



## **Operational framework Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint**

**March 2011**

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### **I. Introduction**

1. Lead is a toxic metal whose widespread use has caused environmental contamination and extensive public health problems in many parts of the world. Lead can have profound and permanent adverse health effects on children. While the greatest impacts are on children, lead also causes harm in adults, including workers. There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered to be safe.

2. Recent reductions in the use of lead in petrol, paint, plumbing and solder have resulted in substantial reductions in the levels of lead measured in humans in many countries, however significant sources of lead exposure still remain. Lead paint has been and is still being used for decorating the interiors and exteriors of homes and schools, on public and commercial buildings and structures such as bridges, as well as on toys, furniture and playground equipment. Exposure to lead from lead paint can occur during manufacture and application and will remain for many years to come as the paint deteriorates or is removed during painting and demolition. One of the most common and most concentrated remaining sources of lead exposure for children is from exposure paint dust. Paints containing lead are still widely manufactured and sold for use in many developing countries of the world.

### **II. Overall goals and objectives**

3. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is a new initiative to focus and catalyze the efforts of diverse stakeholders to achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead from paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. The broad objective is to promote a phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks that such paints pose.

4. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is an important means of contributing to implementation of paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to resolution II/4B of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. Annex I contains additional information about these declarations.

5. The specific objectives of the work of the Global Alliance 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 paint and the availability of technically superior and safer alternatives.

(b) To catalyze 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 those paint manufacturers, paint formulators and distributors that continue to produce and market paints containing lead in order 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, distribution, 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, in childcare facilities and schools in which paint containing lead and paint dusts are present and in industrial facilities producing or using paint containing lead to reduce workers' lead exposure.

### **III. Scope and application**

6. The term “paint” includes: varnishes, lacquers, stains, enamels, glazes, primers or coatings used for any purposes. Paint is typically a mixture of resins, pigments, fillers, solvents, and other additives.

7. “Lead paint” is paint to which one or more lead compounds have been added. Lead compounds that are typically added to paint include, but are not limited to: Lead monoxide, Lead octanoate, Lead chromate, Lead 2-ethylhexanoate, Lead sulfate, Lead oxide, Lead molybdate, Lead nitrate, Lead sulfo-chromate yellow, Lead naphthenate, Lead chromate molybdate sulfate red, Lead peroxide, Lead carbonate (white lead), Lead chromate oxide and Tri lead - bis (carbonate) - dihydroxide<sup>1</sup>. The total lead concentration is defined on a weight percentage of the total non-volatile portion of the product or in the weight of the dried paint film. Lead compounds may also be present in paint as a contaminant from other paint ingredients. Efforts should be made to keep the total lead content in paints as low as possible. Current data from a number of countries suggests that lead levels in many decorative paints are less than 90 ppm and often below 45 ppm.

### **IV. Working arrangements**

8. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint operates as a joint project undertaken in accordance with the respective mandates and programmes of work of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

9. The Global Alliance is not an institutional entity but a voluntary collaborative initiative to focus and catalyze the efforts of diverse stakeholders to achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead from paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. Stakeholders may include Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations including civil society, regional bodies, philanthropic organizations, academia, media and the private sector. Interested individuals may also participate as stakeholders.

10. The work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Paint is organized in five focal areas:

(a) Health aspects.

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<sup>1</sup> Chemicals Abstract Service Registry numbers associated with the lead compounds listed are as follows: Lead monoxide (1317-36-8), Lead chromate (7758-97-6), Lead sulfate (7446-14-2), Lead molybdate (10190-55-3), Lead sulfo-chromate yellow (1344-37-2) (this is sometimes called Lead chrome or chrome yellow), Lead chromate molybdate sulfate red (12656-85-8), Lead chromate oxide (18454-12-1), Lead octanoate (7319-86-0), Lead 2-ethylhexanoate (301-08-6), Lead oxide (1314-41-6), Lead nitrate (10099-74-8), Lead naphthenate (61790-14-5), Lead peroxide (1309-60-0), Lead carbonate (white lead) (1319-46-6), Tri lead-bis(carbonate)-dihydroxide (1319-46-6).

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

11. Those stakeholders who have made a commitment to the goals and the objectives of the Global Alliance, who have provided information on the activities at local, national, regional and/or global levels being undertaken to advance the overall goal and objectives of the Global Alliance in particular in support of the focal areas of the work of the Global Alliance and who have declared any possible conflicts of interest will be considered by UNEP and WHO to be identified as making a contribution to the work of the Global Alliance. Annex II contains further information on contributors to the Global Alliance.

12. Working groups will be convened by UNEP and WHO to assist in the development of workplans for each focal area. WHO will convene focal area working groups on (a) health aspects and (c) workers health and UNEP will convene focal area working groups on (b) environmental aspects, (d) legislation and regulation, and (e) outreach to industry. The development of focal area workplans will take account of the various contributions to the work of the Global Alliance and any recommendations and information that may surface at UNEP and WHO regional meetings and other relevant fora.

13. Each focal area working group will be led by a contributor to the work activities of the Global Alliance and specifically the activities being tackled in that focal area. The focal area leader will be selected by UNEP and WHO from those contributors expressing an interest to become a focal area leader and will work with UNEP and/or WHO to prepare a focal area workplan that reflects the activities of contributors as well as activities needed to achieve the overall goals and objectives of the Global Alliance. An agreement will be concluded to this effect, setting forth the terms and conditions for the work.

14. A Global Alliance Advisory Group will be jointly convened by UNEP and WHO to serve as a mechanism for discussion of the issues common to different focal areas, for reviewing and monitoring progress with activities and for providing input to formal progress reports jointly prepared by UNEP and WHO about the work of the Global Alliance.

15. The Global Alliance Advisory Group will include, as a minimum, the leaders of any focal area working group. The Global Alliance Advisory Group will propose an integrated and coherent workplan or business plan drawing together and prioritizing components from each focal area workplan. The terms of reference for the Global Alliance Advisory Group are contained in Annex III.

16. A global forum will be convened by UNEP and WHO, at least once every two years to present and review the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint to share information and experiences from contributors and to catalyze future actions. .

17. The Global Alliance forum meeting shall include representatives from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations including civil society, academia, media, regional bodies, philanthropic organizations and the private sector. Individual experts contributing to the work of the Global Alliance will also be invited to participate. All contributors to the work of the Global Alliance will be informed of the date and venue of the Global Alliance meetings. WHO and UNEP will work to ensure that each Global Alliance forum meeting provides a balance of views from different geographical regions, stakeholders, and interests.

## **V. Public communication**

18. The norms and standards of UNEP and WHO will be used to guide public communications about the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. The dissemination of all written material will be subject to approval by UNEP and WHO.
19. Official reports and publications about the Global Alliance will be prepared and approved by UNEP and WHO in accordance with organizational procedures. They will carry UNEP and WHO logos and as appropriate the logo of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)<sup>2</sup> and a disclaimer in accordance with the relevant guidance of the organizations.
20. The name "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint" can only be referred to by contributors for projects, publications or communications identified on the Global Alliance website. The following wording must be used: "This <<project/publication/communication/activity>> is a contribution to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint". Contributors wishing to mention the Global Alliance in their publications must respect the rules established for the use of names, emblems and logos. No reference may be made for commercial or promotional purposes.
21. Global Alliance contributors shall not use the name, emblem or logo of UNEP or WHO in any manner or in any form whatsoever without the express prior written approval of UNEP and WHO.
22. The name "Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint" may not be used for commercial or promotional activities. Individuals, institutions and/or entities that are not identified on the Global Alliance website as contributors to the Global Alliance cannot use the name of the Global Alliance.
23. Contributors and meeting participants may not speak on behalf of the Global Alliance. Any person who communicates publicly either orally or in writing about the work of the Global Alliance, and who is not specifically designated to do so by WHO and UNEP, must make it known that he or she is representing only their own views.
24. The contributions made will be duly acknowledged in an appropriate manner in publications by UNEP and WHO about the Global Alliance.
25. Global Alliance meeting and progress reports, focal area reports and materials developed as part of the focal area activities will be disseminated through the Global Alliance website, maintained by UNEP and WHO.
26. A listing of information and resources will be available from the Global Alliance website.. The mention of specific resources or their producers does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by UNEP and/or WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. UNEP and/or WHO cannot attest to the accuracy of information provided by contributors.

## **VI. Financial resources**

27. The coherent, integrated workplan or business plan for the work of the Global Alliance will be a key component of resource mobilization efforts providing clarity and focus

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<sup>2</sup> Footnote updated 26 October 2012. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is contributed to by nine intergovernmental participating organizations (PO): the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

to potential donors and financial institutions on the priority activities needed to achieve the overall goals and objectives of the Global Alliance.

28. Global Alliance contributors will remain responsible for the funding of their activities and are expected to assist in identifying potential donors with an interest in providing resources for other parts of the business plan of the Global Alliance. Donations must not be subject to any perceived conflict of interest.

29. UNEP and WHO will provide resources to support the work of the Global Alliance, subject to the availability of funds resulting from their own resource mobilization efforts to cover personnel, operational costs including contractual agreements, communication and outreach activities including information forms, newsletters, hosting of a dedicated website for the initiative, and meeting costs (e.g. support for the participation of developing countries and economies in transition in meetings of the Global Alliance).

## **VII. General**

30. UNEP and WHO may at any time decide not to continue the work on the Global Alliance, in which case all activities shall cease upon communication to contributors to that effect.

31. Any question or dispute about the Global Alliance and its work shall be referred to UNEP and WHO for final resolution.

## Annex I

### International declarations concerning lead in paint

#### A. Paragraph 57 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup>

57. Phase-out lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure and work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.

#### B. Resolution II/4/B of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management<sup>4</sup> concerning Lead in paint.

*The Conference,*

*Considering* the decision by 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, which calls for the phase-out of lead in lead-based paints and in other sources of human exposure and for work to prevent, in particular, children's exposure to lead and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning, and welcoming the actions identified to phase out lead in paint in the context of children's health and the environment at the meeting of ministers of the environment of the Group of Eight, held in Syracuse, Italy, from 22 to 24 April 2009,

*Acknowledging* the Dakar Resolution for Eliminating Lead in Paints, adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety at its sixth session, held in Dakar from 15 to 19 September 2008,

*Recognizing* the progress being made towards achieving a global phase-out of lead in automotive fuels by the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles,

1. Endorses 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;
2. Invites 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;
3. Requests the global partnership to adopt terms of reference using the draft terms of reference presented to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session<sup>5</sup> 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;

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<sup>3</sup> Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26 August to 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa, [http://www.un.org/jsummit/html/documents/summit\\_docs.html](http://www.un.org/jsummit/html/documents/summit_docs.html).

<sup>4</sup> Held from 11 to 15 May 2009, Geneva, Switzerland.

<sup>5</sup> SAICM/ICCM.2/10/Add.1.

- (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;

4. *Invites 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;*

5. *Invites 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.*

## Annex II

### Contributors to the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

1. The Global Alliance welcomes contributions from the following entities who are undertaking work towards its overall goal to prevent children's exposure to lead from paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint:
  - (a) Governments.
  - (b) Intergovernmental organizations
  - (c) Non-governmental organizations, including civil society, regional bodies, philanthropic organizations, academia, media and the private sector; and
  - (d) Any other entity or individual with expertise concerning lead in paint.
2. Contributions are particularly encouraged from:
  - (a) Representatives of national Governments including those:
    - i) that have already phased out the use of lead paint in their countries and are willing to share experiences and provide help to those who are now prepared to do so; and
    - ii) where paints containing lead continue to be sold.
  - (b) Representatives of relevant intergovernmental organizations such as e.g. the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC);
  - (c) Representatives of the paint and coating industry and international and national companies that manufacture and/or formulate paints and coatings; and relevant trade organizations.
  - (d) International and national medical, housing and public health organizations.
  - (e) Academics with expertise in relevant fields.
  - (f) Representatives of international and national non-governmental organizations that work on environmental health issues and that have experience of public outreach and awareness campaigns or of implementation of prevention programmes at the community or national levels.
  - (g) Trade unions at the local, national and international levels.
3. Each entity or individual, identified by WHO and UNEP as making a contribution to the work of the Global Alliance (hereinafter referred to as a "contributor"), will work in accordance with the operational guidelines and will be included in a list of contributors on the website as contributing to the development and implementation of Global Alliance activities. Contributions may be in the form of financial support, in-kind contribution and/or technical expertise.
4. To be considered as a contributor to the work of the Global Alliance, representatives of entities and interested individuals may make a request to UNEP and WHO and submit information using a standardized questionnaire. The questionnaire will seek information concerning the nature of the contribution and how it supports the focal area work plans of



the Global Alliance.

5. Completed questionnaires should be sent together with a letter of intent to:

(a) Head; UNEP Chemicals Branch; DTIE; 11-13, chemin des Anémones; CH-1219 Châtelaine; Geneva; Switzerland; Fax: (+41 22) 797 34 60; E-mail: [noleadinpaint@unep.org](mailto:noleadinpaint@unep.org).

AND

(b) Director; Department of Public Health and Environment; World Health Organization; 20, av. Appia; CH-1211 Geneva 27; Switzerland; Fax: (+41 22) 791 48 48; e-mail: [noleadinpaint@who.int](mailto:noleadinpaint@who.int).

6. Acceptance into the Global Alliance remains the responsibility of UNEP and WHO. Upon receipt of the completed questionnaires, and consideration of the information provided, UNEP and WHO will jointly inform contributors of the decision concerning the proposed contribution. If accepted the name of the contributor and a link to the submitted questionnaire providing supporting information about the contribution will be included on the website for the Global Alliance.

7. UNEP and WHO retain the right to exclude any contributor that breaches its commitment to the overall goal and objectives of the Global Alliance or the Global Alliance Framework.

8. A contributor may withdraw at any time, through written correspondence to UNEP and WHO.

9. Contributors to the Global Alliance will, inter alia:

i) Work in accordance with the operational guidelines for the work of the Global Alliance and in particular with respect the guidelines on public communication.

ii) Contribute to, initiate and undertake activities within the focal area workplan(s), conferring with the focal area leader, UNEP and WHO, and other contributors, as appropriate.

iii) Provide progress reports to focal area leaders and UNEP and WHO on activities being undertaken.

iv) Share information within their respective organizations about the work of the Global Alliance.

v) Mobilize resources, including financial resources, for the implementation of their own activities.

v) Help identify new potential contributors for the work of the Global Alliance.

## **Annex III**

### **Terms of reference for UNEP/WHO Advisory Group for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.**

1. UNEP and WHO will jointly convene a Global Alliance Advisory Group to facilitate the overall cohesion and coordination of activities particularly those of a cross-cutting nature between different focal areas for the work of the Global Alliance.
2. The functions of the Advisory Group are to advise UNEP and WHO in the following areas:
  - (a) Encourage the work of the Global Alliance focal areas working groups.
  - (b) Review and monitor the Global Alliance focal area work plans to promote consistency with the overall goal and objectives of the Global Alliance.
  - (c) Review progress with Global Alliance focal area activities.
  - (d) Help to identify overarching issues and lessons learned across focal areas,
  - (e) Propose, based on focal area work plans, the overall business plan of the Global Alliance.
3. As a minimum, the following participants will be invited to serve on the Advisory Group:
  - (a) The focal area leaders from each of the focal areas for Global Alliance activities namely (i) Health aspects, (ii) Environment aspects, (iii) Worker's health, (iv) Legislation and regulation, and (v) Outreach to industry.
4. The Advisory Group will meet twice a year and at such other times as deemed necessary. Meetings may be in person, by conference call or by any other means. If the Advisory Group is not unanimous, any diverging views will be recorded. Reports of the meetings of the Advisory Group will be made available on the Global Alliance website.
5. All participants must complete a declaration of interests and his/her participation will be assessed accordingly on a case-by-case basis.
6. UNEP and WHO have the right to terminate and to invite new participants as they may find necessary.
7. UNEP and WHO may decide to change the terms of reference or to disestablish the Advisory Group at any time.

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