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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Tenth meeting**

Cartagena, Colombia 17–21 October 2011

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
Basel Convention Partnership Programme**

**Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE):
progress report by the Co-Chairs of the PACE Working Group**

Note by the Secretariat

1. By decision IX/9 adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) Working Group and approved the mission, scope, working principles and activities of the Partnership as set out in annex I to decision IX/9. The PACE Working Group operates under the auspices of the Open-ended Working Group.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) of decision OEWG-VII/3, the Secretariat is transmitting herewith to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention a report on progress of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment as provided by the Co-Chairs of the PACE Working Group (annex). It has not been formally edited by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CHW.10/1.

Annex

Progress report by the Co-Chairs of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment Working Group

I. Background and organization of the partnership

1. The partnership was launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which took place in Bali, Indonesia in June 2008. Since January 2009, the PACE Working Group (PACEWG), established under the auspices of the Open-ended Working Group, held a series of meetings aimed at implementing a number of activities, as set out in its work programme as reflected in the decision IX/9, annex I. The PACEWG tasks are as follows:

- (a) Operational tasks:
 - (i) oversee the execution of the 2009-2010 Work Plan for PACE;
 - (ii) set priorities based on the work programme;
 - (iii) oversee activities of project groups, and play an active role in conflict resolution;
 - (iv) review and approve work products and reports prepared by project groups;
- (b) Administrative tasks:
 - (i) ensure timely implementation of the work plan by project groups;
 - (ii) coordinate activities within the Partnership;
 - (iii) liaise with the Secretariat;
 - (iv) receive and consider requests for membership in the Partnership;
- (c) Financial tasks:
 - (i) prepare appropriate and sustainable financial arrangements for the Partnership;
 - (ii) prepare documents on memberships, contributions, and sliding scales;
 - (iii) liaise with the Secretariat to provide financial reports.

2. To assist in the implementation of the PACE work programme, five project groups and two sub-groups were established: Ad Interim Project Group on Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Criteria, Project Group 1.1 on Environmentally Sound Testing, Repair and Refurbishment of Used Computing Equipment, Project Group 2.1 on Environmentally Sound Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Computing Equipment, Project Group 3.1 on Collection and Management of End-of-Life Computing Equipment from Informal Sectors, and Project Group 4.1 on Awareness Raising and Training; Sub-Group on Resource Mobilization and Financial Sustainability, and Sub-Group on Transboundary Movement of Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment .

3. The Partnership working group and project groups meet by teleconferencing, face-to-face meetings and exchange comments electronically. PACE face-to-face meetings were held in Geneva, Switzerland, 18-19 May 2009, in Bonn, Germany, 1-3 February 2010, in Beijing, China, 13-15 December 2010, and in Washington DC, United States of America, 6-8 June 2011.

4. It should be noted that the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Partnership to coordinate and collaborate, as appropriate, on activities with other organizations and initiatives to establish synergies and prevent duplication. It also recognized that PACE and Solving the E-waste Problem (StEP) Initiative, coordinated by UNU, share substantial areas of mutual interests, and undertake complementary activities. That is why PACE continues to enhance cooperation and coordination of activities with StEP by facilitating synergies and minimizing any duplication. Detailed information on the cooperation with StEP is provided in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/14.

II. Current status

5. The overarching recommendations on ESM criteria for use by other PACE project groups in developing guidelines, activities, and pilot projects in developing countries and countries with

economies in transition were developed. The report with ESM criteria recommendations is shown in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/25 and can be found on the Basel Convention web site at: <http://www.basel.int/industry/compartnership/index.html>].

6. In addition a number of documents were approved by the PACE Working Group and some will be field tested: glossary of terms was developed for PACE products, shown in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/26; guidance on procedures for transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment, shown in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/24; guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and recycling of used computing equipment, shown in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/22; guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment, shown in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/23, and overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, shown in annex II to document UNEP/CHW.10/20. All these documents can also be found on the Basel Convention web site at: <http://www.basel.int/industry/compartnership/index.html>.

7. Co-chairs forwarded the overall guidance document to the Secretariat with the request to submit it to the tenth meeting of the Parties to the Basel Convention for consideration and adoption of sections 1, 2, 4, 5 and provisional adoption of section 3 of the guidance document, as outlined in the document UNEP/CHW.10/20.

8. A limited number of pilot activities in countries were carried out as available funds permitted. Four waste surveys on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors were completed in Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Jordan, and Serbia following a selection process established by PACE. Based on their results Jordan was selected for a pilot project on collection and management of end-of-life computing equipment. This pilot study will be launched after this meeting.

9. As part of awareness raising and training activities, products such as the PACE logo and a film on management of e-waste were developed under PACE in cooperation with activities planned by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. In addition training workshops on PACE guidelines are being organized in all UN regions, starting with the training workshop in BCRC-China and BCRC- Bratislava.

III. Broadening the partnership

10. The membership of the PACEWG has been expanding since it was established in January 2009 and the working group has been instrumental in mobilising interest of other potential stakeholders, including Original Equipment Manufacturers. Furthermore, a number of Parties from developing countries, Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer and Intergovernmental Organizations have joined the Partnership. As of August 2011 the PACE has the following membership: 28 Parties and Signatories to the Basel Convention; 10 Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs); 9 Research and Academic Institutions, and other UN Bodies; and 16 NGOs, Industry, and Industry Associations.

11. It is also important to note that the following Parties, Signatories, Industry, Industrial Associations and NGOs provided funds in 2010 and 2011 to assist in the implementation of the work programme under the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment: Germany, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Basel Action Network (BAN), Close the Gap, Solving the E-waste Problem (StEP) Initiative, Boliden Mineral AB, Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse, Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), Institute of Environment and Resources (IER), John Bullock, PC Rebuilders and Recyclers, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), TES-AMM (Singapore) Pte Ltd, and SIMS Recycling Solutions. In addition, a number of partners made in-kind contributions for PACE activities by providing free teleconference services (USEPA), hosting PACE face-to-face meetings, and co-chairing the working group and project groups.

IV. Challenges ahead

12. A very substantial amount of work was carried out under the PACE in a very short period of time. A report on ESM criteria recommendations, glossary of terms, two guidelines and guidance on transboundary movement were finalized and approved by the PACEWG. A number of waste surveys were completed based on country proposals received from 5 regions and a first pilot project on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors have

been launched. None of these would be possible without the strong support of the Secretariat, the Parties and Signatories, companies and other stakeholders participating in this Partnership.

13. Nevertheless the Partnership recognizes that there remains a need to address the following challenges:

- (a) How to complete evaluation of guidelines without any resource implication for PACE and make revisions based on evaluation studies;
- (b) How to encourage and facilitate the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in physical meetings and teleconferences;
- (c) How to secure adequate resources for launching additional surveys and eventually pilot projects on collection and management of end-of-life computing equipment from informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (d) How to ensure that these pilot projects are financially sustainable and resources are mobilized for additional projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (e) How to raise awareness and engage more members from the private sector, especially original equipment manufacturers, to participate in PACE activities.

V. Future plans

14. In addition to the completed tasks, there are few remaining activities to be carried out by the PACEWG and respective project groups, and new tasks to be launched. The tasks were discussed by the PACEWG meeting in Washington DC, 6-8 June 2011, and proposed in the PACEWG work programme for 2012-2013 (annex I to the draft COP 10 decision on PACE, see document UNEP/CHW.10/20), which are:

- (a) Complete evaluation of the guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment, and the guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment;
 - (b) Revise these two guidelines based on results of evaluation studies;
 - (c) Adjust guidance on transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment, in light of technical guidelines on transboundary movements of used electronic and electrical equipment and e-waste, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste in order to avoid duplications and discrepancies;
 - (d) Revise the guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, based on changes to summaries and recommendations made in guidelines, the review of section 3, and any additional information provided;
 - (e) Continue training workshops on technical guidelines in different UN regions;
 - (f) Continue pilot projects on collection and management of used and end-of-life computing equipment by informal sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
 - (g) Develop plans for financial sustainability of pilot projects and resource mobilization for future projects;
 - (h) Develop strategies on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment;
 - (i) Enhance awareness raising and training on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment;
 - (j) Identify actions and incentives that can be taken to promote environmentally sound reuse, refurbishment, repair, recycling and material recovery of used and end-of-life computing equipment through the implementation of PACE guidelines and existing certification schemes;
 - (k) Assess the potential to use facility certification as a tool for assuring environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment.
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