Alliance To End Childhood Lead Poisoning

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Launching a Global Lead Initiative:
A Proposal to the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Alliance To End Childhood Lead Poisoning

Summary

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) provides the opportunity to achieve the expedited completion of global leaded gasoline phase-out and to identify and eliminate other exposure sources according to a partnership process with specific implementation milestones and targets. In addition, this effort may provide an implementation model of international cooperation adaptable to other environmental health and sustainable development problems.

Background

Around the world, exposure to excessive levels of lead in the environment, the home, and the workplace continues to impose immense costs, with many millions of adults and especially children suffering from adverse health impacts, impaired mental and physical development, and the effects of a degraded environment. Lead poisoning and pollution is the very opposite of sustainable development, which, if it means anything, must include the protection of the world's future – our children. Conversely, prevention promotes sustainability by protecting vulnerable groups, overcoming health and environmental challenges, institutionalizing interdisciplinary solutions, developing human and social resources, and revitalizing communities.

Leaded gasoline remains the most widespread source of environmental contamination and human exposure to lead and its accelerated phase-out thus constitutes the most important international lead poisoning prevention priority. Moreover, worldwide vehicle miles are projected to rise rapidly by 2012, especially in the developing world. While leaded gasoline phase-out would constitute a signal public health victory in itself, phase-out also serves as the "gateway" to utilizing clean fuels and controlling other harmful pollutants. Banning leaded gasoline enables the use of modern technologies that increase energy efficiency, optimize fuel economy, markedly reduce conventional urban air pollutants, and significantly reduce emissions of atmospheric levels of many Greenhouse Gases.

However, no country or region can claim complete victory over lead poisoning after the successful elimination of leaded gasoline. Other common sources of lead in the environment include industrial point sources; hazardous waste (particularly spent lead-acid batteries flowing from the developed to the developing worlds); cottage industries; lead-based paints; food can solder; ceramic glazes; drinking water systems; and

cosmetics and folk remedies. Communities must systematically identify, prioritize, and address these multiple sources of lead in the environment to ensure the eventual elimination of lead poisoning. Every day's continued dispersion of lead into the environment adds to the reservoir of lead that must eventually be addressed.

Governments have repeatedly committed themselves in a variety of international and regional fora to phase out leaded gasoline and address other sources of lead in the environment. Progress has been made over the past decade. Approximately 50 countries have verifiably completed phase-out. However, almost 100 countries still use leaded gasoline (some exclusively) and very few countries have systematically identified and addressed other sources of lead in the environment. The challenge now is to utilize the WSSD partnership process to fulfill the commitments that already have been made. The Summit of the Americas Partnership for Pollution Prevention (PPP), which succeeded in significantly expediting phase-out in the Western Hemisphere, provides a successful model for implementation.

Name of the Partnership/Initiative

GLOBAL LEAD INITIATIVE

Expected date of initiation: September 2002
Expected date of completion:

1. Leaded gasoline phase-out - by December 31, 2005.
2. (Concurrent) Identifying and eliminating other sources of lead - Completion date will vary by region, source, extent and nature of the lead poisoning problem, as specified in the National Action Plans.

Partners Involved: We are in the process of actively seeking partners. If you are interested in becoming a partner, or otherwise participating in the Global Lead Initiative, please contact the Alliance (see contact information at the end of this form).

Governments To Be **INVITED**: Philippines; Thailand; United Arab Emirates; United States

Intergovernmental Organizations To Be **INVITED**: Asian Development Bank (ADB); Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Energy and Transport Division; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); World Bank; World Health Organization (WHO)

Major Groups To Be **INVITED**: Citizens Network for Sustainable Development (CitNet) – United States; Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) – India; Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association (MECA) – United States; Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – United States; Partnership for Clean Air – Philippines; Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) – United States; Reseau Inter Africain des Habitants (RIAH) – West Africa

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative
Please provide a brief description:

The goal of the Global Lead Initiative is to catalyze expedited completion of leaded gasoline phase-out and to identify and eliminate other exposure sources, by achieving the following objectives:

- Institute a partnership process for implementation and monitoring, including the development of specific milestones and targets;
- Build on progress and lessons learned by highlighting "best practices," models of successful implementation of phase-out and prevention, in each region;
- Coordinate disparate projects, technical assistance programs, and other efforts being carried out by UN agencies, national governments, and NGOs, to avoid duplication of efforts; and
- Maximize the benefits of phase-out and prevention by linking efforts to related environmental health objectives, such as clean fuels and healthy housing.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

Since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Conference), the international community has repeatedly reaffirmed lead poisoning prevention, beginning with leaded gasoline phase-out, as a sustainable development priority. Although Agenda 21 does not explicitly mention lead poisoning prevention and pollution, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) clarified the role of lead poisoning prevention in asserting the principles of Agenda 21; most notably during the second CSD meeting, in 1994, which addressed Agenda 21 chapters particularly relevant to lead – toxics and human health (but also including fresh water and hazardous wastes) – and the ninth CSD meeting which considered the sectoral themes of energy and atmosphere.

Furthermore, the Global Lead Initiative closely relates to the larger goals and objectives of the Millennium Declaration. The Millennium Declaration reinforces the "collective responsibility" of the international community to sustainable development and their "duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world." The multi-disciplinary issue of lead poisoning prevention is relevant to the majority of the Declaration's primary themes (Development and Poverty

Eradication, Protecting Our Common Environment, Protecting the Vulnerable, and Meeting the Special Needs of Africa) and the overarching theme of sustainable development; as lead poisoning and pollution is the very opposite of sustainable development, and prevention promotes sustainability by protecting vulnerable groups, overcoming health and environmental challenges, institutionalizing interdisciplinary solutions, developing human and social resources, and revitalizing communities.

A mutually reinforcing variety of other international and regional processes have reiterated the priority of the international commitment to lead poisoning prevention, beginning with leaded gasoline phase-out. These include: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT); European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT); Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD); G7/8 Environment Ministers' Meetings; and the Summit of the Americas.

Relevant Agenda 21 objectives:

Chapter 6, Part C, Section 6.19 – Protecting and Promoting Human Health – Protecting Vulnerable Groups – Infants and Children – Objective 6.23 – "ensure that all such individuals should be allowed to develop to their full potential (including healthy physical, mental, and spiritual development)"

Chapter 6, Part E, Section 6.41a. - Protecting and Promoting Human Health – Reducing Health Risks from Environmental Hazards – Urban Air Pollution

Chapter 6, Part E, Section 6.41i/ii. - Protecting and Promoting Human Health – Reducing Health Risks from Environmental Hazards – Industry and Energy Production – "Incorporate appropriate health risk analysis in all national programmes for pollution control and management, with particular emphasis on toxic compounds such as lead"

Chapter 7, Part E, Section 7.49 - Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development – Promoting Sustainable Energy and Transport Systems in Human Settlements – Objective: "extend the provision of more energy-efficient technology and alternative/renewable energy for human settlements and to reduce negative impacts of energy production and use on human health and the environment." (the principle activities relevant to this programme area are included in chapter 9)

Chapter 9, Part B, Subpart 2, - Protection of the Atmosphere – Promoting Sustainable Development – Transportation –

Section 9.14 - Objectives - "limit, reduce or control, as appropriate, harmful emissions into the atmosphere and other adverse environmental effects of the transport sector"

Section 9.15b. – Activities – "facilitate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels access to and the transfer of safe, efficient, including resource-efficient, and less polluting transport technologies, particularly to developing countries"

Chapter 19, Part D - Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products – Establishment of Risk Reduction Programmes

Section 19.48 – Objectives – "to eliminate unacceptable or unreasonable risks and, to the extent economically feasible, to reduce risks posed by toxic chemicals, by employing a broad-based approach involving a wide range of risk reduction options and by taking precautionary measures derived from a broad-based life-cycle analysis."

Section 19.49.b – Activities – "promotion of the use of cleaner products and technologies … and the phasing out or banning of toxic chemicals that post an unreasonable risk and otherwise unmanageable risk to the environment or human health"

Expected results:
Please provide a brief description:

The Global Lead Initiative is expected to result in the completion of the global phase-out of leaded gasoline as soon as possible, with December 31, 2005 the latest acceptable completion date. The Global Lead Initiative also will prompt governments to address other sources of lead in the environment, with completion varying by region, source, and extent and nature of the lead poisoning problem, as specified in the National Action Plans.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

The following is a model timeline for the completion of specific major targets for those countries joining the Global Lead Initiative prior to December 2002:

1. Appointment Of Government Focal Point –By Dec. 31, 2002
2. Establishment Of Working Groups Of Technical Experts - By March 31, 2003
3. Development Of National Action Plans – By Dec. 31, 2003
4. Completion Of Worldwide Leaded Gasoline Phase-Out – By Dec. 31, 2005
5. Control of other sources of lead poisoning – completion date will vary

Coordination and Implementation mechanism
Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

The Initiative will be based on the successful model provided by the Summit of the Americas Partnership for Pollution Prevention (PPP) and will consist of the following:

National Action Plans – Governments will implement national action plans for leaded gasoline phase-out and for assessing and addressing other sources of lead exposure according to practicable but expeditious timelines and milestones for action. Working Groups – instituted on a regional basis and consisting of technical and policy experts from all sectors – will develop principles for inclusion in national action plans and the outline of regional projects to facilitate their implementation. Subsequently, Working Groups will monitor and evaluate implementation and make recommendations for improvements, as warranted. Each government will be asked to designate an individual as that country's national focal point for lead, who will be the key point of contact with the technical working group and multilateral institutions.

Civil Society Participation – Full civil society participation in the Working Groups and the project will be critical to the success of the GLI. The Global Lead Network – which links representatives of regional and international organizations, government agencies, research institutes, as well as NGOs - will facilitate the implementation of the GLI by providing a means for the exchange of best practices and for the coordination of efforts within regions.

Arrangements for funding
Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the

Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

We are currently seeking funding from governments, international organizations/financial institutions, foundations, and the private sector. Partners will be expected to contribute funding or other support (e.g., staff time or technical assistance).

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer
Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

The Alliance sponsored Global Lead Network website and its newly updated anchor website, www.globalleadnet.org, were designed to provide resources and facilitate information exchange and collaboration among those working on lead poisoning prevention worldwide. The website currently provides policy and advocacy information and tools; searchable databases of members, legislation, best practices, and citations; and opportunities to share information and collaborate through discussion threads and on-line conferences. Information is also shared via fax or mail for those without access to the web. This existing internet communication structure would be modified and utilized by partners of the Global Lead Initiative to discuss, exchange, support, and advance on-going efforts to achieve the goals of the Global Lead Initiative.

Additionally, informational support will be provided by the Alliance and other Global Lead Initiative partners through actions such as: 1) supporting and facilitating the planning and convening of meetings; 2) supplying policy and advocacy documents and reports; 3) bringing in experts and advisors as needed; and 4) providing additional technical and policy assistance.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)
Please provide a brief description:

Natural opportunities exist to combine the Global Lead Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities advancing lead poisoning prevention activities, clean air initiatives, and healthy homes projects worldwide. The World Bank's Clean Air Initiative project, the Summit of the Americas Partnership for Pollution Prevention, UN-HABITAT's City-to-City Cooperation initiative, and the Global Lead Network are several examples of the many opportunities available for project and activity coordination.

Monitoring Arrangements
Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:
(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Meetings of the working groups of technical experts to be convened regularly (at least annually).

The Global Lead Network will be used as a virtually instantaneous, electronic update system through tools such as the newsletter distribution system and on-line discussion conference capabilities.
Web-site (if available): **www.globalleadnet.org**
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