
International Conference on Chemicals Management

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Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the Strategic Approach to
International Chemicals Management:
emerging policy issues**

**Progress report on the implementation of resolution II/4 B on
lead in paint**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat transmits herewith the report of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization submitted pursuant to resolution II/4 B, on lead in paint, of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The report, which provides information on progress made in the implementation of the resolution, was submitted to the Open-ended Working Group of the Conference at its first meeting, held in Belgrade from 15 to 18 November 2011 (see SAICM/OEWG.1/9), and has subsequently been updated to reflect the additional progress made since that meeting.

* SAICM/ICCM.3/1.

Progress report on the implementation of resolution II/4 B on lead in paint

I. Background

1. Lead exposure has profound and permanent adverse health effects on children. There is no safe level of exposure to lead. While the greatest impacts are felt by children, lead also harms adults, and workers exposed to lead are particularly vulnerable.
2. Although restrictions on the use of lead in paints were put in place by a number of countries in the early twentieth century and by many more in latter decades, current testing efforts and published studies demonstrate that lead paint remains widely available in both developing and developed countries. Paints that contain high levels of lead include decorative paints typically used in homes and schools, as well as toys, children's furniture and costume jewellery, meaning that there is the potential for widespread exposure. The economic and social costs of eliminating lead paints are minimal and non-lead paints with similar colours, performance characteristics and costs are available. It is of serious concern that the use of lead paint appears to be increasing with economic development and that exposures to lead may continue over many years as paintwork deteriorates or is removed during repainting and demolition.
3. In May 2009, in its resolution II/4 B, the International Conference on Chemicals Management endorsed the establishment of a global partnership to promote phasing out the use of lead in paints as an important contribution to the implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. By the same decision, the Conference 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. UNEP and WHO were invited, within their respective mandates and available resources, to serve as the secretariat of the global partnership.
4. The Conference also requested the partnership 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.
5. The global partnership was invited 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.

II. Implementation of resolution II/4 B

6. Following the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) embarked on the establishment of a global partnership that has come to be known as the "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint" and in so doing have:
 - (a) Brought resolution II/4 B to the attention of public health and environment officials and professionals with an interest in children's environmental health and the prevention of lead poisoning to assist in identifying continuing activities in countries and by organizations that could contribute to the Global Alliance's work;
 - (b) Held a first organizational meeting of the Global Alliance in Geneva from 26 to 28 May 2010. Participants considered the draft terms of reference presented at the second session of the Conference and recommended that work on lead paint should be organized according to five focal areas – health aspects, environmental aspects, workers' health, legislation and regulation, and outreach to industry – taking into account the activities and actions set out in the documents considered previously by the Conference;

(c) Completed an operational framework, including overall goal and objectives and working arrangements of the Global Alliance, and an inter-organization agreement setting out the scope of cooperation between and responsibilities of UNEP and WHO;

(d) Established an interim advisory group to consider cross-cutting issues and to review and promote actions to implement the partnership's goals and objectives. The interim advisory group comprises representatives of the Governments of Nigeria and the United States of America and the following non-governmental organizations: International Paediatric Association, International Paint and Printing Ink Council, International POPs Elimination Network, OK International and experts from the University of Cincinnati and the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health;

(e) Conducted outreach and advocacy work to identify potential formal contributors to the partnership, including holding side events at regional meetings of the Strategic Approach and contributing materials to discussions at relevant meetings such as the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa and at the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(f) Held a second meeting of the Global Alliance in Bangkok from 9 to 11 July 2012. The meeting was important in providing an opportunity to welcome new and potential contributors to the work of the Global Alliance and further to discuss opportunities to cooperate on activities to eliminate lead paint.

7. The Global Alliance's overall goal is to prevent children's exposure to paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. Its broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks posed by such paints.

8. For the purposes of the Global Alliance, "lead paint" is defined as paint to which one or more lead compounds have been added and includes varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers and coatings. An information brochure has been developed to explain the definition of lead paint and includes a list of lead compounds commonly found in lead paint.

9. The Global Alliance's specific objectives are:

(a) To raise the awareness of government authorities and regulators, the private sector, 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;

(b) 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;

(c) To help identify paint manufacturers and formulators that continue to produce and market paints containing lead so as to foster actions to phase out lead from their products;

(d) 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;

(e) As appropriate, to promote international third-party certification of new paint products to help consumers to recognize paint and coatings without added lead;

(f) To share guidance and promote assistance to identify and reduce potential lead exposure in and around housing, childcare facilities and schools in which paint containing lead and paint dust is present and in industrial facilities producing or using paint containing lead to reduce workers' lead exposure.

10. The Global Alliance is a voluntary collaborative initiative designed to focus and catalyse the efforts of stakeholders in achieving its overall goal and specific objectives. UNEP and WHO serve as the secretariat in accordance with their respective mandates and programmes of work.

11. Contributors to the Global Alliance may include Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, regional bodies, philanthropic organizations, universities, media organizations and the private sector. Contributors are publicly identified as making a commitment to attaining the Global Alliance's overall goal and specific objectives. They may contribute financially and/or by providing in-kind technical expertise to the development and

implementation of the Global Alliance's activities. Information and a questionnaire for potential contributors to the Global Alliance's work are available on the Global Alliance website.¹

12. In accordance with the operational framework for the Global Alliance, contributors are responsible for funding their own activities and are expected to assist in identifying potential donors to facilitate the attainment of the Global Alliance's overall goal and specific objectives. UNEP and WHO are committed to contributing to the Global Alliance's work in accordance with their programmes of work, in addition to providing overall secretariat support.

III. Progress and issues to date

13. A summary of activities currently contributing to the Global Alliance's objectives is set out in the annex to the present report. These activities emanate from the five work areas being developed and coordinated by the interim advisory group. Work to finalize a coherent and holistic business plan for the Global Alliance articulating clear milestones for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead paint, as requested by the Conference at its second session, has been a priority. Other priority activities include efforts to formalize and broaden the base of key contributors, particularly Governments, and awareness-raising for Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

14. Experience gathered in the context of the UNEP Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles has been particularly useful in the Global Alliance's initial activities and will continue to influence the implementation of activities. In the 10 years since the Partnership's launch, lead in gasoline has been eliminated in all but a handful of countries. That success has demonstrated the importance of clear objectives and campaigns, global targets, a neutral clearing house to monitor progress, a broad funding and support base, demand-driven locally-specific approaches together with regional recommendations, and adequate means of measuring the impact of activities.

15. A baseline survey was conducted in March 2011 involving all Strategic Approach focal points, WHO and UNEP officials, and collaborating centres and networks, such as the International Paediatric Association, with the aim of improving understanding of the global situation regarding lead paint, collecting existing reference materials and providing a basis for monitoring progress in the elimination of lead paint. Information has been submitted by 26 countries; stakeholders that have not yet responded are encouraged to do so.

A. Business plan for the Global Alliance

16. The business plan for the Global Alliance describes strategies, milestones and possible means of achieving the goals and overall objectives of the Global Alliance. The plan has been developed in consultation with the interim advisory group to take account of the activities planned in all five focal areas. It highlights the following key priority actions for 2012–2013:

- (a) Establishing and launching a clearing house for the Global Alliance that contains existing advocacy materials, information on levels of lead in paint, blood lead testing and surveillance, and treatment guidelines, among other things. An initial focus of the clearing house will be on the materials needed to support the marking of an international day of action;
- (b) Developing a proposal and obtaining broad support from among Governments, clinicians, public health professionals and other stakeholders for the marking of an international day of action on the prevention of lead poisoning with an initial focus on eliminating lead paint;
- (c) Filling information gaps on the presence or absence of lead paint on the consumer market in countries where little or no data are available; expanding information on lead exposure pathways for vulnerable populations (e.g., children under six years of age, users of paint and workers in paint production facilities) associated with different paint categories (e.g., decorative paints; industrial paints; anti-corrosive metal primers and others);
- (d) Developing technical guidelines for paint manufacturers on alternatives to lead compounds used in paints;
- (e) Developing a framework for the labelling and certification of paints;
- (f) Developing and disseminating a document that presents and discusses the elements of a national regulatory framework for eliminating lead paint;

¹ www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Portals/9/Lead_Cadmium/docs/GAELP/GAELP_Becoming_a_contributor.doc.

(g) Contributing expertise on lead paint to the finalization of WHO evidence-based guidelines on the prevention and management of lead exposure, including recommendations on the establishment of blood lead screening and surveillance;

(h) Engaging additional stakeholders in the work of the Global Alliance, including through the establishment of national alliances to contribute to implementation activities, and obtaining an increase in financial contributions to facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Global Alliance.

The business plan is contained in document SAICM/ICCM.3/INF/21.

B. Attaining the overall goal of the Global Alliance

17. A number of factors are critical to attaining the Global Alliance's overall goal and specific objectives primarily relating to engagement at the national and regional levels and the availability of resources to support the Global Alliance, including implementation of activities.

1. Engagement with Governments

18. While non-governmental organizations have been and continue to be actively engaged in the Global Alliance's work at all levels, further engagement and commitment by Governments is crucial. Increasing the number and engagement of contributors is a key action in the business plan and its associated focal areas. From experience with the promotion of the Global Alliance to date, Government officials with national chemicals management responsibilities may:

- (a) Require additional information about lead paints being produced, sold and used in their countries for applications likely to contribute to childhood and occupational lead exposure;
- (b) Require additional information about the danger posed by the use of lead paints at the national level or their contribution to the national disease burden and associated costs;
- (c) Have other competing responsibilities on which they are focusing their attention as a matter of priority;
- (d) Require additional political support and/or public support for such initiatives;
- (e) Have concerns about the possible negative impact of a phase-out of lead paint on consumer choice or national enterprises that manufacture or sell lead paints.

19. As part of the preparations for the second meeting of the Global Alliance, contact was made with all national Strategic Approach focal points and over twenty Government representatives from all the regions participated in the meeting.

20. As part of efforts to raise national awareness of the dangers posed by lead, a proposal is being developed for an international lead poisoning prevention day of action with an initial focus on the elimination of lead paint. The day would be informed by successful national awareness-raising activities that are part of lead poisoning prevention work in Australia and the United States. Key activities would include identifying countries interested in establishing their own national day of action and engaging them in learning from planning activities for the United States National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2011. Tools and materials that can be customized to implement national lead poisoning prevention days in other countries will be made available through the Global Alliance website.

21. Interest in and support for an international lead poisoning prevention day of action is apparent in resolutions emanating from the fourth African regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Nairobi from 5 to 8 April 2011; the third Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Panama City from 31 May to 3 June 2011; the fourth Central and Eastern European regional meeting on the Strategic Approach, held in Lodz, Poland, from 27 to 29 June 2011, and in discussions at the third Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach held in Beijing from 5 to 9 September 2011. The submission of a formal request to the Conference to mark a day in October as international lead poisoning prevention day of action with a specific focus on the elimination of lead paint would be a significant demonstration of political support for the implementation of a global phase-out.

2. Private-sector commitment

22. The secretariat of the International Paint and Printing Ink Council continues to promote industry participation in the Global Alliance issuing several supportive communications for regional meetings on the Strategic Approach. The efforts of the Council to date have been directed at ensuring a common understanding of the nature and extent of public health and environmental concerns

surrounding lead paint, in particular the risks to children. In many instances, its outreach activities have been undertaken in conjunction with non-governmental organizations. Such activities in Asia, China and India in particular, have been a significant feature of work performed in 2010 and 2011. At its most recent meetings, held in Amsterdam in 2011 and Mexico in 2012, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to the Global Alliance, stressing the need to develop broader government engagement and to finalize the business plan for the Global Alliance to help prioritize and provide direction for continuing efforts.

3. Financial support

23. UNEP and WHO require financial resources to cover operational costs, including staff (currently a total of 0.8 person-years for both organizations), contractual agreements, communication and outreach materials, and meeting costs, in particular to support the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in Global Alliance meetings. The Global Alliance secretariat welcomes the financial contribution of some \$175,000 by the Government of the United States, which was deployed to convene the initial Global Alliance operational meeting, in May 2010, and the second Global Alliance meeting held in July 2012. UNEP and WHO are grateful to the Governments of Germany, Norway and Sweden for contributing to operational costs over the Global Alliance's initial start-up phase.

24. Many non-governmental organizations contribute to the Global Alliance's work. The Quick Start Programme of the Strategic Approach supports two non-governmental organizations² to undertake activities to raise awareness of, investigate and test lead paint in Cameroon and Nepal. The International POPs Elimination Network has continued to push for broader support for activities focusing on creating awareness for national implementation in a regional context. Recently funded work under the European Union SWITCH-Asia Programme in seven Asian countries is an example of such efforts, which can be useful in leveraging much-needed additional support from larger donors. The support from the Global Environment Facility's Chemicals Strategy in eliminating lead paint is welcome.

25. These initial successes notwithstanding, additional and continued in-kind and financial contributions to support the Global Alliance are essential if the global phase-out of lead in paint is to be achieved. Based on the experience of similar partnership initiatives and scaling up from more modest and regionally focused activities, it is estimated that around \$1.5 million per year would be required for implementation at the national and regional levels.³ The experience gathered in the context of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles demonstrates that the elimination of lead paint in advance of 2020 is an achievable target which will contribute significantly to the goal of the Strategic Approach that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

IV. Suggested action

26. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management will afford an important opportunity formally to review progress related to the Global Alliance. Further commitment by and contributions from stakeholders, including Governments, non-governmental organizations, including civil society and the private sector, and intergovernmental organizations, are crucial if actions to eliminate lead paint are to be initiated, strengthened and completed to enable the Global Alliance's overall goal and specific objectives to be attained.

27. In view of progress to date, the Conference may wish to consider specific ways of encouraging broader engagement, particularly by Governments, in the Global Alliance's work. Raising awareness at the national level is an important element of the engagement process; in this regard the Conference may wish to support the establishment of an international lead poisoning prevention day of action from October 2013.

28. Critical to the Global Alliance's success is the monitoring of progress in the attainment of its overall goal and specific objectives, including by testing lead paint and, where appropriate, measuring the levels of lead in blood. Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the elimination of lead paint at regional meetings of the Strategic Approach would raise awareness of the issue, thereby strengthening political support and capacity-building in relation to sound chemicals management more generally.

2 Society for Legal and Environmental Analysis and Development Research in Nepal and Research and Education Centre for Development in Cameroon.

3 This estimate does not include in-kind and self-funded work and the funding support needed for the secretariat.

29. The Open-ended Working Group, having considered at its first meeting a progress report on the implementation of resolution II/4 B on lead in paint, transmitted to the Conference the following part of a draft omnibus resolution on emerging policy issues for its consideration and possible adoption its third session:

A

Lead in paint

The Conference,

Recalling the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to protect children's health from exposure to lead as set out in paragraph 57 of the Summit's Plan of Implementation,⁴

Having reviewed the implementation of resolution II/4 B, on lead in paint, of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and the endorsement in that resolution of a global partnership to promote the phasing out of the use of lead in paint,

Noting the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint as the global partnership referred to in resolution II/4 B,

Welcoming section I of decision 26/3, on lead and cadmium, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director, among other things, to continue to promote and facilitate work in relation to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and the report on its progress to date;⁵
2. *Also welcomes* the completion of the business plan for the Global Alliance, which includes specific goals, clear milestones and indicators for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint;
3. *Recognizes* that national initiatives to eliminate lead paint serve also as an example of a practical enabling demonstration of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
4. *Welcomes* the support for the Global Alliance expressed by participants at regional meetings of the Strategic Approach in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific;
5. *Also welcomes* the support provided to the Global Alliance by the Global Environment Facility as part of its strategy on sound chemicals management;
6. *Encourages* all Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to contribute to the Global Alliance's work and to provide technical and financial assistance wherever possible;
7. *Expresses support* for the Global Alliance's proposal to establish an international lead poisoning prevention day of action, with initial focus on the elimination of lead in paints, and encourages all Governments, industry and civil society organizations in all regions to organize related activities in cooperation with the Global Alliance;
8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, as secretariat of the Global Alliance, to report on progress in the implementation of the business plan of the Global Alliance to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session.

4 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

5 See SAICM/ICCM.3/14.

Annex

Summary of activities contributing to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

1. The operational framework of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint establishes the following five focal areas of work, each contributing towards progress in achieving the Global Alliance's overall goal and specific objectives:

- (a) Environmental aspects;
- (b) Health aspects;
- (c) Workers' health;
- (d) Legislation and regulation;
- (e) Outreach to industry.

2. The present summary outlines initial activities in each area and identifies the contributors thereto.

A. Environmental aspects

3. **Baseline survey on lead paint.** A baseline survey was distributed in March 2011 to focal points and networks of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and networks associated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The aim of the survey was to elicit information from as many countries as possible about the use of lead paint and any related prevention and control actions. Information from 26 countries has been received to date, and will be used to complete an initial picture of the status of activities related to lead paint around the world so as to create a baseline to be used to monitor progress in attaining the Global Alliance's overall goal and specific objectives.

4. **Clearing house for materials and information sources.** A literature search was conducted to identify existing legislation and data on paint sampling. This information will be combined with that gathered through the baseline survey to create a clearing house of materials and information sources that will be made available on the Global Alliance website with a view to, among other things, informing policymakers requiring assistance in developing plans for lead screening and abatement programmes. An information document published recently by WHO on analysis of lead in paint^a is an example of the type of document that will be available in the clearing house.

5. **Definition of lead paint.** Based on existing knowledge of the lead compounds used in lead paint and types of coatings and surface finishes that contain such compounds, a definition of lead paint was developed, as was an information brochure on the definition, which is targeted at policymakers in developing countries and paint makers in the informal sector.

6. **Paint sampling.** The following actions are being performed in terms of paint sampling and the results will be shared using the clearing house mentioned above:

(a) The United States Environmental Protection Agency provided a research grant for a small-scale study on the levels of lead in paint currently sold in various countries to determine the concentration of lead in paint when lead is not used as a pigment or colorant (intentionally added). The results of the study will assist in obtaining a more accurate picture of the existing levels of lead in paint currently sold around the world and support the prioritization of future activities. The research was completed in the first quarter of 2012;

(b) In 2011, Green Women, a non-governmental organization based in Kazakhstan, began collecting new paints on which to perform a lead content analysis in what is thought to be the first such analysis of new paints in that country;

(c) Activities are being developed in Nigeria to investigate the levels of lead in new and recently introduced paint brands and to analyse marketed automobile paints, given that the sanding and redecoration of vehicles with lead paint continue to represent a major pathway for occupational exposure to lead;

a Available from www.who.int/entity/ipcs/assessment/public_health/lead_paint.pdf.

(d) The Research and Education Centre for Development, a non-governmental organization in Cameroon, is evaluating lead concentrations in domestic and imported paints as part of a Quick Start Programme project in collaboration with a non-governmental organization based in the United States, OK International. In Nepal, the Society for Legal and Environmental Analysis and Development Research, a non-governmental organization, is implementing a Quick Start Programme project that includes documentation of levels of lead in local and imported paints;

(e) The Indian non-governmental organization Toxics Link, in cooperation with the Environment and Social Development Organization of Bangladesh and the Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development of Nepal and with support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, sampled decorative enamel paints in the three countries and released a report entitled "Double standard: investigating lead (Pb) content in leading enamel paint brands in South Asia";^b

(f) The International POPs Elimination Network, in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati School of Public Health, sampled and tested decorative enamel paints sold in Lebanon, Peru and the Russian Federation. Lead was found in paints from all three countries and a report is being prepared;

(g) The Network received funding from the European Union SWITCH-Asia Programme for lead paint elimination activities, including more extensive paint sampling and testing and the promotion of other objectives of the Global Alliance, in seven Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand).

B. Health aspects

7. **Awareness-raising and advocacy.** The following actions are being undertaken:

(a) WHO continues to raise awareness, advocate action and facilitate access to tools and guidance on chemicals of major public health concern. The publication *Ten chemicals of major public health concern*^c draws attention to the importance of preventing lead exposure. An accompanying information booklet, targeted at WHO member States, emphasizes actions that can be taken to prevent lead poisoning. *Knowns and unknowns on burden of disease due to chemicals: a systematic review*^d is a recent peer-reviewed publication that estimates the burden of disease caused by exposures to specific chemicals, including lead, in 2004. A series of interactive graphs has been published on the WHO Global Health Observatory that clearly shows how the proportion of adults and children with elevated blood lead concentrations varies in the six WHO regions.^e A webpage on lead poisoning provides a single access point to a range of WHO publications concerning lead exposure;^f

(b) A new publication on childhood lead poisoning^g aims to inform and educate health professionals about childhood exposure to lead and lead poisoning, its serious consequences and the critical importance of preventive action at the primary level. A module on lead is available as part of a train-the-trainers package published by WHO for the part of the health sector dealing with children's environmental health.^h A joint WHO/UNEP publication on healthy environments for healthy childrenⁱ contains key messages for action aimed at communities, policymakers, health professionals, teachers and parents. A publication on children's environmental health units^j provides an overview of relevant services targeted at preventing diseases related to the environment, including those caused by lead. This issue is also addressed in other modules of the package, such as those dealing with neurodevelopmental disorders and early environmental origins of disease;

(c) Building on the work of the International POPs Elimination Network and Toxics Link, some non-governmental organizations have been raising awareness and producing advocacy materials in local languages and in English to draw attention to exposure pathways, possible impacts, facts and figures about the health impacts of lead and the way forward in preventing exposure and safe management and handling. Related activities are being carried out by local non-governmental organizations in Nepal, by the Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development; the

b Available from toxicslink.org/docs/Double_Standard_Lead_Paint_29_June_2011.pdf.

c Available from www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/chemicals_phc/en/index.html.

d Available from www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/9.

e Available from www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_exposure/en/index.html.

f Available from www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/lead/en/index.html.

g Available from www.who.int/ceh/publications/childhoodpoisoning/en/index.html.

h Available from www.who.int/ceh/capacity/trainpackage/en/index.html.

i Available from www.who.int/ceh/publications/hehc_booklet/en/index.html.

j Available from www.who.int/ceh/publications/units/en/index.html.

Philippines, by the EcoWaste Coalition; and in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka as part of a South Asia initiative of Toxics Link;

(d) A new publication by WHO on measuring levels of lead in blood^k is aimed at informing policymakers requiring assistance in developing plans for lead screening and abatement programmes.

8. **International lead poisoning prevention day of action.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are leading an initiative to propose the establishment of an international lead poisoning prevention day of action. Key activities in the work will include identifying countries interested in establishing their own national days of action, engaging with interested countries by involving them, for example, in planning activities for United States Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, and choosing materials that would be helpful in facilitating national days of action in other countries.

9. **Diagnosis and treatment of lead poisoning.** New WHO guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of lead poisoning are being developed. They will assist member States to develop policies and prioritize actions to prevent or reduce lead exposure, particularly in children, and to develop national, evidence-based protocols on the diagnosis and management of lead poisoning. They will address a number of priority topics relevant to preventing exposure to lead from paint, including guidance on blood lead concentration testing and on antidote licensing and procurement. Succimer, a chelating agent for lead poisoning, has been added to the WHO model lists of essential medicines for both adults and children.^l

10. **Scientific assessment of the provisional tolerable weekly intake for lead.** In 2010, the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations /WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives withdrew the previously established provisional tolerable weekly intake of 25 µg/kg body weight per week for lead and concluded that there was no threshold for the key adverse effects of lead.

C. Workers' health

11. **Initiation and development of a workplan.** The International POPs Elimination Network is working with the University of Illinois at Chicago and the International Trade Union Confederation to develop a draft workplan of activities for achieving the Global Alliance's objectives. The workplan will be further developed at the 2012 meeting of the Global Alliance.

D. Legislation and regulation

12. **Current regulatory practices.** A statement of findings on current regulatory practices for eliminating lead paint has been completed and a draft document setting out the key objectives in the implementation and enforcement of legislation on lead paint is being finalized.

13. **Advocacy for improving lead regulations.** Building on lead sampling work, non-governmental organizations have been actively advocating an improvement in lead regulations in Brazil, India, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

E. Outreach to industry

14. **International Paint and Printing Ink Council advisory working group.** An advisory group has been established by the International Paint and Printing Ink Council to provide a focus for outreach efforts involving industry. The Council has formally committed itself to supporting the Global Alliance's work. Initial efforts have included outreach activities with the Asian Paint Industry Council, which represents manufacturers throughout Central, South and South-East Asia. Follow-up presentations are planned for associations in India and China. The Council welcomes collaboration with non-governmental organizations and government representatives in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean to find opportunities for industry outreach.

15. **Outreach to industry by non-governmental organizations.** Non-governmental organizations in Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka have engaged with participants from paint manufacturing companies, local paint associations, paint dealers, retailers and painters during their activities to secure continuing possibilities for dialogue and voluntary commitments to phase out the use of lead.

k Available from www.who.int/entity/ipcs/assessment/public_health/lead_blood.pdf.

l Available from www.who.int/medicines/publications/essentialmedicines/en/.