

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

**Fifteenth Session**

**Geneva, 21 to 25 May 2012**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2011 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

**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 15<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.

| [More](#)**WSIS STOCKTAKING & PARTNERSHIPS : ACTIVITY DETAILS**[add to My favorites Entries](#)**Project ID:** 1320084217**Entity:** UNEP  
[website of the entity](#)**Activity:** International conference adopts a package of strategic decisions on waste avoidance and management in the 21st century  
[website of the activity](#)

**Activity description:** Geneva (25 October 2011) – Representatives of 118 members of the Basel Convention, the global treaty on waste management, have reached a historic agreement unblocking an amendment that will ban the export of hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD countries, known as the Ban Amendment. The groundbreaking decision, containing a set of measures aimed at strengthening international control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes including electrical and electronic wastes containing hazardous components, was adopted on 21 October, the closing day of the 10th meeting of the Parties to the Convention (COP10), in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. "The results of the Cartagena conference offer a concrete example of how transformative environmental action can serve to reduce poverty and promote a healthy environment and social equity, advancing the promise of a green, sustainable economy which will be the focus of the Rio+20 conference next year," said UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. "All too often UN negotiations can be characterized by frustration and stalemate. The Cartagena meeting provides an antidote to such perceptions and bodes well for the next round of discussions on the way forwards towards an ambitious mercury treaty that reconvene at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi next week," he added. The agreement on the Ban Amendment capped a week of negotiations between the Conference's 700 participants. In addition to the above mentioned decision on transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, the Conference in Cartagena also adopted a Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Convention over the years 2012-2021, which sets out a vision, guiding principles, strategic objectives, means of implementation, and indicators of achievements. The Strategic Framework aims at strengthening the environmentally sound management of such wastes as a contribution to promoting human health, sustainable livelihoods, and eradicating poverty. Among others, technical guidelines were adopted on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones and computing equipment. The Parties also adopted the Cartagena Declaration on prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes. The declaration complements the Strategic Framework in determining the work under the Convention in years to come. It reaffirms that the Basel Convention is the primary global legal instrument for guiding the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal, including efforts to prevent and minimize their generation, and efficiently and safely manage those that cannot be avoided. A key provision of the declaration recommends that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) "should consider prevention, minimization and recovery of wastes as a key contribution to advancing the three pillars of sustainable development through environmentally and socially sound economic development, poverty reduction, and protection of human health and livelihoods." The Basel Convention has two pillars. First, it regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes. Second, the Convention obliges its Parties to ensure that such wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. To this end, Parties are required to prevent or minimize the generation of wastes at source, to treat and dispose of wastes as close as possible to their place of generation and to minimize the quantities that are moved across borders. Strong controls have to be applied from the generation of a hazardous waste to its storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery and final disposal. In 2002, UNEP has established under the Basel Convention a partnership addressing the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones, the first of several strategic partnerships in different areas of waste management. In 2008 an additional partnership—the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)—was launched on used and end-of-life computing equipments. In these partnerships government representatives work together with the manufacturers, recycling industry, academic institutions and public interest NGOs.

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| [More](#)**WSIS STOCKTAKING & PARTNERSHIPS : ACTIVITY DETAILS**[add to My favorites Entries](#)**Project ID:** 1317893455**Entity:** UNEP Secretariat of the Basel Convention**Activity:** Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)  
[website of the activity](#)

**Activity description:** PACE is a multi-stakeholder partnership established to address the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment. The multi-stakeholder Working Group, comprised of representatives of personal computer manufacturers, recyclers, international organizations, academia, environmental groups and governments developed the proposed scope of work, terms of reference, financial arrangements, and structure of PACE. The Partnership was launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which took place in Bali, Indonesia in June 2008. Until now, the following tasks have been achieved. The Partnership

- identified relevant existing environmentally sound management guidance materials and prepared a report on environmentally sound management criteria recommendations that were used by other Project Groups;
- completed guidelines, one on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment; and the second one on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment;
- initiated the process to identify countries for pilot projects on collection and management of end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which should divert end-of-life computing equipment from landfills and open-pit burning;
- finalized guidance on transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment;
- prepared an overall guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment; and
- developed awareness-raising and training products such as PACE logo, and the film on management of e-waste. The two guidelines (environmentally sound testing, refurbishment, and repair of used computing equipment; and environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment) will be evaluated by companies in their operating facilities. These guidelines will be revised based on recommendations provided from practical evaluations. Pilot projects on collection and management of end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition will continue as well as development of a strategy for long-term financial sustainability of these projects. Finally, the project group on awareness raising and training will continue with the implementation of many of its activities, in particular organizing training workshops on guidelines developed under PACE.

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Documents attached to this entry	
Attached documents are in language(s) in which they are submitted	
Title	Available languages and formats
no documents available	

**Entity from:** [International](#)**Geographical coverage of the activity:** [International](#)**WSIS action lines related to this activity:**[Theme 7. ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life \[E-environment\]](#) [[Protect environment](#)]**Related MDGs:**[MDG 7. Ensure environmental sustainability](#)**Activity type:** no information available, Partnership**Time scale:** Ongoing: 2008 - 2013**Partners:** personal computer manufacturers, recyclers, international organizations, academia, environmental groups, governments

| [More](#)**WSIS STOCKTAKING & PARTNERSHIPS : ACTIVITY DETAILS**[add to My favorites](#) [Entries](#)**Project ID:** 1317892426**Entity:** UNEP Secretariat of the Basel Convention**Activity:** Programme of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in Africa  
[website of the activity](#)

**Activity description:** Activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in Africa are implemented in the framework of the e-waste Africa project which is a comprehensive programme aiming at enhancing the environmental governance of e-wastes and at creating favourable social and economic conditions for partnerships and small businesses in the recycling sector in Africa. The timeframe of the project is from November 2008 to March 2012. The financial support for the project was kindly provided by the European Commission, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Dutch Recyclers Association (NVMP). The project is implemented by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre based in Nigeria and the Basel Convention Regional Centre based in Senegal, in cooperation with partners including: the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (EMPA), the Institute for Applied Ecology (the Öko Institute), the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE). The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is responsible for the overall project coordination. The partner countries in which activities are taking place include Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tunisia. This project has the overall objective of enhancing the capacity of African countries to be able to tackle the growing problem of e-waste imports coming from the industrialized world and thereby protect the health of citizens, particularly children, while providing economic opportunities in the recipient countries.

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| [More](#)**WSIS STOCKTAKING & PARTNERSHIPS : ACTIVITY DETAILS**[add to My favorites](#) [Entries](#)**Project ID:** 1317891900**Entity:** UNEP Secretariat of the Basel Convention**Activity:** Programme of activities for the environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia-Pacific region  
[website of the activity](#)**Activity description:** Following the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, two projects under the Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste in Asia-Pacific Programme were completed in 2009. In the same year, the Ministry of Environment of Japan kindly supported the Secretariat, in cooperation with Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia in Indonesia (BCRC SEA), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China (BCRC China) and the Government of Viet Nam, in conducting a regional training workshop aimed at building capacity of the parties and the BCRCs in the Asia-Pacific region in developing projects on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of e-waste. Stemming from the workshop, the Ministry of Japan has provided further funding for the continued implementation of the programme in the region during its second phase. Although awareness raising and training activities, including the development of national inventories, are still recognised to be essential in many countries, the second phase of the programme emphasized more concrete implementation projects in the environmentally sound collection and dismantling of e-waste, while promoting any potential public-private partnerships as pilots.**Contact:** [Send a message](#) to the contact for this activity

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**Geographical coverage of the activity:** [International](#)

**WSIS action lines related to this activity:**

[Theme 7](#). ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life [[E-environment](#)] [[Protect environment](#)]

**Related MDGs:**

[MDG 7](#). Ensure environmental sustainability

**Activity type:** Conference

**Time scale:** Completed: 17/10/2011 - 21/10/2011

**Partners:** no information available