

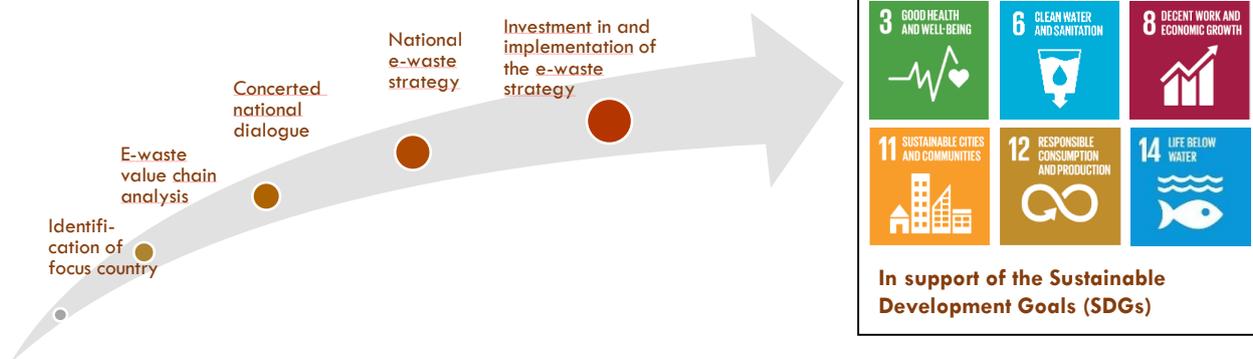


The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Tackling E-waste – Building an E-Waste Coalition

As part of engendering the newly created E-waste Coalition, a core group of UN agencies and affiliated organizations are developing an intervention model for joint and better coordinated work at the country level in response to increasing demands from Member States and UN Country Teams for assistance. The model is based on a new vision for electronics and builds on a circular economy approach to e-waste management, which brings together key stakeholders across government, the private sector and civil society to transform the value chain, create green jobs and protect the environment.

With ever greater numbers of women and men joining the information society and digital economy every day, e-waste has become the world’s fastest-growing waste stream. According to the Global E-waste Monitor, 44.7 million metric tonnes of e-waste were generated globally in 2017, yet just 20 per cent gets collected and recycled. The value of the gold, copper and other materials that is thrown away amounts to €55 billion. If this high-volume, low-value resource was managed better and in accordance with a circular economy approach, it could greatly contribute to inclusive economic growth and decent work.

The intervention model is based on the theory of change that if the eight UN agencies and affiliated organisations pool existing data and information, they will generate a more comprehensive and useful understanding of the e-waste challenge in a given country. By making this evidence and analysis available to all and by working with the UN Country Team to facilitate a process of dialogue with key ministries (e.g., environment, labour, commerce, planning, finance), employers and workers, the UN would support the government in question with the formulation of a national e-waste strategy, which is the foundation for attracting sustainable investments into infrastructure and sustainable enterprises in this sector.



Today, UN Country Teams do not have one place to turn to when receiving requests from Member States. In support of UN Secretary General António Guterres’ reform agenda for the UN development system, the proposed intervention model is demand-driven, will be tailored to national priorities and ensure that Member States have access to UN data, policy advice, normative instruments and technical assistance in a more consistent and efficient manner. Working closely with the World Economic Forum, the World Business Coalition for Sustainable Development and a broad spectrum of partners, and by bringing their different perspectives and expertise to the table, the E-waste Coalition is in a unique position to support public and private stakeholders at the country level in ensuring that the management of e-waste will contribute to achieving the SDGs.

To support governments in implementing their new e-waste strategies, Coalition members will engage with national authorities, in particular ministries of environment, labour, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and national statistics offices, to provide technical assistance in required areas. Support programmes will inter alia focus on ratification and effective implementation UN conventions and standards, policy and legislation, research and capacity building, public infrastructure and sustainable enterprise development, health and safety, formalization, and awareness raising.