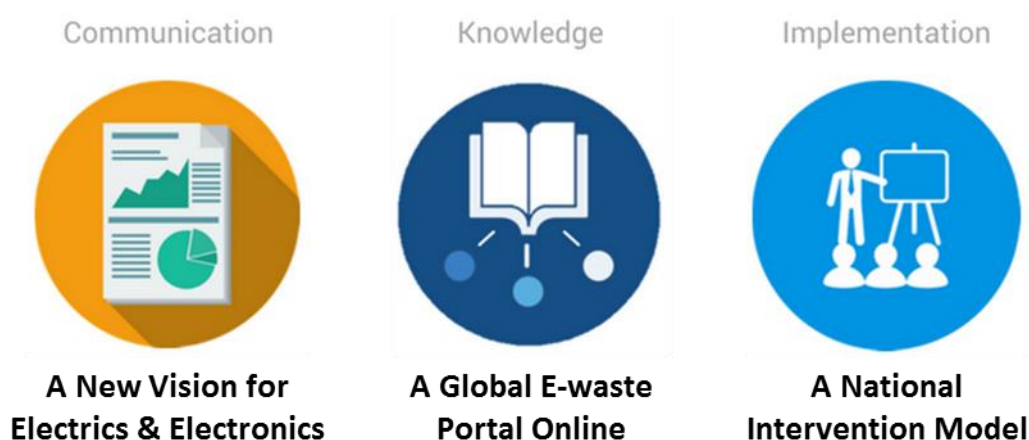


# Concept Note – E-waste Coalition (as of 29.10.18)



In March, 2018, during the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, seven United Nations entities signed a Letter of Intent to indicate their commitment to increase collaboration, build partnerships and support Member States to address the e-waste challenge. In particular, they agreed to strengthen knowledge sharing, increase awareness about the topic of e-waste and inform and guide companies, consumers and policy makers on sustainable solutions for e-waste management. This concept note prescribes the objectives and initial steps undertaken by the seven signatory entities, the “E-waste Coalition”, in line with the Letter of Intent. The E-waste Coalition is coordinated by the UN Environment Management Group, which has been encouraging increased collaboration on e-waste issues across the UN since May 2016.



Initial programme areas	
<b>1.) Communication</b>	A global-reaching report will highlight the principal and foremost emerging e-waste trends, key figures, challenges and opportunities. It will be forward-looking, including existing best practices, and will outline a new vision for the next generation of circular electrics and electronics. This report will be preceded by a succinct and attractive communication paper and potentially complemented over the long run by an Electrical and Electronic Waste Awards, to celebrate good practices and innovative solutions in the prevention and sound management of e-waste. A joint media and awareness campaign, as well as communication materials will support key messages around the e-waste challenge. The campaign will build momentum around the report and the potential awards. It will highlight international e-waste efforts, with communication reflecting one voice on e-waste.
<b>2.) Knowledge</b>	Using the Coalition as a collaborative effort, UN entities and other stakeholders will contribute towards the long-term maintenance and expansion of the online global e-waste portal, being developed by the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership <sup>1</sup> , serving as a base for accessing the world’s data and statistics, and information on e-waste. As part of the expansion, the portal will convene a wider cohort of information, including content derived from the members and partners of the Coalition, such as publications, tools, and country and regional projects.

<sup>1</sup> International Telecommunication Union, United Nations University, International Solid Waste Association formed the [Global E-waste Statistics Partnership](#) in 2017.

<p><b>3.) Implementation</b></p>	<p>Stakeholders will jointly develop an intervention model for the implementation of e-waste work at the country level. In accordance with theories of change in international development, the model will provide a logical framework or mapping technique to explain how a given set of interventions is expected to lead to concrete development change, drawing on a causal analysis based on available data and evidence. The model will facilitate the identification of (i) solutions to systematically address the root causes of e-waste challenges, (ii) the underlying assumptions and risks, as well as (iii) suitable approaches for the way forward in order to successfully implement the desired interventions. As a first step, the Coalition will identify a country to pilot the model.</p> <p>The intervention model will include the following stages: identification of a focus country, e-waste value chain analysis, concerted policy dialogue, national e-waste strategy and data, and investment in and implementation of the e-waste strategy. The Coalition will engage with national authorities; working in particular with ministries of the environment, communication labour, employers' and workers' organisations, academia and statistics offices, to provide technical assistance.</p>
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**Structure and membership**

The EMG Secretariat is providing coordination support for the E-waste Coalition.

This support is guaranteed until September 2019, until the point at which *inter alia* the Coalition is further formalized.

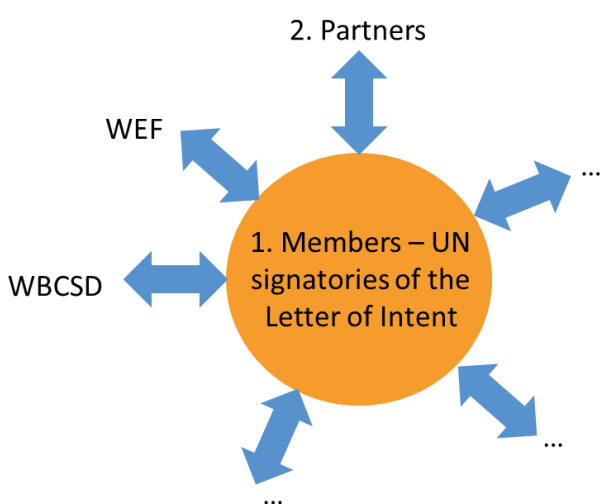


Formalisation would include discussions on support and coordination of the Coalition and a future governance and membership structure for the participating organisations.

The Letter of Intent signatories will work, for the meantime, in a non-binding manner in this E-waste Coalition.

For the foreseeable future, and relying on voluntary collaboration, the Coalition members and partners will fulfill the *areas of cooperation* listed in the Letter of Intent which are transposed into the three *programme areas* above.

**Loose membership and financing arrangements:**



The E-waste Coalition is comprised of the Letter of Intent signatories (*members*) and supporting organisations from outside the UN system (*partners*).

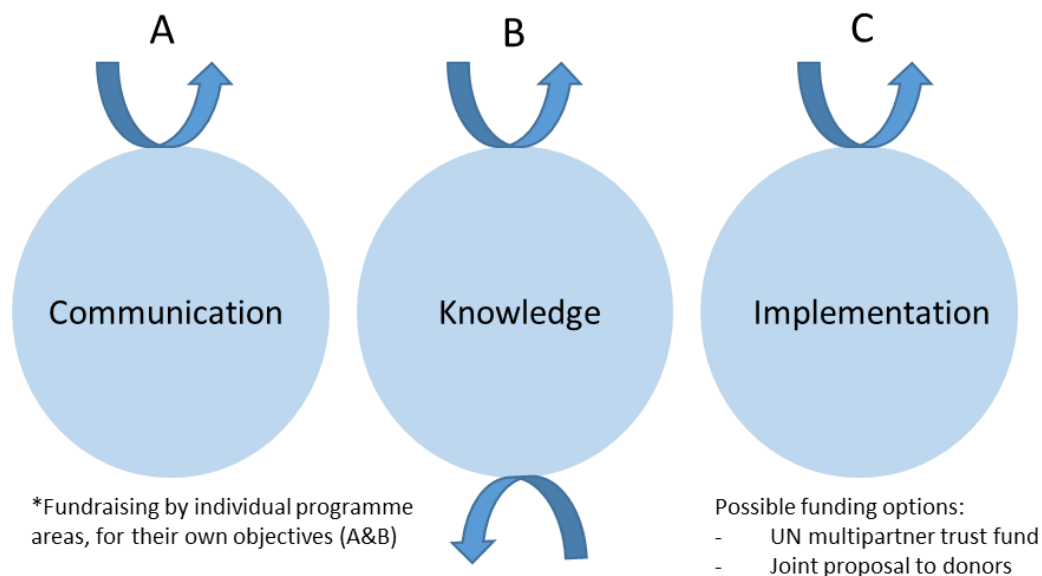
Other UN organisations working on the topic of e-waste may join the Coalition, as members, by signing the Letter of Intent, upon the consensus of all existing signatories.

The *members* will work with public and private sector *partners*, and organisations such as World Economic Forum and World Business Council for Sustainable Development who represent these sectors, to connect with relevant networks and attain substantial influence from actors outside of the UN system.

Either as a *member* or *partner*, there are no barriers to entry or exit, to and from the E-waste Coalition.

Required financial resources for the *programme areas*, will be acquired through fundraising by *members* and *partners* involved in the respective individual *programme areas*.

Under the joint intervention model (implementation), funding options will be pursued jointly by as many Coalition members and partners as possible.



## Engagement with industry

The E-waste Coalition would like to invite industry actors from across the electronics and electrics value chain to work with the UN in the creation of a new vision for this sector and to collaborate substantively in e-waste projects and awareness raising.

More specifically, the Coalition would like to engage the private sector in country interventions by the UN; to support investment in technology, to share experiences in innovation and to create important dialogue between the private and public sectors.

There could be significant value in the convergence of the private sector, to harmonise as one voice and to coordinate around tackling the e-waste challenge in collaboration with the UN.

Private sector entities are invited to consider the following value proposition from the E-waste Coalition:

- 1) Be the first to shape the consumer: There is growing awareness among consumers about waste and our throw-away society. E.g. In just roughly one-year, market-driven demand by consumers has dramatically re-shaped the way we view single-use plastics.

A similar global campaign around electrical and electronic waste, could bring equal consumer pressure and awareness about the production, consumption and disposal of this equipment.

- 2) Be an influencer in radical change: The UN has a huge convening and neutral power position at the national level, and in dialogue with governments. The primary approach by government is to engage the private sector in legislation such as extended producer responsibility, or to bestow similar strict environmental regulation upon the industry.

The E-waste Coalition is in a position to transpose private sector knowledgeability into policy dialogue with governments, to shape the e-waste policy domain before its widespread arrival on the door step of the electrics and electronics industry.

The Coalition is looking to establish a collaborative atmosphere of working together, where the UN, private sector and other stakeholders partner, using their influence to shape consumers and gain political support, to finance e-waste work and to jointly participate in awareness raising and on-the-ground implementation.

**Contact: Environment Management Group [emg@un.org](mailto:emg@un.org)**