

Statement by the Members of the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste¹

Global consumption of electrical and electronic equipment is on the rise. When these products enter a used and end-of-life state, a large amount of this equipment is sorted incorrectly and shipped illegally around the world, to then be disposed of or treated under rudimentary conditions. Before these products are manufactured, a significant amount of work is still required during the design stage to ensure the reduction of their ecological footprint.

In recent years, the United Nations has committed itself progressively to addressing the problem of e-waste. The varied nature of this waste stream demands the involvement of a large number of specialised entities from different backgrounds. Maintaining this involvement is also imperative to addressing the entire life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment. We therefore advocate that for the UN system, addressing the full life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment is central to the 2030 development agenda. We, the Members of the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste, emphasise that where possible in UN entities' projects, programmes and mandates on tackling e-waste, more attention should be paid to the early stages of the life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment; such as design and production whilst at the same time ensuring that all stages are considered from design, to use, to final disposal.

Maximising UN system-wide collaboration as well as effectively supporting Member States is also at the core of the development agenda. These actions will alleviate the challenges for Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly relating to targets 3.9, 8.3, 8.8, 11.6, 12.4 and 12.5.

To step up our collaborative efforts to maximise system-wide coherence towards eco-design and a life-cycle approach to tackling e-waste, we hereby commit to the recommendations outlined in the Environment Management Group report: *"The United Nations and E-waste: system-wide action on addressing the full life-cycle of electrical and electronic equipment"*. Key findings of the report highlight the need to increase the inclusivity of UN e-waste initiatives, i.a. by formulating more collaboration with the private sector and considering e-waste arisings in developed countries as well as developing and transition economies.

Building on the recommendations of the report to increase collaboration in tackling e-waste, we support further work by Members of the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste in the following areas:

- 1) Undertaking a gap analysis to understand the programmatic, mandate and policy-level preferences of each active entity in order to develop concrete goals for collaboration on tackling e-waste with the support of a lead entity(ies);
- 2) Establishing a joint work plan on e-waste, based on the findings of the e-waste analytical report and the outcomes of the gap analysis, which establishes a plan to reach a set of identified goals;
- 3) Identifying a possible inter-agency coordination mechanism, including the development of a knowledge management platform for UN e-waste related initiatives;
- 4) Increasing support through the provision of expertise for UN internal e-waste management work, through the support for guidance on e-waste management and the procurement of electrical and electronic equipment within the UN system, and its use and disposal.

In light of the points put forward above, we make our commitment with a view to continuing and enhancing UN system-wide collaboration on tackling the global e-waste problem, whilst at the same time demonstrating that the UN system itself has a duty to ensure that internal e-waste generation is minimised and is managed effectively in its entities.

¹ This statement is made on behalf of IMG Members including UNDP, UN Environment, ITU, UNU, BRS Secretariat, WIPO, DFS, FAO, ILO, UNITAR, UNODC, UNESCAP, WFP, UNICEF, UNIDO, WTO, IMO, SAICM, along with INTERPOL.