

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

**Twenty-second session
Geneva, 13 to 17 May 2019**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2018 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 22nd 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 WISIS Action lines in 2018

Action line C7. ICT Applications E-Environment

Part 1 Executive Summary

The Basel Convention is a global treaty including provisions on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and other Wastes and a prior informed consent procedure to control their transboundary movements and their disposal. E-waste one of the priority waste streams under the Convention.

The Parties to the Convention shall ensure ESM of Hazardous and Other Wastes, nationally, according to the technical guidelines and guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and shall control their transboundary movements.

The Parties report to the Secretariat on the generation of hazardous and other wastes as well as on their transboundary movements, including e-waste.

The Basel Convention is dealing with the challenge of e-waste since 2006, with the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the environmentally sound management of e-wastes. Since the adoption of this declaration, the Conference of the Parties decided to develop policy guidance and to provide technical assistance to developing countries through capacity building activities on e-waste in Asia and the Pacific, in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa.

A fraction of e-waste is contaminated with POPs and it is in the scope for the Stockholm Convention, also. Plastics and other parts of e-waste contaminated with POPs such as POP brominated flame retardants, PFOS and PCBs are examples of these e-waste fractions.

Part 2

Since the adoption of the Nairobi declaration, several countries have adopted legislation and policy schemes to collect, recycle and finally dispose of e-waste in an environmentally sound manner. These countries include, India, China, Ghana, Peru and other developing countries. International Organizations such as the ITU, ILO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR, UN Environment, UNU and others developed programmes to support countries in solving the e-waste challenge.

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention focused its partnership programme on e-waste with two partnerships: The first one on mobile phones (MPPI), and the second one on computing equipment (PACE) and its follow up activities. Other partnerships involved the private sector in e-waste management programmes such as StEP, and the new Platform for Advancing the Circular Economy, Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Despite the work undertaken at the national and international level, recent statistics estimate that only 20% of the e-waste generated every year is being collected. In 2018, 44.7 Million tonnes of e-waste were generated (2017, UNU Global E-waste monitor), and trends in e-waste generation show that that developing countries will increase their generation of e-waste considerably comparing with other countries.

Part 3

Current work under the Basel Convention on e-waste:

Policy guidance

- Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of e-waste, in particular on the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention. Adopted on an interim basis, a revised version will be considered at COP-14 in May 2019.
- Fact sheets on the environmentally sound management of e-waste developed by the Expert Working Group on ESM.
- Guidance on inventories of e-wastes.

Training

- Training workshops on e-wastes in Asia, LAC (2018) and in Africa (tbc in 2019)
- MOOC on E-waste: Massive Open Online Course on the E-waste Challenge, in cooperation with KU Leuven in Belgium, WRF, Climate KIC, the Raw Materials KIC., ITU and WHO. (re-launch in December 2018-March 2019)

Projects

Pilot projects on e-wastes in Asia, LAC, and in Africa (tbc in 2019).

Awareness raising

- Web portal on regional e-waste information (to link stakeholders at the regional level).

Partnerships

- Follow up to PACE: the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment halted its work at COP 13, but a group of Regional Centres and Parties proposed to reopen this partnership to continue to implement capacity building and awareness raising activities in cooperation with the private sector, at OEWG-11, in September 2018. This recommendation will be considered by the Basel Convention COP in May 2019.
 - Follow up to PACE: Regional programme of awareness raising and capacity building activities implemented by Basel Convention Regional Centres on e-waste, computing equipment and mobile phones.
- The Household Waste Partnership is disseminating the principle of separation of hazardous e-waste from household waste.

Cooperation with others

- Joint activities with the ITU:
 - The Basel Convention Secretariat concluded an MOU with the ITU to engage jointly on e-waste activities. These are:
 - Joint events on e-waste at the WISIS forum, every year.

- Contribution to the development of standards on circular economy in the ICT sector and e-waste.
 - Co-organization of the green standards weeks in UN Regions.
 - Active cooperation for the establishment of the e-waste coalition.
 - Partners in the partnership for measuring ICT for development (MOU signed) hosted by ITU/UNCTAD and UNESCO. This partnership is divided in task forces and related partnerships. The BRS is contributing to the:
 - Task force on measuring ICT for SDGs
 - Global Partnership for measuring e-waste hosted by ITU/ISWA/UNU
- Cooperation with other partnerships and programmes on e-wastes: StEP, World Resources Forum (WRF), IECT Global Waste Partnership.
- Cooperation with the World Customs Organization for the development of customs codes on e-wastes.
- Working with seven other International Organizations, with the participation of private sector organizations, to build a United National E-waste coalition.
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Contribution to the WSIS Report on progress made in 2018

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

14 December 2018

Update on e-waste work

On March 21st, during the 2018 World Summit on the Information Society Forum, a [non-binding Letter of Intent](#) was signed, paving the way for greater coordination and collaboration on UN system-wide support for e-waste management and the creation of an E-waste Coalition. Continued collaboration with important actors, to encourage circular electrical and electronic equipment, has led to increased collaboration between the signatories of the Letter of Intent and other entities like the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Some of the key areas of progress since 21st March, 2018, include:

- The preparation of a [draft E-waste Coalition concept note](#) (living document) detailing the initial programme areas of the Coalition.
- Presentation on building the E-waste Coalition which took place at the 2018 High Level Political Forum in 2018.
- Initial discussions at the International Labour Organization and at UN Environment, among the Coalition and other stakeholders, on the potential to formulate a national intervention model, to systematically address the e-waste challenge in a given country.
- A successful meeting organised by the E-waste Coalition, which brought together over 10 private sector companies from electronics manufacturing, telecommunications, recycling, metals management, and certification and inspection backgrounds alongside the seven UN Letter of Intent signatories.
- Confirmation from UN Environment that they will officially join the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership. This will likely be announced during UNEA4.
- The publication of a short, journalistic-style report to be launched at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in January 2019, focussing on the need for a new vision for electronics and laying the groundwork for a more detailed piece of new research by the Coalition starting in 2019.
- The signing of a Foreword enclosed in the short report, signed by the heads or deputy heads of all seven Coalition members.
- Informal meetings with the World Health Organization, UN-Habitat and the International Trade Centre, who's heads of organisation have agreed to sign the Letter of Intent and join the E-waste Coalition at the 2019 WSIS Forum in April next year.

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