

**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 2017 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 21<sup>st</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.

<p>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.</p>
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## **Contribution to the WSIS Report on progress made in 2017**

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

07 December 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. The operating mechanism of PACE was a working group that was guided by the Open-ended Working Group of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. With decision BC-13/12, in May 2017, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided that the PACE working group had completed its work and it was disbanded. The Conference of the Parties, as to follow-up on the work of PACE, invited interested Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres: (a) To take the lead in the implementation of activities listed in the work programme set out in the concept note in annex II to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31 and, based on the work undertaken, to propose further development of the concept for a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment at the regional or international level, as the need arises, with support from interested stakeholders and subject to the availability of resources. Also, mindful of the fact that section 3 of the guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, the only session pending approval, referred to the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention, it was adopted with a reference to the guidelines. Those technical guidelines had been adopted on an interim basis by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in 2015, and further work on those will be carried on by an Expert Working Group established at the thirteen meeting of the Conference of the Parties by decision BC-13/5.

The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on e-waste in April 2016, the MOOC is available online and it will be updated and translated during the year 2018. It also planned a regional workshop on environmentally sound management of e-waste in the Asia and Pacific region and a forum on their transboundary movements under the Basel Convention, in Beijing, China, in January 2018.

On 12 June 2017, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in partnership with ITU and WMO, held a panel discussion entitled “Action Line C7. E-environment: Environment, an Important Pillar to Building a Sustainable Future”. On 16 June 2017, the Secretariat moderated a thematic workshop entitled “Addressing the global e-waste challenge”, co-organized with UNU and ISWA. The workshop was held to launch the global e-waste statistics partnership, led by ITU, the United Nations University (UNU) and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA). Both events were part of the ITU-WSIS 2017.

## **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, the Senior Officials of the UN Environment Management Group, after their 21st meeting (SOM21), established the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Tackling E-waste, in May 2016. The group 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.

At their 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting (SOM23), in September 2017, the Senior Officials of the UN Environmental Management Group took note of the achievements made by the IMG on Tackling E-waste, including preparation of the E-waste Synthesis Report and the Joint Statement, which outlines the commitments of respective Heads of agencies towards the follow-up of the recommendations listed in the Synthesis Report and decided to extend the IMG for one more year.

The new IMG tasks include:

Undertaking a gap analysis for identifying possible long-term programmatic cooperation and collaboration on tackling e-waste; establishing means for further and systematic sharing of knowledge among UN agencies on e-waste management partnerships and programmes, including developing a repository of project expertise, country level information and related data; Deepening the liaison between the IMG on Tackling E-waste and the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management in the UN, through further reciprocal briefings and exchanges of best practices, information and case studies.

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