COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2014 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

United Nations Environment Programme

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 18ᵗʰ 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.

Contribution to the WSIS Report 2014

UNEP Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

15 January 2015

Input to WSIS action line F on E-environment

Under the Basel Convention, a Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was launched with representatives of governments, international organizations, industry, academia and NGOs.

The membership of the PACEWG has been expanding since it was established in January 2009 and the working group has been instrumental in mobilising interest of other potential stakeholders, including Original Equipment Manufacturers. Furthermore, a number of Parties from developing countries, Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer and Intergovernmental Organizations have joined the Partnership. As of November 2014 the PACE has the following membership: 25 Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention; 11 Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs); 11 Research and Academic Institutions and other UN Bodies; and 14 NGOs, Industry, and Industry Associations.

The Partnership Working Group and Project Groups met by teleconferencing, face-to-face meetings and exchanged comments electronically. Seven PACE face-to-face meetings were held between 2009-2014 in Switzerland, Germany, China, United States of America, El Salvador, South Africa, and Indonesia.

A number of international guidelines and documents were developed and approved by the Partnership: a report with criteria recommendations on the environmentally sound management of e-waste; a glossary of terms was developed for PACE products; guidance on procedures for transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment; guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment; and guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment. Two guidelines (guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and recycling of used computing equipment; and guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment) were field tested to take into account practical experiences of 16 private companies that agreed to evaluate these two guidelines and to provide recommendations for revisions. A guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment was developed summarizing the information compiled by the Partnership in the above mentioned documents. All documents developed under the Partnership are available on the PACE website[1].

Following on surveys on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors that were completed in Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Jordan and Serbia, three pilot projects were initiated following a selection process established by PACE. The first pilot project in Jordan started in 2012 and the second pilot project was launched in Serbia in early 2014. The third pilot project in Burkina Faso was initiated in 2014. All pilot projects are ongoing.

As part of awareness raising and training activities, workshops on PACE guidelines were organized by several Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs), i.e. BCRC-El Salvador in March 2013 and BCRC-

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[1] http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/PACE/Overview/tabid/3243/Default.aspx

Trinidad and Tobago in July 2013. PACE will also provide co-funding for an additional workshop in Africa to be held in 2015. In parallel, a series of twelve webinars in English, Spanish and French language were organized on extended producer responsibility, on material recovery and on collection systems. The webinars were replicated to accommodate different time zones.

Since the establishment of the Partnership, a substantial amount of work was carried out under the PACE in a very short period of time. Five reports/guidelines and overall guidance document were finalized and approved by the PACEWG. Two guidelines were evaluated by 16 private companies to take into account practical experience and revised accordingly. A number of waste surveys were completed and three pilot projects have been launched on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment in Jordan, Burkina Faso and Serbia. None of these would be possible without the strong support of the Secretariat, the Parties and Signatories, companies and other stakeholders participating in this Partnership.

Nevertheless, a few tasks under the work programme of the Partnership could not yet be finalized. Therefore, the members of the Partnership decided to establish a PACE Ad-Hoc Follow up Group that will have to complete the outstanding tasks within the next two years

In parallel, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention has established an Inter-sessional Work Group with experts from governments, industry, academia and NGOs to develop technical guidelines on transboundary movements of e-waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention. Draft technical guidelines were developed by the group and will be submitted to the next Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in May 2015 for its consideration and, if possible, finalization and adoption.