

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

**Twenty-third session
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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international
organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2019 to
implement the outcomes 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 23rd 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 2019

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

15 November 2019

Update on e-waste work

Action Line C7 E-Environment

- Since the signing of a Letter of Intent by the heads of seven UN entities (UNU, ITU, UNEP, ILO, UNITAR, UNIDO, BRS Secretariat) at the WSIS Forum in March 2018, efforts towards the building of a United Nations E-waste Coalition have continued. In April 2019, at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, three more agencies (the WHO, ITC and UN-Habitat) joined the emerging Coalition. Currently coordinated through the UN Environment Management Group (EMG), the Coalition is finalizing its Terms of Reference including defining its vision, mission, basic governance structure, membership, goals and core functions, with the aim for the Coalition to be fully functional with its own Secretariat in 2020.

Key areas of progress include:

- In December 2018, a roundtable bringing together the signatories of the Letter of Intent, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and representatives of the electronics industry was organized to identify mutual benefits of partnership for both the private sector and the United Nations in influencing circularity and stepping up to the global e-waste challenge. A follow-up meeting with private sector representatives, governments, UN entities, non-governmental organizations and development partners will be organized in December 2019 in Bonn, Germany, to further discuss collaboration opportunities across sectors in addressing opportunities and challenges related to e-waste management in Africa.
- Progress has been made towards developing a joint mechanism for the implementation of UN e-waste work at the country/regional level. The mechanism will set out how the UN E-waste Coalition can support countries and regions in further identifying challenges and opportunities along the e-waste value chain and finding suitable, integrated solutions to addressing these. Opportunities to apply the mechanism in practice in selected African countries will be identified and discussed at the meeting in Bonn in December.
- The report [*A New Circular Vision for Electronics – Time for a Global Reboot*](#) was released at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos in January 2019, in support of the emerging UN E-waste Coalition and its collaborative efforts with the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The report compiles data and research

from the UN system to make the case for a new vision and describes and analyses challenges and opportunities, laying the groundwork for the process of systemic change.

- The Coalition has arranged several events throughout the year, highlighting and raising awareness of the e-waste issue:
 - A high-level dialogue on [Elevating electrics and electronics to the forefront of the circular economy](#), was organised by the emerging Coalition at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi in March 2019.
 - A High-Level Dialogue was organized at the WSIS Forum in April 2019 on current e-waste management challenges, considering concrete actions for building the UN E-waste Coalition.
 - In April 2019, an event on the UN E-waste Coalition was organized during the first-ever ILO [Global Dialogue Forum on decent work in e-waste management](#).
 - In May 2019, [a side event on Sustainable and Responsible Reverse Supply Chains in a circular economy for electronics](#) was organized at the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

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