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Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Policy issues: state of the environment

**Informing discussions on the need for global action in relation
to lead and cadmium**

Addendum

**Other activities by the United Nations Environment Programme
related to lead and cadmium**

Note by the Executive Director

The Executive Director has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, information on activities by the United Nations Environment Programme related to lead and cadmium to supplement the information provided in document UNEP/GC.26/5. The annex has been issued without formal editing.

* UNEP/GC.26/1.

Annex

Other activities by the United Nations Environment Programme related to lead and cadmium

United Nations Environment Programme's activities related lead and cadmium: The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints and an initiative to coordinate global efforts to achieve environmentally sound management of lead and cadmium batteries

1. The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles has been successful in reducing the significant exposure risk to humans and to the environment from the addition of lead compounds to vehicle fuels. While most developing countries and countries with economies in transition used leaded gasoline in 2002, today only six countries are doing so, and in small amounts; the complete global elimination of leaded gasoline is within reach during the coming biennium.
2. The largest remaining uses of lead that rises to significant exposure risks are the uses of lead compounds in paints and the use of lead in batteries. In both cases, while normal use may not pose significant risks, improper management of painted or coated materials or dust during renovation and reconstruction processes and of batteries during smelting, metal reclamation and recycling can pose significant risk.
3. In 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) committed to take actions to protect human health from exposure to lead. Paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD states: "Phase out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure, work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning."
4. The International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session (ICCM-2, Geneva, 11-15 May 2009) endorsed (SAICM/ICCM.2/15 Resolution II/4B) the establishment of a global partnership to promote the phase-out of the use of lead in paint as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD and to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
5. ICCM-2 invited all interested stakeholders to become members of the global partnership and, where appropriate, to commit themselves to contributing financial or in-kind resources or expertise towards the development and implementation of partnership activities. ICCM-2 requested the global partnership to adopt terms of reference using the draft terms of reference presented to ICCM-2 as their basis and to develop a business plan articulating clear milestones for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint in the following areas:
 - (a) Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives;
 - (b) Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure;
 - (c) Assistance to industry (manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers);
 - (d) Prevention programmes to reduce exposure;
 - (e) Promotion of national regulatory frameworks;
6. ICCM-2 requested the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization within their respective mandates and available resources to serve as the secretariat of the global partnership and invited the global partnership to report on progress to the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its third session.
7. The global partnership endorsed by ICCM-2 is now called the "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints".
8. The overall goal of this partnership, now called the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints, is to prevent children's exposure to lead via paint and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paint. The broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paint containing lead and, eventually, to eliminate the risks from such paint.

9. While organizational arrangements for this Global initiative are being finalized, current activities and progress include:

- (a) Outreach to potential contributors to the Global Alliance;
- (b) First organizational meeting of the Global Alliance held in Geneva from 26 to 28 May 2010, to develop overall goals and objectives for the initiative and to formulate workplans for priority focal areas;
- (c) Establishment of five focal area of work (health, environment, legislation and regulations, outreach to industry and workers' health) with leaders and priority activities for 2011-2013;
- (d) Agreed preliminary overarching themes for the work of the Global Alliance:
 - To raise the awareness of government authorities and regulators, private industry, manufacturers, consumers, workers, trade unions and health-care providers about the toxicity of lead in paints and the availability of technically superior and safer alternatives.
 - To catalyse the design and implementation of appropriate prevention-based programmes to reduce and eliminate risks from the use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints.
 - To identify paint manufacturers that continue to produce and market paints containing lead in order to foster actions to phase-out lead from their paints.
 - To promote the establishment of appropriate national regulatory frameworks to stop the manufacture, import, export, sale and use of lead paints and products coated with lead paints.
 - As appropriate, to promote international third-party certification of new paint products to help consumers to recognize paint and coatings without added lead.
 - To share guidance and promote assistance to identify and reduce potential lead exposure in and around housing, in childcare facilities and schools in which paint containing lead may be present and in industrial facilities producing or using paint to protect workers' health.
- (e) Establishment of an interim advisory group to discuss cross-cutting issues, to promote actions consistent with the overall goals and objectives of the Global Alliance and to monitor progress;
- (f) Development of outreach and communication materials.

10. UNEP is also currently working on an initiative to coordinate global efforts to achieve environmentally sound management of lead and cadmium batteries throughout their life cycles in ways that minimize significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. Potential partners from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non governmental organizations and other stakeholders have expressed interest in working with UNEP on the initiative.
