UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/PAG.6/3

Distr.: General
7 October 2014
English only

United Nations Environment Programme

Global Mercury Partnership
Partnership Advisory Group, Sixth meeting
Bangkok, Thailand, 31 October – 1 November 2014

Summary of the survey results of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

Note by the Secretariat

The secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership conducted a survey to evaluate the Partnership since the last review in 2012. A summary of the results has been compiled in the annex to the present note.

The Partnership Advisory Group may wish to discuss and consider the outcome of the survey.

Annex:

Summary of the survey results of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership

1. INTRODUCTION

This survey has been undertaken in order to review the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (herein after referred to as the Partnership) has performed since the last review (2012). The main thematic areas of this review include: information clearing through Partners, Partnership area leads and UNEP; membership and representation within partnership areas; finances and transparency; communication and outreach; and the Partnership's role in implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This review was conducted using a questionnaire, which was sent to all Partners, and 15 targeted interviews. The full methodology can be found in section 2.

This report outlines the feedback from Partners concerning the overall performance of the Partnership. It therefore seeks to give more general feedback concerning the strengths and weaknesses of the whole Partnership and how all partnership areas can improve.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire was sent out to all Partners within the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. The questionnaire was composed of 45 questions; 30 of which were quantitative tick boxes and 15 of which were qualitative short answer questions. Of the quantitative questions, 29 were composed of a statement followed by 5 scale points (i.e. very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, no opinion, satisfied, very satisfied), and 1 was composed of a multiple answer question concerning sectorial representation (industry, government, IGO, NGO, academia, other). Tick box questions were made to be mandatory, while quantitative questions were optional. This was done to simplify the survey for busier users, in order to get the maximum return rate of surveys. A total of 48 Partners out of approximately 131 (response rate of ~36 %) replied to the questionnaire; a breakdown of responses according to Partnership Area (PA) can be seen in Table 1.

Total Number of Responses	Air Fate & Transport	ASGM	Coal	Chlor-Alkali	Products	Supply & Storage	Waste
48	4	15	13	6	16	13	21

Table 1: *Number of respondents in each partnership area.*

The questions in both the questionnaire and the semi-structured interviews were composed taking the literature review and the last Partnership report (2012) into consideration. Questions therefore covered:

- Information Clearing House Mechanism: Whether the Partnership has been acting efficiently as an information clearing-house, particularly with regards to the clarity, depth, availability and quality of publications.
- Finances: Whether financing is efficient and transparent, and the reasons why Partners decide whether or not to provide funding.
- Partnership: Whether there is enough Partner-Partner involvement, communication and collaboration within and between PAs.
- Awareness Raising: Whether the Partnership has done well to promote the awareness of the mercury issue to both Partners and the Public.
- Website: Whether the website is easily accessible and well organised. This also covers how easy it is to access relevant publications.
- Minamata Convention on Mercury: Whether the Partnership can and/or will act as an effective facilitator to governments in fulfilling the goals of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Using Excel, the results, graded by average level of stakeholder satisfaction (1-5), were divided by quartiles (upper, middle and lower 25% ranges). The Partnership's top ranked strengths and weaknesses were hence identified by the upper and lower quartiles (top 25% and lowest 25%, respectively). These topics will be the main focus areas of this review, with particular focus on the lowest-ranked issues, in order to ascertain how the Partnership needs to improve and progress.

2.2 SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH PARTNERS

Semi-structured interviews were chosen as an additional means to collect data, in order to gain a further understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership. Open-ended questions with the same general outline as the questionnaire were designed in advance, so that all Partners would answer the same pool of questions. Based upon preliminary questionnaire results, interviews were further tailored to gain more information concerning why Partners have identified weakness areas. At least one Partner from each PA was interviewed, with a preferred mixture of a lead and a non-lead Partner. A total of 15 individuals were interviewed. This information was used to supplement and explain the results found in the questionnaire.

3. FINDINGS ON GENERAL ISSUES FOR THE PARTNERSHIP

3.1 KEY RESULTS BY ISSUE

The following graphs show the key results of the survey. Each bar represents the feedback for each question, where questions have been grouped by issue. The red line indicates the 3.25 satisfaction level, when all results falling below the line are those that have fallen into the lowest satisfaction quartile (lowest scoring 25% of answers).

Red arrows indicate areas in the lowest quartile (primary weakness), or those that are in need of the greatest level of improvement. The yellow arrows indicate areas that fall close to the threshold (secondary weakness); these areas have not been focused upon in this report, but are areas that also need to be considered.

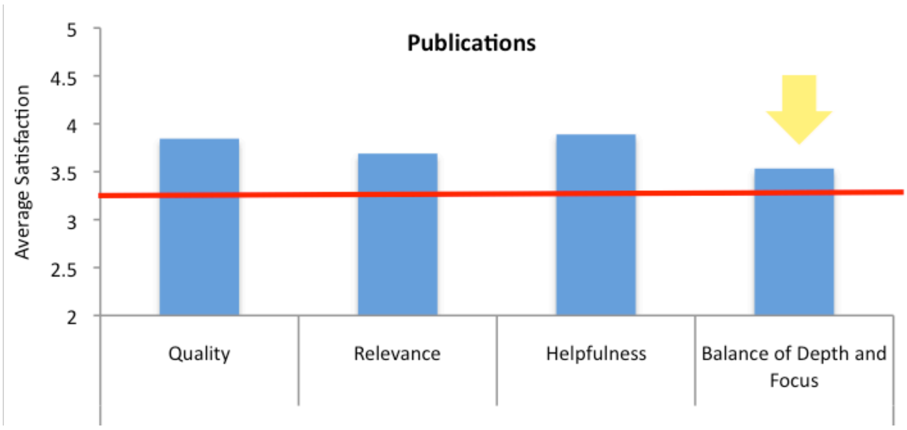

Figure 1: Average satisfaction of all Partners with regards to publications

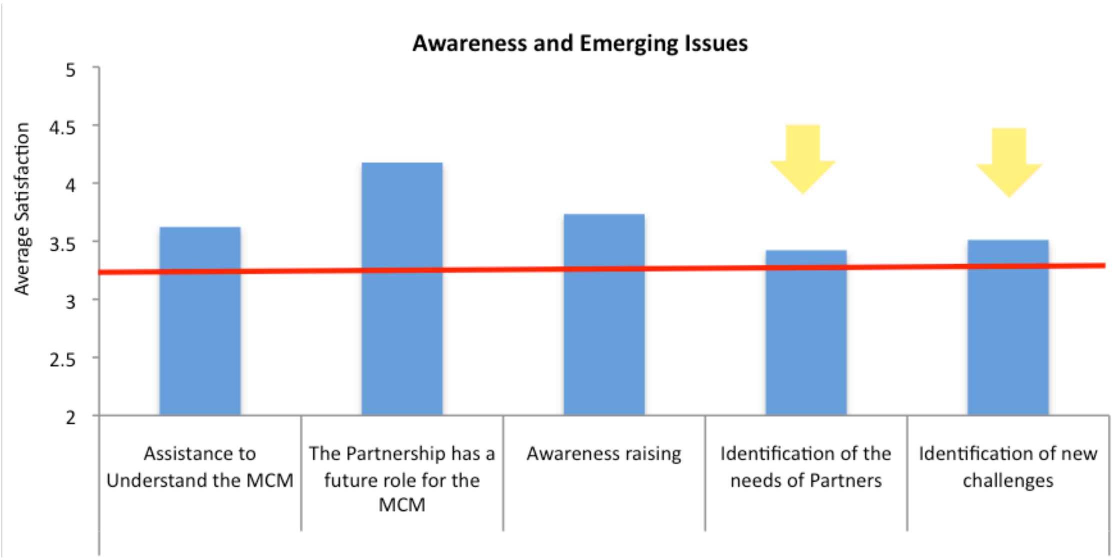

Figure 2: Average satisfaction of all Partners with regards to awareness raising and emerging issues. Both the identification of Partner needs, and the identification of new challenges are secondary weaknesses.

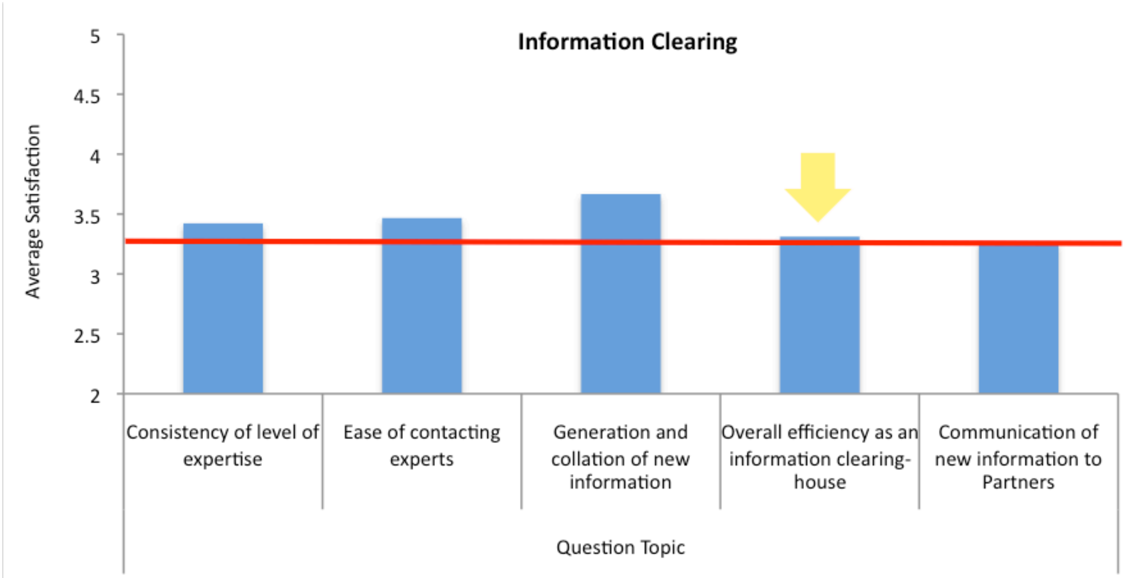

Figure 3: Average satisfaction of all Partners with regards to UNEP, Leads and Partners clearing and communicating information to each other. The Partnership as a centralized body has not been perceived by Partners (secondary weakness) to efficiently distribute new information.

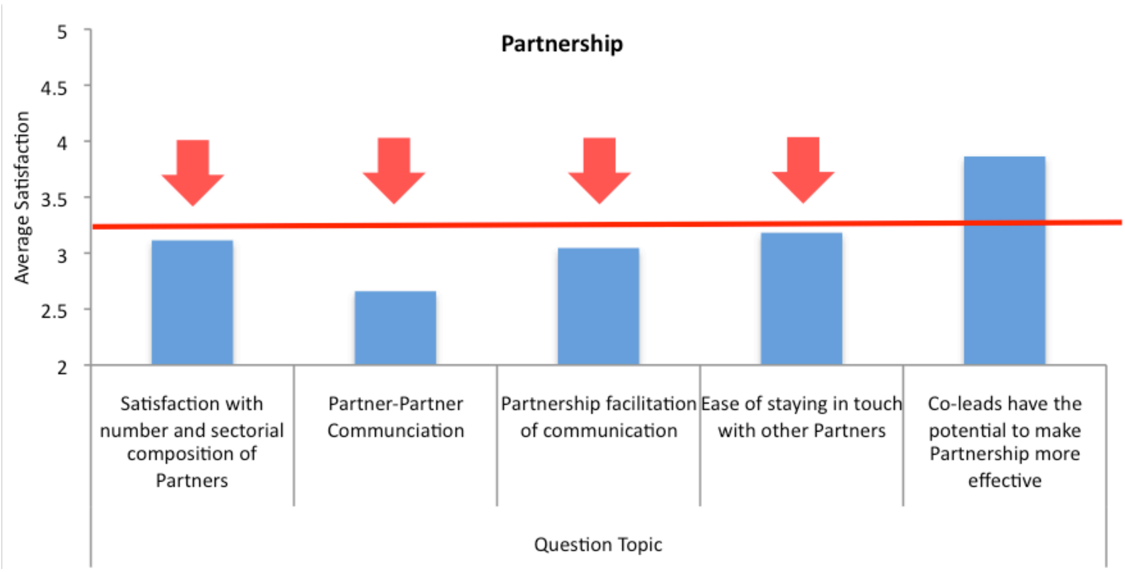

Figure 4: Average satisfaction of all Partners with regards to Partnership and Partner-Partner communications. This issue was perceived by Partners to be the weakest. Representation within PAs, Partner-Partner communication, UNEP/Lead facilitation of communication, and ease of staying in touch with other Partners were all perceived to be primary weaknesses.

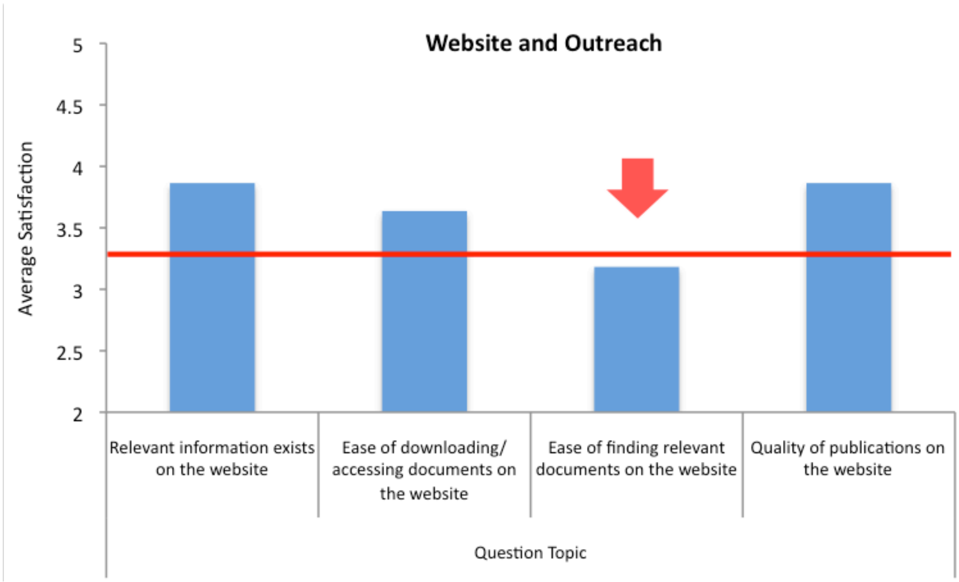

Figure 5: Average satisfaction of all Partners with regards the Partnership Website and online resources. The ease of finding information on the website, due to structure and layout, was seen as a primary weakness.

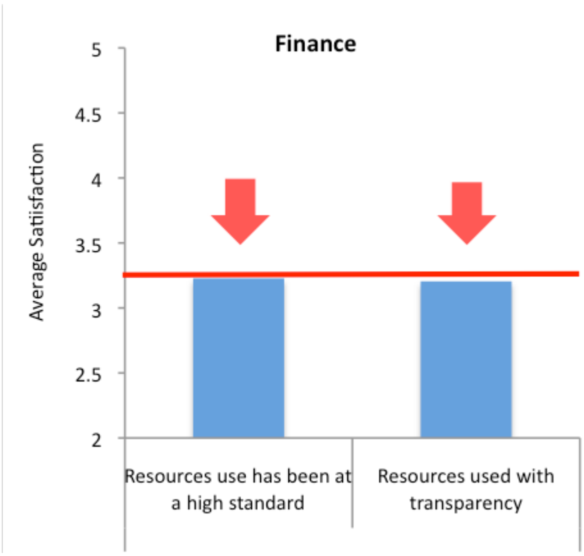

Figure 6: Average satisfaction of all Partners with regards to the use of Finances. Both the use of Partnership funds, and the transparency for how they are used, were identified as primary weaknesses.

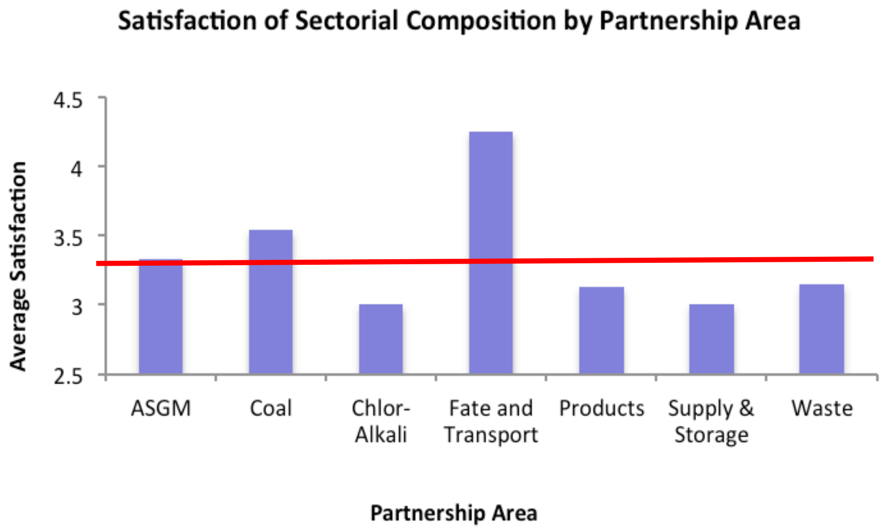

Figure 7: *Average satisfaction of Partners with regards to the sectorial composition of their Partnership Area, where Partners have been grouped by Partnership Area.*

3.2 CHALLENGES

Lack of representation of stakeholders from different backgrounds

Partners have shown a low level of satisfaction with regards to sectorial representation within their PAs. Of all the PAs, only Air Fate & Transport has high satisfaction with regards to the sectorial composition of Partners within their PA (above). In particular, Partners in Chlor-Alkali, Products, Supply & Storage and Waste have indicated their need for increased recruitment.

As indicated in Figure 8, the recruitment needs of PAs differ significantly. This is due to a number of reasons, which largely revolve around which stakeholders are the most likely to complement a PA's aims and objectives. Partners in all PAs have highlighted governments as the most desired sector for increased representation; 61% would like to see more governments. The main immediate focus for PAs seems to be governments, as they will be the ones who are required to fulfill their commitments to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Industry follows as a close second (59%), followed by academia (45%). NGOs were not rated as highly (27%). Desire for "other" institutions, generally indicated through the qualitative section, was generally directed towards engaging Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Particularly in interviews, there has been considerable confusion surrounding why governments have not joined the Partnership, keeping in mind the promotion of visibility of the Partnership during the INC negotiations. Suggestions for why this might has been the case included: a lack of visibility with regards to publications and online presence; a misunderstanding of the time/financial requirements of being a partner; not thinking that the Partnership is a worthwhile investment of staff time.

Another key point is that Partners, particularly in government, are often labeled as organisations instead of individuals. Once an active individual moves post, their previous organization is still listed as a Partner even if that organization no longer has an officer responsible for Partnership activity. This skews the way that representation is presented, as there are many Partners who are rendered inactive because of an

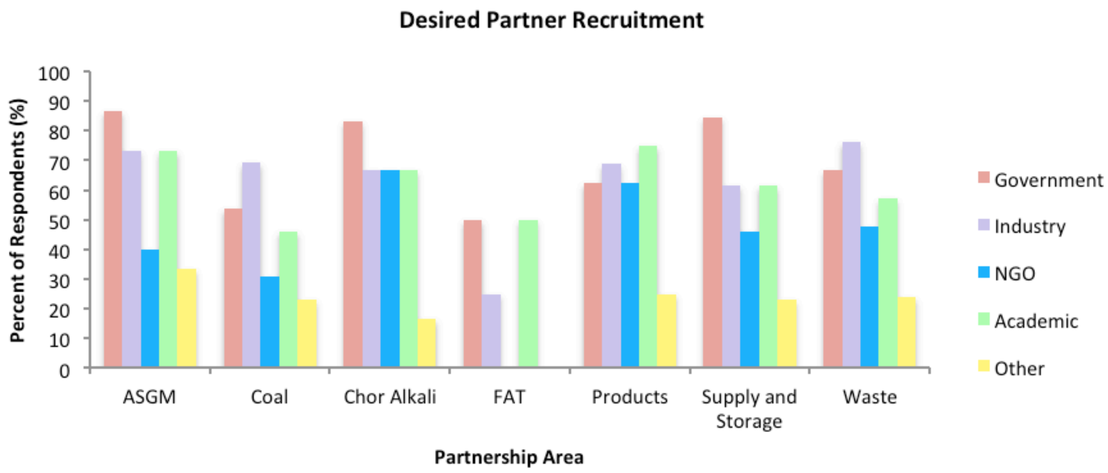

Figure 8: *This graph shows which sector Partners would like to see more recruitment of, where Partners are grouped by their Partnership Area. The bars show the percentage of those within each sector (x axis) who would like to see recruitment in a given sector (colour coded bars). Effectively, this graph shows how each Partnership Area would like to direct recruiting.*

individual leaving. There is currently no protocol in place to either engage the individual once they have moved or to have a legacy within the original Partner institution to ensure that the Partnership is not forgotten.

Many Partners have also indicated that the Partnership has very low visibility. There is not enough advertising of what the Partnership is, what it does and how one might become a Partner. Promoting the fact that the Partnership is free and that Partners can participate through an information-sharing role is essential when trying to attract new Partners from all sectors. Despite this being one of the key roles of the Partnership, it is unclear through the website and many publications that this is the case.