

E-waste and Role of Selected International Organizations¹

	BC	StEP	UNEP DTIE
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basel Convention objectives. • E-waste is a priority issue under the Basel Strategic Plan on ESM. • Nairobi Declaration on environmentally sound management of e-waste. • Decision VIII/2 on e-waste. • The Basel Convention, through UNEP, is part of wider network called the Global Compact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary initiative of the United Nations University (UNU) to solve the e-waste problem. • MOU between participating members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Special Session of the Governing Council identifying priorities such as: environmental monitoring enhanced coordination of environmental conventions, development of environmental policy instruments, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. • Responsible for advancing the Global Compact principles. • Supports Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI).
Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of the Basel Convention, which is administered by UNEP. It implements COP Decisions and provides coordination, as mandated by Parties of the Basel Convention. It assists in networking, liaising with stakeholders, and carries out fundraising activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat acts as the operation, coordination and communication (internal & external) hub. In addition, it assists various Task Forces, particularly in stakeholder dialogues, deduction of political recommendations, marketing, networking, liaising, and fundraising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Secretariat as such, but initiatives are supported by the Division with 7 Branches, three of which are: Production and Consumption (Cleaner Production), Business and Partnership (where Global Compact issues are addressed) and International Environmental Technology Centre (Environmentally Sound Technologies).
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with members from: developed and developing countries, Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRC), UNEP, industry, industrial associations, international organizations interested in ESM, civil society, NGOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academia oriented, with members from private sector, some governments (GTZ, SECO, USEPA), Academia and Research organizations, some NGOs (Inform, Oko-Institut in Germany, 3P Consortium in Germany), UNU, UNEP, and UNCTAD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry and international organizations interested in: environmentally sound and clean technology issues and improving their sustainability performance • GeSI - an international group of Information and Communication Technology service providers and suppliers, supported by UNEP and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
Membership Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary contributions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial members - EUR 10,000 (or USD 13,567) • Non commercial members – EUR 2,000 (or USD 2,713). 	<p><u>GeSI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Member: Fee ranges from USD 1,000 to USD 10,000 depending on the production output. • Associate Member: Flat fee of USD 1,000.
Conduct of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly by teleconferences. • Some physical meetings, backing to official Basel meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly by teleconferences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly by physical meetings, organized by the Global Contact office, GeSI, and UNEP DTIE.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote environmentally sound management of e-waste, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To initiate research studies with an objective to issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

	<p>as required by the Basel Convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote life cycle thinking, integrated waste management, and producer responsibility. • To initiate voluntary discussions and projects amongst developed and developing countries, international organizations, industry, and NGOs on environmentally sound management of e-waste, and trade in used electrical and electronic equipment. 	<p>research papers and publications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase public, scientific and business knowledge on: optimization of life-cycle of electric and electronic equipment, improving supply chain, closing material loops, reducing contamination, increasing utilization of resources addressing the disparities, such as the digital divide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To initiate voluntary actions to improve member’s sustainability performance, and communicate clean technologies, those that foster sustainable development. • To implement integrated waste management programs, and build capacity in developing countries. • To implement strategies that influence informed decision making through partnerships with other international organizations, governmental authorities, business and industry, and non-governmental organizations.
<p>Past and Current Initiatives on e-waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI). • Established a multi-stakeholder working group to deal with used and end-of life mobile phones (MPWG). • Initiated discussions with stakeholders on setting up a partnership on computing equipment. • High level ministerial discussions on e-waste during COP 6 and COP 8. • COP Decisions (VI/31, VI/32, VII/3, VII/4, VIII/2, VIII/5, and VIII/6) on mobile phones, e-waste, and partnerships in general. • A number of side events on e-waste during COP and OEWG meetings. • A number of regional initiatives (studies, workshops, information exchanges) on e-waste, organized by BCRCs. • Together with the Government of Japan launched the regional e-waste program for Asia-Pacific region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued a publication entitled “Computers and the Environment - Understanding and Managing their Impacts”. • Research study on global supply chain that looks at environmental, economic and social constrains. • Mapping the global flow of selected elements contained within electronics through a dynamic system modeling. • Sustainable Material Flows for secondary materials from end-of-life electronics in the developed and developing countries. • Global e-waste programme to improve local recycling processes in the informal sector, to raise public awareness and enhance efforts to improve WEEE management systems. • Research study on future options for management of CRT glass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only minimal number of projects on e-waste. • UNEP supports GeSI, which is a joint initiative of Information and Communication Technology and International Telecommunication Union. • Other related initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four-year project aiming at increasing investments in cleaner production in developing countries. – UNEP DTIE is advancing the Global Compact principles and corporate environmental and social responsibility (CESR) through its activities with business on an industry sector basis. – Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs) Exhibition was held at the in Dubai from 5 - 8 February 2006 enabling companies to display support for promoting environmentally sound technologies. – Explores new approaches in stakeholder engagements. – UNEP along with the Global Compact Office regularly hosts Global Compact Policy Dialogues.

¹ Based on the information contained in the websites of the Basel Convention, StEP, and UNEP DTIE