

# **Nairobi declaration on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste**

**Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Nairobi, 27 November–1 December 2006**

*We, the Ministers and other heads of delegation from States,*

*Having met* in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27 November to 1 December 2006, on the occasion of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, and in particular during the World Forum on E-Waste,

*Acknowledging* that all countries benefit from increasing access to electrical and electronic products (e-products), including modern information and communications technologies and recognizing the importance of exploiting know-how and experience from different areas of the world regarding the recycling of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste),

*Noting* that the rapid expansion of the production and use of e-products results in an increase in the generation of used and end-of-life e-products and a rapid expansion in the transboundary movements of e-waste worldwide,

*Underlining* the fact that the Basel Convention provides an effective framework for developing strategic partnerships to continue discussing and exchanging views and experiences with a view to continuing to improve the environmentally sound management of e-waste worldwide,

*Concerned* about the risk to the environment and human health arising from international traffic in e-waste to countries, in particular developing countries that do not possess the capacity for the environmentally sound management of such wastes,

*Conscious* of the importance of minimizing the generation of e-waste and reducing transboundary movements of such waste,

*Mindful* of the opportunities, from an economic and social perspective, that recycling and recovery of used and end-of-life e-products can bring when properly managed in an environmentally sound manner throughout the life-cycle of such products,

*Recognizing* the importance of encouraging green design and extended producer responsibility in the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products,

*Fully aware* of the urgent need to strengthen enforcement and take further actions to prevent and combat illegal traffic in e-waste,

*Declare:*

1. That we shall promote awareness at all levels on the issue of e-waste challenges and solutions;
2. That we shall encourage and promote the exchange of information and the transfer of best available technologies for the environmentally sound management of

e-waste from developed countries to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. That we shall promote clean technology and green design for e-products, including the phase-out of hazardous substances used in production and included in components and shall promote product stewardship and extended producer responsibilities in the life-cycle management of electrical and electronic products;

4. That the Basel Convention is the main global instrument for guiding the environmentally sound management of hazardous e-waste and that its provisions need to be fully respected;

5. That illegal traffic in e-waste is a serious concern that requires urgent action in the context of the implementation of the Basel Convention;

6. That we shall encourage national, regional and global comprehensive actions for the environmentally sound management of e-waste and end-of-life equipment through shared responsibilities and commitments from all concerned stakeholders;

7. That we shall promote integrated waste management in order to reduce the harm caused by the hazardous components contained in e-waste by ensuring proper collection of end-of-life equipment and its separation from household or municipal waste, achieving this through cooperation with municipalities and non-governmental organizations and the full participation of the general public;

8. That we shall improve waste management controls through the establishment of robust national policies, legislation and diligent enforcement, including producers' and traders' responsibilities as well as take-back and recycling schemes and their targets;

9. That we shall prevent and combat illegal traffic of e-wastes, taking into account the benefits accrued through harmonization of national laws at the regional level;

10. That we shall encourage and support strategic partnerships initiated within the context of the Basel Convention targeting e-waste with a view to improving the environmentally sound management of e-products worldwide;

11. That we shall develop and consolidate national, regional, and international cooperation and programmes or initiatives to support the implementation of activities aimed at the environmentally sound management of e-waste utilizing, as appropriate, the Basel Convention regional centres;

12. That we welcome the Conference of the Parties' decision VIII/2 on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste.