

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(CSTD)**

**Eighteenth Session  
Geneva, 9 to 13 May 2016**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on  
their efforts in 2015 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

**Submission by**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

**DISCLAIMER:** The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

## **WSIS Outcomes - Action Line C7 – ICT applications**

### **UNEP e-environment**

#### **Executive Summary**

The WSIS+10 Vision focused on three aspects of the environment: firstly, it advocated cooperation between the ICT, environmental, meteorological and other communities on issues related to climate change. Significant work has been undertaken in 2015 in this regard, including near real time monitoring of climate variables which are made available on our open platform, UNEP Live. These include, arctic sea ice extent, ozone concentrations and hole extent, and mean sea level rise. The data is streamed from data providers through webservices and then the findings explained.

Secondly, it urged UNEP to continue to keep the environment under review with regard to e-wastes and appropriate measures to minimize impact of ICTs on the environment. UNEP released a rapid response assessment in 2015 entitled "Waste Crime - Waste Risks: Gaps in Meeting the Global Waste Challenge", which provides an up to date analysis on the current problem of e-waste and recommendations for measures to address this growing problem. UNEP will also continue to keep this part of the environment under review through 6 regional GEO assessments to be launched in 2016 and the global GEO-6 assessment to be launched in 2017. At the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2015, the Parties adopted, on an interim basis, technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention. The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) under the Basel Convention has produced various kinds of materials, including guidelines on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and recycling of used computing equipment and a report on strategies, actions and incentives to promote environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment.

Thirdly, it commended the use of ICT equipment in meteorological and environmental monitoring, early warning systems and disaster preparedness. UNEP had developed an open online knowledge platform called UNEP Live which focuses on providing recent knowledge on environmental science including emerging issues to help policy makers, the scientific community and the public to raise awareness of our changing environment. In particular, UNEP Live houses data on disaster risks in readiness for global SDG reporting. Users can visualize, download or extract data on past hazardous events, human & economical hazard exposure and risk from natural hazards. It covers tropical cyclones and related storm surges, drought, earthquakes, biomass fires, floods, landslides, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

#### **Activities undertaken by UNEP in the implementation of the WSIS targets, recommendations and commitments**

UNEP is currently working on three major initiatives to further support the objectives and targets of WSIS by promoting access and sharing of environmental data and information with stakeholders, and building capacities of countries to collect, organize and share their data.

On 16 January 2014 UNEP launched **UNEP Live**, a cutting-edge, dynamic new platform to collect, process and share the world's best environmental science and research. The platform is the organization's knowledge management system that provides information on the environment and environmental sustainability targeted at a wide range of audiences from policy and decision makers, to civil society – it is available in 90 languages. By September 2015, 190 countries are sharing their data on the platform. In this regard UNEP is building capacity for countries and

stakeholders to collect and share environment data for decision making at multiple scales and for multiple purposes.

In order to support the sharing of data on UNEP Live, UNEP has developed a **National Reporting Systems (NRS)**: The NRS is a tool for environmental data management and reporting that is being promoted by UNEP at the global level under the scope of the UNEP Live initiative. The NRS technology was developed by UNEP with support from the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) with the objective of helping countries to share and manage data by connecting existing national databases and relevant ministries and agencies to facilitate State of Environment Reporting (SoER) processes and reporting on Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) obligations. By integrating all relevant MEA reporting templates, the NRS simplifies MEA reporting by allowing users to upload data, write analysis, create indicators, publish and submit reports. Open access will not only enable government ministries to develop more integrated sustainable development policies, but also to open up opportunities for scientific institutions to contribute to the basis upon which decisions are made. Even more crucial is making information accessible to the public - a crucial aspect of reporting on the state of the environment, such as ambient air quality, where people need to be informed for the sake of their health.

UNEP has developed an **SDG portal** in UNEP Live to track progress towards the 2030 sustainable development agenda. This interactive dashboard visualizes the multiple pathways from indicators to targets and goals showing their connections through data and definitions in the SDG Interface Ontology. It also provides access to a new set of multilingual web intelligence tools to help users analyze stakeholder perceptions and track emerging trends - the information is assimilated, filtered and annotated from a wide range of online sources (news media, social networking platforms, Fortune 1000 company sites and environmental organizations). <http://uneplive.unep.org/portal/#>

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal has been addressing e-waste issues since 2002. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is administered by UNEP. At the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2015, the Parties adopted, on an interim basis, technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention.

Further, several multistakeholder partnership initiatives related to e-waste have been facilitated by the Basel Convention. The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was developed as a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership that provides a forum for representatives of manufacturers, recyclers, international organizations, associations, academia, environmental groups and governments to tackle environmentally sound refurbishment, repair, material recovery, recycling and disposal of used and end-of-life computing equipment. PACE has produced various kinds of materials, including guidelines on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and recycling of used computing equipment; guidelines on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment; and a report on strategies, actions and incentives to promote environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment.

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/PACE/Overview/tabid/3243/Default.aspx>

---