

**Governing Council  
of the United Nations  
Environment Programme**

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English only

**Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**  
Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011  
Agenda item 4 (a)  
**Policy issues: state of the environment**

**Draft decision on lead and cadmium submitted by the group of  
African countries**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The annex to the present note sets out a draft decision on lead and cadmium submitted by the group of African countries. It is presented as submitted, without formal editing.

## Annex

### Draft decision on lead and cadmium submitted by the African group

*The Governing Council*

*Recognizing* the environmental and health effects of lead and cadmium worldwide,

*Acknowledging* with appreciation the finalization of the reviews of scientific information on lead and cadmium towards informing discussions on the need for global action in relation to lead and cadmium,

*Taking note of* the important work of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) in its implementation of paragraph 56 (b) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the work of UNEP and WHO in establishing the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead in Paints in its implementation of the resolution II/4 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

*Noting* the widespread concerns over the serious adverse effects of lead and cadmium on human health and the environment and the need for international, regional, national and local attention and action, as deemed necessary,

*Mindful* of the concern of African countries regarding the continued exports of products containing lead and cadmium to those nations,

*Also acknowledging* with appreciation the response of the Joint UNEP/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment to the deaths of children from lead poisoning in Nigeria and other regions of the world,

*Taking into account* that most vulnerable population exposed to lead and cadmium live in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Recognizing* the importance of public awareness, communication, information exchange, education at all levels and capacity building for the implementation of risk reduction measures on lead and cadmium,

*Agrees* that a global partnership to promote reduction of risks to human health and the environment of lead and cadmium throughout the life cycle of those substances is essential, especially for reducing risks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

*Noting* the significance of partnerships underpinned by conclusive scientific evidence on the adverse effects of lead and cadmium.

*Requests* the Executive Director to initiate a partnership on lead and cadmium in cooperation with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and to integrate this partnership with the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

*Requests* Governments to give priority to actions at the local, national, regional and global levels for an integrated, lifecycle approach for addressing the risks presented by lead and cadmium throughout their lifecycles as appropriate, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

*Urges* governments and private entities to take measures to promote the environmentally sound management of products and wastes containing lead and cadmium including sites contaminated with these two substances,

*Further urges* governments and private entities in their endeavours to ensure that children are not exposed to lead or cadmium via products such as toys, cosmetics, paints, childcare articles, jewellery or other products;

*Invites* the next International Conference of Chemicals Management to take on board the information in the scientific reviews on lead and cadmium and to consider how the risks from lead and cadmium should be reduced at the national, regional and global level.

*Calls* upon governments to strengthen consumer protection from risks of lead and cadmium, for example via awareness raising and enhancing standard setting.

*Further calls* upon developed countries, IGOs, industry and others that are in a position to do so, to provide financial and technical resources to support these activities.

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