

# All presentations from the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Official's meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, March 28-29 2012.

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## Arctic Council

### Arctic Council Secretariat

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## Arctic Council Mercury Project Steering Group Terms of Reference

Presentation of the Terms of Reference to the Senior Arctic Officials  
Stockholm 28-29 March, 2012

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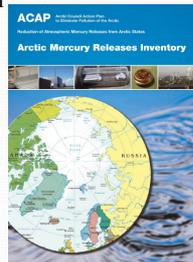
## Background

- The Arctic Council, recognizing that mercury is a priority pollutant in the Arctic region, created the Mercury Steering Group in 2002:

“to contribute to a reduction of mercury releases from the Arctic countries, partly by contributing to the development of a common regional framework for an action plan or strategy for the reduction of mercury emissions, and partly by evaluating and selecting one or a few specific point sources for implementation of release reduction measures.”

## Previous work

- Inventory of Mercury Releases from the Arctic States (2005)
- "Improvement of the system for collection, storage, transport and treatment of mercury containing waste (MCW) in northwest region (NW) of the Russian Federation" draft report (2008)



## The ACAP work plan 2011-2013

- The reconstituted ACAP Mercury Project Steering Group (PSG) took steps to formalize its activities and develop concepts for potential projects that will reduce mercury emissions in the Arctic.
- As called for in the 2011-2013 ACAP Workplan approved at the Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk in 2011, the Mercury PSG developed a Terms of Reference (ToR) document that outlines its structure, mandate, and membership.
- ACAP WG has approved the ToR at its meeting in February, 2012

## Mandate of the PSG

to coordinate and facilitate Arctic Council **demonstration projects** in Arctic nations that **reduce the release of mercury** into the environment, communicate results and coordinate synergies between projects

## The PSG is to (1):

- Continue to assist with implementation of approved Arctic Council (ACAP) mercury projects
- Discuss the development, funding, prioritization, implementation, and evaluation of projects fulfilling the primary mandate of the PSG
- Coordinate with other international efforts to reduce mercury pollution
- Coordinate with other entities in the Arctic Council, such as AMAP and the other PSGs in ACAP that work on issues related to mercury pollution in the Arctic.

## The PSG is to (2):

- Develop, consider, and submit to ACAP for approval, as appropriate, projects for reducing mercury releases from sources in all ACAP countries.
- Share information of relevant domestic and bilateral activities of ACAP members and discuss their impact on PSG projects and objectives.
- Encourage the participation of observers, investors, and other experts from non-ACAP countries.
- Apply for funding, including Project Support Instrument funding, where applicable, to facilitate project implementation.

## The PSG is to (3):

- Provide status or progress reports about ACAP Mercury PSG projects in writing to the chair of ACAP
- Incorporate the needs of local and indigenous populations in the design of project(s).
- Adhere to the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure, ACAP Operating guidelines and ACAP Project Preparation Guidance document, as appropriate.
- Propose modifications to these terms of reference, as needed, to ACAP for its consideration.

## Chairs and Members

- The United States of America and the Russian Federation will be the first co-chairs of the PSG.
- The chairmanship of the PSG will rotate every two years.
- Membership in the PSG is open to members of ACAP.
- The PSG can, in concurrence with the ACAP Working Group, decide to invite representatives of donors and parties who will actively contribute to the project.

## Action requested

- SAOs may wish to consider and approve the Terms of Reference of ACAP Mercury Project Steering Group.

Thank you!