms and regional integration and cooperation. They also identified Ministry of Trade and Supply, Ports and harbor authority and GRA-Customs Division as the Agencies involved in the trade of Mercury (see Appendix xx for group work report) |
| 9. | Work Plan for MIA -2017-  Mr. Joel Ayim Darkwa, UNDP | Mr. Joel Ayim Darkwa from UNDP presented the 2017 work plan for the MIA activities to be undertaken by the various task teams with indicators highlighting the following outcomes: 1. Creation of an enabling environment for decision making on the implementation of the Minamata Convention. 2. Development of a national mercury profile and a MIA report. 3. Carrying out of effective monitoring and evaluation and 4. Project management. |
| 10. | Workplans for MIA and NAP and Responsibilities –  Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi of EPA | Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi of EPA followed it up with three presentations. He presented a draft work plan for the NAP, which captured the activities, responsible agencies, persons/days involved and the time period. He also presented the proposed national coordination mechanism for Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan projects. He identified four groups/committees as follows:   1. Minamata Convention Implementation Committee (Steering committee) 2. Technical Working group (MIA) 3. Technical working group (NAP) 4. Advisory Group (NAP)   He went on to list the13 members of the Steering committee to be Chaired by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and spelt out their responsibilities. He further listed the stakeholders to be considered as members of the advisory group, in accordance with national circumstances. He also proposed their contribution to the development of the NAP. In his final presentation, he spelt the criteria for identification of potential members of the Committee and their contribution to the development of the NAP. |

# 6.0 Proposed National Coordination Mechanism:

## 6.1 Minamata Convention Implementation Committee (MCIC):

After a lengthy deliberation, a thirteen (13)-membership steering committee to be known as the Minamata Convention Implementation Committee (MCIC) was proposed. The MCIC will serve as the overall steering committee for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Ghana. The list of institutions is attached as Appendix xx.

## 6.2 Technical Working Groups:

Two Technical Working Groups were also proposed for the MIA and NAP respectively. The memberships of the groups are expected to be constituted by the MCIC.

## 6.3 NAP Advisory Groups:

This group, which is specific to the NAP, is also expected to be constituted by the MCIC.

# 7.0 Way forward:

The Secretariat was tasked to produce the workshop proceedings and act on all matters arising thereof with dispatch, including the following:

1. Write to all institutions that constitute the MCIC for nominations;
2. Organize the maiden meeting of the MCIC and coordinate its activities;
3. Arrange for the set up of the Technical Working Groups and the NAP Advisory Group and coordinate their activities; and
4. Coordinate the implementation of the workplans of MIA and NAP.

# 8.0 Closing Remarks:

The following closing remarks were offered as follows:

1. The UNDP representative promised to continue to bring international expertise and support the agenda of attaining the sustainable development goals and also implementing the MIA. He stated that the knowledge and capacity is there, and they will continue to support Ghana;
2. UNITAR’s representative thanked Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi and his team for a successful workshop and also thanked all participants. He urged all stakeholders to stay engaged and contribute their quota to implementing the MIA. He added that the implementation is a good challenge to show leadership and he stated that he is confident Ghana will have a good programme;
3. UNIDO’s representative also thanked all partners for the initiative for the workshop;
4. Dr. Clarke of the Ghana Health Service also promised to work closely together with all the partners. She also stated that she is looking forward to see Ghana show the way for other developing countries to follow. She also added that the implementation of the Convention would help improve health issues in mining communities and the country as a whole. She encouraged all stakeholders to put in the necessary effort to adopt the plan;
5. Mr. Pwamang, the Ag. Executive Director of EPA gave the final closing remarks. He stated that he was happy with the cooperation from international organizations such as UNITAR and UNIDO. He further stressed on a good balance among civil society, government and NGOs in the groups/committees activities. He urged all partners to work hard to kick-start the implementation early. He concluded by thanking all the partners who took part in the workshop and colleagues from Germany; and
6. Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi gave the vote of thanks and ended the 3-day workshop with a closing prayer around 3pm.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1: Priority Areas/Issues of MIA and NAP

**PRIORITY SECTORS FOR MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT (MIA)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Sector** | **Stakeholders** |
| 1. | Health | Ghana Health Service, World Health Organization, Ministry OH, EPA, GSA, MES, Laboratories, Waste contractors (e.g. Zoomlion), Food and Drugs Authority, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Civil Society Organisations, Media, Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection, National Development Planning Commission |
| 2. | Industries (Cement, Steel Plants, Oil Refineries) | Association of Ghana Industries, Power Generators, Cement companies, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Standards Authority, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Research Institutions, Custom Division of Ghana Revenue Authority, CSIR, Civil Society Organisations, Media, National Development Planning Commission |
| 3. | GENERAL Waste (E-waste and Municipal waste) | Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, Scrap Dealers, E-waste Associations, Private waste collectors, Custom Division of Ghana Revenue Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Media, Waste Recycling Companies, Civil Society Organisations, Ghana Health Service, National Development Planning Commission |
| 4. | Research and Educational Institutions | Universities, Research Institutions, Training Colleges, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana Statistical Service, National Development Planning Commission |
| 5. | Financiers/Donors | Mercury Dealers and Sponsors of Mining activities, Ministry of Finance, Development Partners, National Development Planning Commission |
| 6. | Suppliers of Equipment (Supply Chain) and collaborators in e-waste management | Dealers, producers and consumers of electrical and electronic equipment, National Development Planning Commission |

**PRIORITY AREAS AND ISSUES OF ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **PRIORITY AREAS/ ISSUES** | **DETAILS OF ISSUES OF CONCERN** |
| 1. | Trade and Supply | Need for accurate data on imports, sources, uses and supply of mercury |
| 2. | Inventory | Knowledge of mercury and gold ratio, amount of mercury being used in the ASGM sector and what happens in the supply chain |
| 3. | Awareness Creation | Intensify creation of awareness on adverse impacts of mercury on human health and the environment as well as the Minamata Convention on mercury |
| 4. | Technology – Alternative methods | Development of cost effective and user friendly methods, accessibility and availability of those methods |
| 5. | Capacity Building | Building the capacity of industry players on the handling of mercury, the Minamata Convention and the use of alternative methods |
| 6. | Legal and Regulatory Reforms | Strengthen institutional coordination, review and harmonize existing laws to reflect the text of the Minamata Convention |
| 7. | Regional Integration and cooperation | Harmonising and integration of national legal frameworks and action with regional and international protocols e.g. ECOWAS Mining Directive, Africa Mining Vision  Need for collaboration with regional and sub-regional groups to share ideas and information and to have a common approach towards mercury management in ASGM |
| 8. | Handling/Usage | Arbitrary use of mercury due to inability to determine the actual quantities needed for amalgamation |
| 9. | Disposal | Unintentional disposal through spillages and emissions and disposal of mercury contaminated tailings |

NOTE: Agencies involved in the Trade of Mercury in Ghana:

* Ministry of Trade and EPA
* Ports and Harbour Authority
* GRA – Custom Division
* Environmental Protection Agency

## Appendix 2: Proposed Membership of the National Steering Group

**PROPOSEDNATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT (MIA) AND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP) PROJECTS**

1. MINAMATA CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

(STEERING COMMITTEE)

2. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (MIA)

3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (NAP)

4. ADVISORY GROUP (NAP)

A. MEMBERSHIP OF MINAMATA CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (MCIC)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ministries/Entities** | **Responsibilities / Areas of Expertise** |
|  |  |
| 1. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation  2. Environmental Protection Agency | * Environmental laws, issues, and regulations * Environmental impacts * Promoting alternatives to mercury in ASGM |
| 3. Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Minerals Commission) | * Statistics and data on ASGM * Mining sector laws and regulations (including formalization of ASGM) * Geological surveys |
| 4. Ministry of Finance | * Economic importance of ASGM * Formalization of ASGM sector, including regulation of gold purchases from ASGM miners * Market-based mechanisms for reducing mercury use * Funding for NAP process |
| 5. Ghana Health Service of Ministry of Health | * Identification of impacts of ASGM on health of miners, ASGM communities, and vulnerable population groups * Public health strategies related to ASGM and integration of such strategies into wider health sector programming * Health promotion, advocacy and awareness raising activities including in communities * Detecting, monitoring and managing mercury intoxication among affected populations |
| 6. Ministry of Information | * Strategies for community outreach and stakeholder involvement |
| 7. Ministry of Trade and Industry | * Mercury trade * Formalization * Market-based mechanisms for reducing mercury use |
| 8. Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations | * Formalization of ASGM sector * Labor standards, regulations and enforcement, including strategies to eliminate child labor * Occupational safety |
| 9. Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (Attorney Generals Department)  10. Ghana Revenue Service/Customs Division  11. National Development Planning Commission  12. Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners {GNASSM} | * Drafting enforcement protocols and regulations for implementation, including customs * Border Control * Reach out to local governments * Sustainable development coordination plan and implementation * Provide miner’s view of current practices and political, economic, legal and social barriers to change * Formalization of ASGM sector * Reach out to miners * Provide insight into legal and illegal mercury trade, gold market dynamics, and barriers to formalization |
| 13 Friends of the Nation |  |

CHAIR: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MESTI)

## Appendix 3: List of Participants

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1. Full presentation in annex [↑](#footnote-ref-1)