



GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON
HEALTH AND POLLUTION

Constitutive Document

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Introduction

The number of people at risk from chemicals, wastes and toxic pollution globally is well in excess of 100 million, making it a global public health problem of scale.¹ The vast majority of this impact falls on low- and middle-income countries – the countries least equipped with the capacity and resources to solve these problems – and in locations with extreme poverty. Without intervention and cleanup, toxin pollution poses real long-term health and environmental problems. It can significantly impede economic and social development, as well as achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) seeks to address the problem of chemicals, waste and toxic pollution in low-and middle-income countries, specifically to reduce the harmful effects of toxins on public health. The GAHP is a collaborative body that facilitates the provision of technical and financial resources to governments and communities to reduce the impacts of pollution on health in low- and middle-income countries. This document, created in collaboration with more than 10 different agencies, defines the structure and focus of GAHP, as well as logistical, management, and financing options within the current context of country programs and international agencies. **It is intended to serve as a constitutive document for GAHP.** Relevant supplemental information is included in the attached Addendums (Legacy Pollution and Public Health – A Brief Review, and A Methodology for Site Evaluation and Response).

Vision

The vision of GAHP is a world where the health of present and future generations, especially children and pregnant women, is safe from toxic pollution.

GAHP is a collaborative body that facilitates the provision of technical and financial resources to governments and communities to reduce the impacts of pollution on health in low- and middle-income countries.

Objectives

GAHP:

- Advocates for solutions that address pollution broadly – indoor and outdoor air, wastewater, and contaminated soils and water;
- Initiates activities that reduce adverse health impacts caused by contaminated sites;

¹ This estimate includes polluted sites that are solely legacy, solely active or both legacy and active in nature.

- Works to help actively polluting small-scale industries and activities move to cleaner production practices;
- Measures project performance based on health and economic outcomes.

GAHP will do this by:

- Forming a mechanism through which funding and technical expertise are channeled or facilitated to low- and middle-income countries to address chemicals, wastes and toxic pollution.²
- Serving as a global hub and network for low- and middle-income countries for existing and new information, data and expertise on chemicals, wastes and pollution, remediation models, clean-up techniques, and solutions and standards for implementation and strategies to address pollution at a national level; and
- Including bilateral government agencies, multilateral development banks, international organizations, low- and middle-income country governments, the private sector companies/associations and civil society organizations;

Membership

Based on current development priorities and agendas, key stakeholders who have taken concrete action and shown leadership in resolving the issues of toxic pollution and/or are interested to form an international response are invited to participate in the GAHP. Inclusion of members who are working on existing parallel initiatives, such as SAICM, Africa Stockpiles Project, the Stockholm and Basel conventions, the UNEP-led Chemicals Financing initiative for those Conventions and the Global Mercury Partnership are important not only in order to ensure coordination and eliminate duplication of effort, but also to minimize overlooking thematic areas which have historically received relatively little attention (e.g. artisanal/livelihood related pollution, emergency or pollution disaster mitigation and prevention, legacy pollution).

Currently GAHP Members include, but are not limited to (in alphabetical order): the Asian Development Bank (ADB); the European Commission (EC), Chilean NGO Fundación Chile, the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUB), the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ), Indonesian NGO Komite Penghapusan Bensin Bertimbel (KPBB); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Ministries of Environment from the Governments of Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Togo, Uruguay, the City of Montevideo and the City of Buenos Aires; the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan, Pure Earth (formerly the Blacksmith Institute); the Suez Canal University, Children's Environmental Health Center of the Icahn

² Potential financing mechanism options are presented in the addendum.

School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the UN Environment Program (UNEP); the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and the World Bank (WB). A full list of members can be found at <http://www.gahp.net/new/what-is-gahp/members/>.

Organizations interested in observing the GAHP, include but are not limited to (in alphabetical order): Australian Aid (AusAid), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), City University of New York Hunter College, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Ministries of Environment from the Governments of India and Uruguay, the International Council of Chemicals Associations (ICCA), the International Lead Management Center (ILMC), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), US Department of Treasury (US DoT), the US Department of State (US DoS), the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The World Bank through its Development Grant Facility and the European Commission allocated resources from 2012-2014 to initiate GAHP.

The roles and responsibilities of GAHP members will vary from organization to organization, depending on the mandate and modus operandi of each.

Broadly, it is expected that GAHP members will contribute one or more of the following:

- Sharing knowledge and experience that may be pertinent to GAHP objectives;
- Promoting the issue of legacy pollution at appropriate occasions and venues (conferences, meetings, seminars);
- Providing technical assistance, as may be needed, in activities supported by GAHP;
- Exploring options for mobilizing financial assistance for clean-up projects in low-income countries and for dealing with emergencies; and
- Actively participate in the GAHP annual meeting, the Executive Committee and/or Technical Advisory Group.

The following process to accept new members to the GAHP is proposed:

1. Government agencies (whether national or local), bilateral/multilateral donor agencies, and international organizations under the United Nations are key. Their membership requires an official letter or email stating intent to join. The GAHP Secretariat can confirm membership without Executive Committee approval.
2. Other organizations, such as NGOs, academia or industry groups may also join provided their missions and/or expertise/experience are relevant and their activities support GAHP's objectives. The GAHP Secretariat is responsible for conducting due diligence to confirm the applicant's intent, relevance and contribution to GAHP objectives. The Secretariat will submit names and supporting information regarding potential new non-governmental members for approval by the Executive Committee.

Governance Structure

The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) is comprised of an Executive Committee, a Secretariat and a Technical Advisory Group. Roles of each are defined for the design phase and additional responsibilities during the implementation phase.

I. Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will:

- Provide leadership and strategic direction to GAHP activities in developing an international response to legacy pollution in low- and middle-income countries, particularly with regards to what type of mechanism would be best able to deliver training, capacity and/or remediation support, and how it would be managed, implemented and financed;
- Provide administrative and fiduciary oversight, including review and approval of annual operations, expenditures, audits and evaluations (at least until a formal mechanism is established);
- Approve GAHP strategies, policies, annual workplan and fundraising plan;
- Coordinate with GAHP members and ensure that the deliverables of the Secretariat (see below) are consistent with members' broader development objectives;
- Assist with raising/mobilizing technical and financial resources for the mechanism and Secretariat;
- Review and approve terms of reference for the governance structure, Secretariat and Advisory Group and additional members to the GAHP.

The Executive Committee is comprised of nine representatives. Currently there are 8 members: one representative each from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, Pure Earth, UNIDO, the European Commission (EC), the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUB), the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Madagascar, and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines. Representatives from an additional low- and middle-income countries will be nominated. The World Bank will chair the Executive Committee for the first three years. Decisions taken by the Executive Committee require consensus. Quorum will be five representatives. Executive Committee member organizations are not required to make a financial contribution in order to participate.

The Executive Committee will convene quarterly via tele/videoconference or in person, at events such as the WB Annual meeting (which may also serve as a venue for GAHP annual meeting) or an independent venue pending availability of resources. The Executive Committee will convene more often if necessary.

During the implementation phase (up until incorporation), the Executive Committee role would remain one of strategy and guidance. It will also review and approve pilot implementation

projects to test the design of the GAHP and future projects pending availability of resources. Depending on the mechanism chosen for incorporation, some or all of functions of the Executive Committee will be incorporated into the mechanism (in the case of a Trust Fund housed at the World Bank, which would then take on administrative and fiduciary oversight) or transferred to the Secretariat.

II. Secretariat

Under the leadership and direction of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat will:

- Develop the design and structure of the GAHP in coordination with GAHP members
- Implement GAHP activities in accordance with Executive Committee decisions;
- Develop annual work plans, expenditure schedules, selection criteria for pilot projects to test the design of the GAHP, and nomination and selection criteria for Technical Advisory Group members (for approval by Executive Committee).
- Explore long-term financing options and develop a fund mobilization plan; and
- Evaluate progress and compile programmatic and financial reports of GAHP activities.

In addition, as relevant, the Secretariat will:

- Review grant applications;
- Coordinate and manage grant implementation, including disbursement of funds;
- Conduct performance-based monitoring and evaluation of projects; and
- Manage global information and outreach on the program, standards, models, lessons learned.

Pending continued availability of resources, Pure Earth will serve as the interim Secretariat for the GAHP. In due course, the Executive Committee will determine a permanent arrangement for the Secretariat for the Implementation Phase (i.e. hosted at Pure Earth or other institution).

III. Technical Advisory Group.

The Technical Advisory Group will provide guidance and expertise to the policies and operations of the GAHP, specifically for technical components.

The Technical Advisory Group will be comprised of a diverse set of 15-25 technical experts in the fields of toxic pollution, environmental health and other relevant and cross cutting fields. At least five members of the group will be from low- and middle-income countries. Executive Committee members may nominate experts, although they will be different individuals than those assigned to the Executive Committee. The Advisory Group will be modeled after Pure Earth's Technical Advisory Group, and will be largely comprised of volunteers. It will convene twice a year via teleconference, or more often as required.

The Technical Advisory Group will also be involved in the proposal review and selection process, as well as in conducting monitoring and evaluation of projects. Provided there is no

conflict of interest, technical advisors may participate on specific projects to provide key technical expertise.

Resource Requirements

The **initial three years** of the GAHP, including work leading up to its establishment (such as collection of data on toxic hotspots and human health, research, raising awareness etc), were partially funded by the World Bank and the European Commission. The Rockefeller Foundation donated its Bellagio Center conference space for the first face-to-face meeting at Bellagio, Italy in July 2012.

GAHP members will work to coordinate their existing resources as best possible to assist in the GAHP agenda. Members will also begin efforts to find sustainable financing for GAHP activities. The WB, pending approval, will act as a host for a future multilateral donor trust fund. Until new resources are raised, the current structure will suffice to implement GAHP activities.

If a financial mechanism is selected, additional resources will be needed for implementation. However, this will not just be a need for pure funding for remediation projects. Significant amounts of technical expertise and in-kind contributions will also be needed to enable a response that can tackle these issues at scale. In-kind contributions from recipient country governments and GAHP members, such as allocation of staff time, facilities for meetings, workshops and conferences, and the like will be invaluable. Likewise, technical experts from agencies around the world with specific knowledge and expertise in remediation, policy, capacity building, sustainable development, occupational health, communications and many other areas will be required at scale. A mobilization plan to obtain these funds and non-cash resources for support of the GAHP, and the international response, including implementation of remediation projects, will be developed by the Secretariat.

Other Considerations

Results-based Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

A results-based management system will be designed with clear indicators to track results. Reference the GAHP 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for more detail.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

World Bank environmental, social and other safeguard policies will apply with full rigor to projects implemented under GAHP. However, it is not expected that projects under GAHP will incur penalties under those standards and policies because: 1) They will improve the environment; 2) Relocation of populations will be an exception, rather than a rule; and 3).

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Because women and children are most vulnerable to the effects of toxic pollution, remediation health education and awareness raising interventions must naturally focus on women and children. Projects that incorporate handling, transportation and/or disposal of hazardous waste, will follow standards and protocols set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), World Health Organization or World Bank.

Fiduciary Standards

The GAHP will follow standard accounting and financial management standards. Pure Earth accounting procedures have been approved by the World Bank for the purpose of the DGF grant, and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. If a financial mechanism is chosen as part of the international response, it will also adhere to standard accounting principles. This will ensure that assets are safeguarded, that financial statements are prepared and audited and that finances are managed with responsible stewardship.