

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

**Twentieth Session  
Geneva, 8 to 12 May 2017**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on  
their efforts in 2016 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 20<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.

## **Contribution to the WSIS Report on progress made in 2016**

Input to WSIS action line C7. ICT Applications, E-environment

11 January 2017

### **Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions:**

Under the Basel Convention, a multi-stakeholder Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was established with representatives of governments, international organizations, industry, academia and NGOs. During the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in May-June 2016, the PACE working group submitted a revised draft section on transboundary movements of used and waste computing equipment which is part of the PACE 'Guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment', as well as a report on strategies, actions and incentives to promote environmentally sound management for used and end-of-life computing equipment. The meeting took note of the report and asked the PACE working group to submit the final PACE Guidance Document to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2017 for adoption.

Further, PACE implements pilot projects launched under its work programme in Burkina Faso, El Salvador and the Central American region, Jordan, Moldova, Serbia, South Africa in cooperation with Lesotho and Namibia, and Suriname. All the pilot projects were completed by the end of 2016. A report on project experiences and lessons learned will be developed in early 2017 based on the outcome of the pilot projects.

The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on e-waste in April 2016. It also organized a regional workshop on enhancing capacities for the environmentally sound management of waste electrical and electronic equipment through the regional delivery in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in July 2016.

On 5 May 2016, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in partnership with ITU, ECLAC, UNIDO, WHO and WIPO held a workshop entitled "Towards building effective partnerships for sustainable management of e-waste", as part of the ITU-WSIS 2016. The workshop was held with stakeholders to discuss on how to advance the cooperation with the ICT industry on the supply chain of hazardous chemicals within the life-cycle of e-products.

### **Inter-agency Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste: Towards Eco-design and a Life-cycle Approach for E-product:**

In response to the substantial increase in e-waste generation and taking into consideration the many existing initiatives and active stakeholders in the UN system in the area of E-waste and environmentally sound management of E-products, at their 21st meeting (SOM21) in September

2015, the Senior Officials of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) considered a proposal put forth by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to establish an inter-agency Issue Management Group (IMG) with a focus on enhancing coordination on E-waste across the UN system.

Established in May, 2016, the IMG on Tackling E-waste focuses on promoting system-wide coordinated action and coherence in the area of E-waste as well as effectively supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; complementing and adding value to existing UN programmes, projects and initiatives by facilitating synergies and joint efforts.

Its tasks include mapping existing initiatives carried out by UN agencies and programmes; gathering information on existing standards, guidelines and best practices, preparing a report/glossary that clarifies the main terms and concepts related to e-waste, sketching modalities and preparing a work-plan/strategy for the development of a UN system-wide coordination mechanism on sustainable production, consumption and final disposal of electrical and electronic equipment, and developing a system-wide approach and a related strategy for implementation within the UN system to address the global e-waste challenge.

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