



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**EMG**

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**7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste:  
Towards Eco-design and a Life-cycle Approach for E-products**

**EMG/e-waste/IMG/  
16.04.2018**

10.04.2018

Distribution: IMG members

GoToMeeting from 3:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. (Geneva time).

Documents:

- Provisional Agenda
- Proposed Questions – Work Stream One: Programmatic Analysis
- Discussion Points – Work Stream Two: Knowledge Sharing Platform

## **Meeting Report**

### **1. Introduction**

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IMG on Tackling E-waste took place online on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 between 4:00p.m. and 5:00p.m. Geneva time, chaired by Mr. Hossein Fadaei, Head of the EMG Secretariat.

The meeting discussed the substantive, operational and financial aspects of the knowledge sharing platform, looking into the type of content and information needed as well as the processes and the financial contributions required to support its development and maintenance.

After a first look at the topics and questions proposed for the programmatic analysis, a brief overview was provided about the signing of the Letter of Intent and the proposed e-waste coalition.

### **2. Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda.**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and underlining how this meeting took place following the event, hosted by ITU, that saw the signing of a Letter of Intent by several heads of United Nations organizations committing to collaborate on United Nations system-wide support for e-waste management. The Chair noticed that the event was well communicated, showing and sharing this commitment on tackling e-waste globally and internally.

The Chair then reminded the attendees that the purpose of this meeting was to address the work streams of the IMG, and that two documents were circulated beforehand, stimulating the discussion on information exchange and operational issues regarding the knowledge-sharing platform as well as on programmatic analysis for work stream one.

The Chair asked for approval of the agenda, which was subsequently adopted.

### **3. Work Stream Two: Substantive, operational and financial aspects of the knowledge sharing platform**

Mr. Garam Bel of the EMG Secretariat opened the discussion by inviting the participants to brainstorm on the possible content of the knowledge sharing platform, and to ponder whether this should be specifically useful to UN organizations or, more generally, showcase statistics and data related to e-waste for the use of the wider public.

Mr. Bel then invited the attendees to discuss who would take the lead in the initiative and suggest potential hosting entities, providing the example of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP).

Ms. Haddy Guisse of UN Environment asked if there was a discussion with GGKP on hosting the platform and suggested as alternative to utilize another already existing similar knowledge management platform such as Informea, were the resources to be available. Ms. Guisse suggested a contact person to investigate the possibility.

Mr. Bel confirmed his willingness to reach out to said contact person.

Ms. Guisse pointed out Informea could also be useful if utilized as a training platform.

Ms. Vanessa Gray of ITU asked how many people had responded to the shared questionnaire.

When Mr. Bel gave a number of 10 out of 19 participating organizations, Ms. Gray inquired whether the platform would be an internal tool or a website open to the outside.

Mr. Bel informed the participants that the broader scope of the work stream is to create an open source of information, as some of its results would be useful to other stakeholders outside of the UN system.

Ms. Francesca Cenni of the BRS Secretariat asked what is the added value of having a platform as opposed to a classic website in which to connect information and tools such as Informea, pointing out that the necessary material is already available and it only needs to be brought together.

Mr. Bel confirmed that, considering the huge amount of information present on the internet, the scope of the IMG is indeed to bring it all together in one place.

Ms. Cenni, noting that the platform is the reflection of an already existing activity, suggested that the IMG needs to consider the resources needed for its upkeep and asked for clarifications on the costs indicated on the previously shared documents.

Mr. Bel clarified that those do not include staff costs, which would be limited considering that the input of information on platforms such as GGKP is usually carried out by interns working on a voluntary basis.

The Chair reminded the colleagues that it is important to notice that the financial implications of this new platform are described in the shared documents, which outline a realistic and sustainable tool: if the long-term ambition is to have a coalition on e-waste, the IMG needs to think of this platform in that light.

Mr. Ruediger Kuehr of UNU reminded the attendees that the scope of the IMG is indeed to achieve better cooperation among UN organizations on e-waste by building on each other's expertise, and that the real challenge in the case of the platform is regular maintenance, as the flowing of information needs to be constant. Mr. Kuehr recommended to utilize a standalone platform with an easy domain with the potential to grow and one day be the main reference for information on e-waste.

The Chair, building on that point, noted that two most significant elements to consider are maintenance and the related resources.

The Chair suggested the participants share by email their opinion on the functions of such platform: since this will serve UN-system collaboration, the views of all participants are needed regarding components and functions for the future terms of reference of this platform. The Chair noted that being hosted by tools such as Informea or GGKP would imply that e-waste would not be the sole topic discussed, which could have both benefits and downsides.

Mr. Kuehr suggested that platform users might want to know what the UN organizations acting in a given country are doing, in order to find out who the contact persons are if they want to follow up on that work: finding out information on ongoing UN projects should be the starting point.

Ms. Vanessa Gray of ITU agreed on the usefulness of the idea but noted that such approach would need a lead organization constantly researching information. Ms. Gray also suggested that, considering the minimum requirements for funding, it would be beneficial to involve the private sector in the spirit of the intended coalition. To do so, the IMG needs to present itself as something unique and useful for the private sector as well as for UN entities.

The Chair welcomed the idea, inviting the participants to reflect on what stimuli are motivating those who are currently supporting platforms such as GGKP or Informea.

Ms. Gray noted that, in terms of content, the intended project is covering all the most important areas, such as publications, learning and training tools and calendar of events, but the project needs to start with something small and then expand, making sure there are responses before the project outgrows itself.

The Chair agreed on the necessity to start with a needs-sensitive approach.

Mr. Nelson Manda from UNITAR agreed but reminded the colleagues that the initial idea was to create a platform that would allow the user to find everything they need to know on e-waste. Mr. Manda also pointed out that the IMG needs to consider if offline services can be provided for those countries in which internet connection is still a challenge.

The Chair invited Mr. Manda to provide an insight on UNITAR's relations with Member States and other stakeholders and their practice maintenance.

Mr. Manda recognized the resource-intensive nature of such relations, which generally need regular personnel, regular updates and regular maintenance.

Mr. Bel invited the participants to think of the work plan as in line with the objectives of the e-waste coalition and suggested to have a short brief on the concept note at end of the meeting.

The Chair agreed and moved the discussion onto the following point on the agenda.

#### **Conclusion and Next Steps:**

- The broad scope of the work stream is to create a source of information open to external stakeholders as well as to UN entities;
- Participants will share their opinions on the content of the platform via email;
- Participants will reflect on how to present the knowledge platform as unique and useful to the private sector;
- The building of the platform will start with a needs-sensitive approach.

#### **4. Work Stream One: Questions proposal for the programmatic analysis**

The Chair started the second part of the discussion by informing the colleagues of the EMG Secretariat's willingness to gather information on the e-waste-related programmatic mandate of the various members of the IMG, specifying that the questionnaire concerns programmatic mandate as well as past and future funding for E-waste activities and stakeholder engagement.

Mr. Garam Bel asked the participants if there were any questions or comments, informing them that the matter will soon be shared with all for written input on improvements and then once more in late June for submission of answers. Mr. Bel reminded the colleagues that this analysis has been thought to support the intended coalition as a source of useful information.

There were no comments on the matter and the Chair opened the brief on the E-waste Coalition.

##### **Conclusions:**

- The questions will soon be shared with all participants for their input.
- The questionnaire will be sent to all IMG members in late June.

#### **5. Briefing on An End to Electronic Waste: the e-waste coalition**

Mr. Garam Bel informed the attendees about the signing of the previously mentioned Letter of Intent and that the signed documents will soon be shared with heads of agencies. The event was described, with mention to the panel discussion and the following informal discussion with the signatories; the outcome of which is being reorganized in a concept note, to be shared in the upcoming week for input.

Mr. Bel also informed the colleagues that the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development have expressed interest in the initiative. Reference was also made to possible future e-waste-related events to promote the coalition and to raise awareness around it.

The Chair thanked Mr. Bel for the update and noted the importance this initiative has for the work of the group: the hope is for this coalition to follow up on the outcome of the IMG, which is why the goal is to form its terms of reference by the end of the 2018.

##### **Conclusions and Next Steps:**

- A concept note for the e-waste coalition will be shared in the coming weeks;
- It is proposed that the coalition terms of reference be drafted by the end of 2018.

#### **6. Closure of the meeting**

After noticing that there were no questions or comments, the Chair thanked all attendees for participating, assuring them that the EMG Secretariat will continue working on all work streams and will keep colleagues updated on their progress, as well as on the progress of the work plan.

The Chair proposed to have a new meeting in early June and there were no objections.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4 p.m. Geneva time.

### Annex 1 (List of Participants)

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1	Ms. Arianna Luccarelli	EMG Secretariat
2	Ms. Bianca Perina	ILO
3	Mr. Charles Havekost	UNODC
4	Ms. Francesca Cenni	BRS Secretariat
5	Mr. Garam Bel	EMG Secretariat
6	Ms. Haddy Guisse	UNEP
7	Ms. Hitomi Nakagome	ILO
8	Mr. Hossein Fadaei, Chair	EMG Secretariat
9	Mr. Nelson Manda	UNITAR
10	Mr. Ruediger Kuehr	UNU
11	Ms. Sophie Ravier	DFS
12	Ms. Vanessa Gray	ITU