



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

**EMG**

**24<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Issue Note

**Submitting organization:**

**Members of the Coalition on E-Waste <sup>1</sup>**

**Summary**

Signatories of the letter of intent for strengthened collaboration on tackling e-waste provide plans for the development of an E-waste Coalition. They welcome continued engagement with other UN entities and stakeholders outside the UN system and the facilitation of this process by the Environment Management Group (EMG).



**UN**  
environment



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



**B**  
BASEL CONVENTION

**S**  
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
**unitar**

**ILO**  
International  
Labour  
Organization

**Issue:**

**Building the E-waste Coalition**

**Key discussion items:**

- 1) Inclusion of other possible programme areas in the mandate of the E-waste Coalition
- 2) Strengthening collaboration with other stakeholders, particularly the private sector (including small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs))
- 3) Considering possible future governance, membership structure, and financing of the Coalition

**Annexes:**

EMGSOM24 INF - 1. Draft\_ToR\_Global E-waste Portal  
EMGSOM24 INF - 3. Draft\_E-waste Coalition\_Concept Note  
EMGSOM24 INF - 7. Overview\_National Intervention Model

<sup>1</sup> Signatories include so far: UN Environment, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations University (UNU), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Basel and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) (the World Health Organization (WHO) is currently in the process of signing the letter of intent)

## Background and UN dimensions:

Since May 2016, the EMG has been strengthening coordination and collaboration on e-waste issues across the United Nations.<sup>2</sup>

In March 2018, during the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, seven United Nations entities signed a letter of intent, marking their *non-binding* commitments to increase collaboration and partnership building to address the global e-waste challenge.

A signing ceremony and subsequent panel discussion, moderated by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and including the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), signified an important step towards strengthening knowledge sharing, guiding companies, informing consumers and policy makers, and supporting Member States in tackling e-waste.

Since then, coordinated by the EMG Secretariat, the signatories and participating organisations have been building an E-waste Coalition, which has continued to receive strong support at the high-level within each organisation. Through several workshops, these organisations have been constructing programme areas of the Coalition; and prepared a draft concept note for the E-waste Coalition.

## Proposed specific deliverables:

- 1- **A joint media and awareness communication campaign on *A New Vision for Electronics*.** This will include the publication of a global-reaching report including emerging e-waste trends, key figures and issues framed across thematic areas. It will also include existing best practices and outline a vision for the next generation of circular electronics. The report will be launched at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, in January 2019. Videos, social media messaging and a documentary will also be produced. The E-waste Coalition would like to encourage UN Environment to advocate for the theme of the next World Environment Day to focus on electronic waste, and the production and consumption of electronics.
- 2- **An online portal for e-waste information and statistics.** Building on the work led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations University (UNU) and International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) ([Global E-waste Statistics Partnership](#)), the Coalition will support the augmentation of the online portal, eventually ensuring the portal hosts the world's e-waste statistics and provides a space for e-waste project information, training and learning.
- 3- **One-UN support on e-waste capacity building for Member States.** The E-waste Coalition is exploring the joint development of a national intervention model to support a country such as Nigeria, where it will work with the Resident Coordinator and Country Team to undertake an e-waste value chain analysis, carry out concerted policy dialogue, develop a national e-waste strategy, and invest in and implement the strategy.
- 4- **Electrical and electronic waste awards.** By increasing recognition and awareness about best practices in environmentally sound e-waste management, the E-waste Coalition will establish a series of awards to highlight good practices and innovative solutions for the environmentally sound management of e-waste. A follow-up to the Basel Convention Secretariat's Partnership on Action for Computing Equipment (PACE), the awards will be amplified by the collaborative power of the E-waste Coalition.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on the work of the Environment Management Group on e-waste please [click here](#).

### Possible contribution of the EMG members and other partners:

- 1- Contribution of communication materials for the media campaign by members and partners of the E-waste Coalition, to support key messages on the global e-waste challenge and to highlight the work of the Coalition across their networks and online.
- 2- The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) are invited to link the E-waste Coalition with relevant electronics and electrical equipment manufacturers to attain substantial influence from the private sector in contributing to the relevant areas of the Coalition.
- 3- At a later stage the Coalition will explore involvement with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE). IOE is the largest network of the private sector in the world, with more than 150 business and employer organisation members. In contrast to WEF and WBCSD, the IOE represents a large number of small- and medium enterprises.
- 4- For the 'Electrical and Electronic Waste Awards', each member of the Coalition is invited to contribute a component of the award for best practices among its membership, to ensure that the awards cover the full spectrum of electrical and electronic equipment.
- 5- A proposal has been made to Erik Solheim, UN Environment Executive Director and Houlin Zhao, the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to carry out a joint fundraising approach for the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership online portal reference above – to ensure its long-term maintenance and expansion.
- 6- For the national intervention model, two approaches to attaining the required resources have been discussed. Option one includes the establishment of a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Option two includes the request for support from donors and international finance initiatives.

### Proposed next steps:

- 1- Secure financial resources for the professional design and editing of the Davos 2019 report.
- 2- Continue discussions on the governance and membership structure of the E-waste Coalition.
- 3- Develop individual project and financing plans for the E-waste Coalition's programme areas.
- 4- Welcome the *Letter of Intent* signing by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- 5- Continue discussions to scope and formalise a Nigeria national e-waste intervention model.
- 6- Ensure the Coalition's involvement with the private sector, with support from the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- 7- Consider the role of, and opportunities for, SMEs in addressing the e-waste challenge.
- 8- Secure the relevant financial resources, by January 2019, for the online global e-waste portal.

### The in-person signatories of the Letter of Intent (Geneva, March 21st, 2018):

