**Reducing Mercury Use in Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining**

**Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining**

**WHY MERCURY IS USED IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING?**
- Investors view the sector as high risk.
- Establish inventory of the sector.
- Establish strategy for formalizing the sector.
- Set targets for reducing mercury pollution.

**SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES**
- Difficult to put in place due diligence across the supply chain because gold is a fungible commodity – and difficult to trace.
- Miners have limited or no access to international gold market.
- Gold buyers do not know how to buy gold directly from the sector.

**ALTERNATIVES TO MERCURY**
- Governments to ban worst practices.
- Governments to promote best practices.
- Alternatives involve increased technical knowledge of the gold deposit and mineral processing.

**GRAVIMETRIC SEPARATION**
- Separating the gold from the ore using panning, sluicing, centrifuges.

**CHEMICAL EXTRACTION**
- Of the tailings by the small-scale miners or through external service providers.

**WHY IS IT HARD TO FORMALIZE THE SECTOR?**
- Miners operate in remote areas.
- Mining legislation is not adapted to this sector.
- Land ownership is a source of conflict with mining companies.
- Little or no enforcement of legislation because of Governments’ lack of capacity.
- Land use is a source of conflict with farmers.

**Article 7 and Annex C of the Convention safeguard ASGM.**
- Countries with “more than insignificant ASGM” have the obligation to develop and implement National Action Plans which:
  - Produces up to 20% of world’s gold.
  - Employs 15 million people, typically in remote rural areas.
  - Involves 4 to 5 million women and children.
  - Takes place in 70 countries and often in areas where there is limited economic opportunity.
  - Is often considered as informal sector.
  - Miners are not aware of sources of financing.
  - Investors are not aware of miners’ unique needs.
  - Releases 35% of all mercury pollution to the environment.
  - Gold traders supply mercury to the miners – miners then sell the gold back to the traders.

**WHY WILL THE PLANETGOLD PROGRAMME TRANSFORM ARTISANAL SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING?**
- Supported by governments to ban worst practices.
- Led by governments to promote best practices.
- How will the Minamata Convention safeguard artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector (ASGM)?

**Pilot access-to-finance options**
- Show the benefits of more efficient and cleaner non-mercury techniques.
- Provide mining communities with direct access to international gold markets and/or remove barriers across the value chains.
- Demonstrate and share best practices on formalization.
- Educate gold consumers on the social and environmental benefit of cleaner gold.