2nd meeting of the Issue Management Group Tackling E-waste: Towards Eco-design and a Life-cycle Approach for E-products	**EMG**/e-waste/IMG/ 06.04.2017 Distribution: IMG members

29.03.2016
GoToMeeting from 03:30 p.m. to 04:30 pm. (Geneva time)

1. Introduction

The second meeting of the IMG took place online on 29 March 2017, chaired by Mr. Hossein Fadaei of the EMG Secretariat. The meeting discussed considerations regarding the draft Synthesis Report, including comments and inputs by IMG Members. The meeting also deliberated on the next steps and the 3rd Meeting of the IMG, including a plan for finalisation of the draft report and considerations for the follow-up of recommendations of the report.

The list of participants is provided in Annex I.

2. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda

In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed focal points and meeting participants to the second meeting of the IMG, also providing an overview of the meeting procedures. The Chair briefly introduced the work undertaken so far by the EMG Secretariat with the support of UNU. There was then a tour de table of participants' introductions.

The meeting adopted the agenda (Annex 2).

3. Consideration of the Draft Synthesis Report

Mr Ruediger Kuehr from UNU provided a summary of the work leading up to the completion of the draft Synthesis Report, its content and sections, and findings. The following overview was provided.

<u>The work leading up to the draft report:</u>

- Two stages of research were undertaken, involving a desk-based mapping exercise and a survey to IMG Members. The mapping exercise looked at prior, existing and possible future e-waste initiatives by UN and related entities, including INTERPOL and OECD.

- The results of the mapping exercise were circulated to EMG Members for their feedback and any additions which they wished to include – focal points from 15 entities provided their inputs.

- The survey was distributed to all Members of the Issue Management Group, which facilitated responses from 15 agencies. The structure of the survey, to some extent, helped form the structure of the report. The survey consisted of 14 questions falling under 3 topics: the life-cycle of EEE and the focus of e-waste initiative; streamlining e-waste initiatives and collaborating to tackle e-waste; the 2030 Agenda and the challenges of e-waste

<u>The content and sections of the report:</u>

- Mr. Kuehr then provided an overview of the content and sections of the report, noting that there are 4 chapters. Chapter 1 provides an introduction and background which gives an overview of the global e-waste problem and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Chapter 2 gives a rather substantial overview of e-waste initiatives across the UN system which details information on the expertise, involvement and support on e-waste by UN and related entities towards tackling e-waste. The report looks at the number of e-waste initiatives and their focus and type, the entities involved, and the characteristics of initiatives based on the life-cycle of EEE. Moreover, a geographical overview looks at the spread of e-waste initiatives by country and by region, and the geographical location in which a particular focus of initiatives occurs.

- Chapter 3 takes a look into collaborations and partnerships within the UN system on tackling e-waste whereby prior and existing notable partnerships have been presented and described. In addition, the composition and characteristics of existing partnerships and collaboration have been identified and presented – including UN-UN, Private Sector – UN, and Public Sector – UN. Lastly, based on responses from the survey, potential areas for the collaboration and streamlining of e-waste work are put forward.

- Chapter 4 undertakes an analysis followed by 7 recommendations which are broken into 3 focus areas: substantive support for tackling e-waste, enhancing collaboration across the UN system towards tackling e-waste and addressing gaps in the characteristics and geographical focus of UN e-waste initiatives. The 7 recommendations look to areas such as: establishing a policy and guidance on country-level issues; more effectively engaging global leadership on the e-waste issue; the possibility of a UN inter-agency coordination mechanism on e-waste; involving the private sector more widely in e-waste initiatives; developing a platform for sharing data, knowledge and expertise; addressing the full life-cycle of EEE when we tackle e-waste issues; and more frequently addressing developed countries in UN e-waste initiatives.

<u>The findings of the report:</u>

- *Regarding the number and characteristics of initiatives*: More than 20 UN organisations have addressed e-waste related issues in a number of different ways since 2002. Globally, over 150 e-waste initiatives have been undertaken by UN and related entities. The scope of these initiatives covers activities stretching from policy development, statistical work and training to the out-designing of hazardous elements from products. The majority of e-waste initiatives (66%) are carried out through UN-public sector collaboration, whilst e-waste initiatives undertaken through UN-private sector collaboration account for 18% of initiatives.

- *From a life-cycle perspective*: When observing the entire life-cycle of EEE from design and production to final disposal, it is evident that the majority of initiatives which aim to tackle e-waste focus on the end-of-life treatment through the recycling and final disposal stages. The results of the mapping illustrated that the e-waste work within the UN family is not only limited to agencies focusing on environment and waste-related issues. By looking at e-waste from a life-cycle perspective, the scope of actors involved is considerably enlarged, and the multitude of approaches needed to contribute to sustainable solutions is highlighted. Moreover, responses from the

survey also pointed at the need for a stronger emphasis on the design phase of EEE which would require stronger collaboration with the private sector.

- *From a geographical perspective*: From a regional perspective, the majority of e-waste initiatives is undertaken with a focus on the African and Asian regions; whilst there is less focus on Europe and very little in North America and the Australian continent. In recent times, since 2014/2015 the Latin American and Caribbean regions have seen increasingly more attention in the area of e-waste.

- *Some responses from the survey*: Survey responses have suggested a move towards reducing or eliminating tax on reuse and repair business operations in order to increase the economic efficiency of actors, of all sizes. In addition to supporting new business models for repair and refurbishment, the UN system might consider supporting Member States – and supranational entities such as the EU – in tracking and containing the movement of precious and rare-earth metals used in EEE. Survey respondents had also expressed the need for the UN system to support Member States in identifying the link between e-waste and natural resource exploitation through means such as raw material mining. The mapping exercise and survey also indicated that the UN has a role to play in informing Member States about relevant e-waste issues by means of expanding national data collection and information sharing, for example on national e-waste flows and characteristics; and also compiling and sharing good and less successful e-waste management practices. Some suggestions put forward point towards advising ministries and other governmental stakeholders on e-waste matters and tying the negative impact of e-waste to the sustainable development goals.

The Chair then provided the opportunity for focal points and participants to offer their comments and inputs on the findings of the report:

- UN Environment inquired about the (UN) languages in which the report and/or its executive summary would be made available as well as whether the report would be printed in addition to being published electronically. The Chair clarified that it is only general practice by the EMG Secretariat to publish documents in English, and to distribute them mostly in electronic form.

- ILO proposed to highlight in the report that the same challenges to coordinate work on e-waste at the global level, also appear at the country level. A recommendation on how UN organisations could improve their collaboration at country level could be included in the report. UNU supported the proposal.

- The BRS Secretariat noted that there is little specific reference to extended producer responsibility (EPR), such as the Basel Convention Guidelines on EPR, which is a large part of the e-waste solution – and would ideally feature more prominently in the report. There could also be reference to existing guidance documents, and how this report might be able to make guidance, such as those developed by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, more visible and not duplicated. The BRS Secretariat also called for more reference in the report to the private sector and how to enhance their engagement, by developing the existing related recommendation, also considering how this recommendation could be operationalized. Other feedback by the BRS Secretariat included a suggestion to add a recommendation related to data generation and the importance of getting the necessary input from governments, to adjust the section of the report on organisations' expertise and involvement in e-waste to look

more at how they can de facto contribute based on their expertise and ongoing work rather than how they *could* contribute based on their mandate. Lastly, as we look beyond the report, there could be more of an understanding/mapping based around bilateral e-waste cooperation with NGOs and other actors tackling e-waste.

- In response to the feedback by the BRS Secretariat, UNU suggest that the inclusion of more information regarding EPR schemes might not be necessary as the scope of the report is to address the cooperation and coordination on e-waste in the UN system. UNU also invited BRS and other Members to suggest various documents and initiatives which they would like to see in the report, if not there already.

- The SAICM Secretariat highlighted the SAICM-HSLEEP work stream on hazardous substances and would like to see this work, and other work on hazardous substances, featured more prominently in the report and its recommendations. It was, for example, suggested that more information could be included on strengthening developing countries' work on hazardous substances, and the extraction of natural resources.

- The Chair invited focal points and participants to provide their comments and feedback regarding the report to the EMG Secretariat in writing.

- ILO highlighted their upcoming collaboration with the private sector on e-waste, through a global dialogue to be held in 2018-2019, bringing tripartite parties together.

- UNIDO mentioned that the collective effort 'for the future' needs to be emphasised more in the final chapter of the report, and that the recommendations should be made keeping in mind that the objective of the IMG is to strengthen coordination in the UN system and that the findings in the report are based on input received only from UN and related agencies..

Agreed actions

IMG members will be invited to provide further comments and feedback on the report in writing to the EMG Secretariat by April 21, 2017. Based on the feedback and comments, the EMG Secretariat will incorporate the changes to the draft Synthesis Report, and then share the report once again with EMG/IMG Members.

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4. Next steps and the 3rd meeting of the IMG

The Chair then addressed the future of the IMG through the perspective outlined in the Terms of Reference, and highlighted which sections of the ToR that have been completed and what is still to be met. The Chair proposes to include a forward-looking document outlining a strategy for the next steps, and invited focal points and participants to look at elements d) and e) of the ToR and the attached Next Steps documents.

Agreed actions

The EMG Secretariat will provide Members of the IMG with a draft document outlining a strategy for the future, along with a short accompanying document addressed to Heads of Agencies.

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5. Other matters

The Chair provided focal points and participants the opportunity to raise any other matters; there were no further issues raised.

6. Closure of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 4.30pm GVA time.

Annex 1   **List of Participants**

	Name	**Organisation**
1	Mr. Alfredo Cueva	UNIDO
2	Mr. Nelson Manda	UNITAR
3	Mr. William Abi Abdallah	UNICEF
4	Ms. Haddy Guisse	UN Environment
5	Mr. David Seligson	ILO
6	Mr. Ruediger Kuhr	UNU
7	Ms. Tatiana Terekhova	BRS Secretariat
8	Mr. Charles Havekost	UNODC
9	Ms. Sophie Ravier	DFS
10	Ms. Marit Nilses	ESCAP
11	Mr. Muhammed Omotola	SAICM Secretariat
12	Mr. Hossein Fadaei	EMG Secretariat
13	Ms. Jannica Pitkanen	EMG Secretariat
14	Mr. Garam Bel	EMG Secretariat

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Documents:

- Draft Agenda

- Draft Synthesis Report

- Note on Next Steps

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening remarks

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Consideration of the Draft Synthesis Report
   A review of the process leading to the draft
   Comments and inputs by IMG members

4. Next steps and the 3rd meeting of the IMG
   A plan for the finalization of the draft
   Progress reporting to SOM23 and relevant e-waste related events
   Consideration and follow-up of the recommendations of the mapping report

5. Other matters

6. Closure of the meeting