

IX/9: Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VI/32, VII/3, VIII/2 and VIII/5,

Having regard to the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste,

Noting the rapid increase in the amount of electrical and electronic equipment used and purchased globally, which has led to an increasing volume of used and end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment, including computing equipment, which in many instances is not being managed in an environmentally sound manner,

Noting also the potential life-cycle benefits of reusing and recycling used and end-of-life electronics in an environmentally sound manner, such as reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, conserving natural resources and providing sustainable economic and social development opportunities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Noting further the importance of the Basel Convention transboundary movement controls to the achievement of environmental protection,

Welcoming the work of the interim group on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (hereinafter “the Partnership”),

Acknowledging that awareness raising and information sharing on green design and environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment are of particular importance to Parties, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming the voluntary financial contributions made by Chile and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Partnership,

1. *Agrees* with the mission, scope, working principles and activities of the Partnership, as developed by the interim group and set out in annex I to the present decision;

2. *Further agrees* that the Partnership cannot create or abrogate rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention;

3. *Takes note* of the funding proposals for the Partnership set out in annex II to the present decision;

4. *Also takes note* of the draft terms of reference for the Partnership set out in annex IV to the report of the interim group on the Partnerships;¹

5. *Agrees* to establish a working group that will operate under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group as the operating mechanism for the Partnership and other organizational matters;

6. *Invites* Parties, signatories and all stakeholders, including manufacturers, recyclers, refurbishers, academia, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, to indicate interest in participating in the working group on the Partnership to the Secretariat no later than 30 September 2008, having regard to the specific expertise and experience required for the activities of this group;

7. *Requests* the Partnership to develop and implement a more detailed workplan consistent with the interim group’s discussions, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to adopt a funding method based on the proposals in annex II to the present decision and to finalize the terms of reference, all of which should be submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its seventh session for its consideration;

¹ UNEP/CHW.9/INF/12.

8. *Requests* the working group of the Partnership to coordinate and collaborate, as appropriate, on activities with other organizations and initiatives to establish synergies and prevent duplication;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To facilitate and provide expertise to the Partnership;

(b) To develop an electronic catalogue of information on initiatives and associated tools and activities under way or completed on the environmentally sound management of computing equipment, building on existing information, and provide support through an information technology officer;

(c) To collaborate with the Secretariat of the “Solving the E-Waste Problem” (StEP) Initiative hosted by the United Nations University in building synergies and fostering closer cooperation between the two, in particular through the increased impact and effectiveness of their respective programmes and the faster attainment of their complementary objectives;

10. *Encourages* the Partnership to ensure that it has a sustainable funding mechanism;

11. *Encourages* Parties, signatories and members of industry and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the Partnership and to make financial or in-kind contributions or both:

(a) To facilitate the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) To facilitate the implementation of tools and activities.

Annex I to decision IX/9

Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)

1. The following elements of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) were agreed upon by the interim group on PACE.

A. Mission statement

2. To increase the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, taking into account social responsibility and the concept of sustainable development, and promoting the sharing of information on life-cycle thinking.

B. Scope

3. The scope of the partnership will cover personal computers (PCs) and associated displays, printers and peripherals.²

² Personal desktop computer, including the central processing unit and all other parts contained in the computer. Personal notebook and laptop computer, including the docking station, central processing unit and all other parts contained in the computer. Computer monitor, including the following types of computer monitor: (a) cathode ray tube; (b) liquid crystal display; (c) plasma. Computer keyboard, mouse and cables. Computer printer: (a) including the following types of computer printer: (i) dot matrix; (ii) inkjet; (iii) laser; (iv) thermal and (b) including any computer printer with scanning or facsimile capabilities, or both.

C. Working principles

4. The group reviewed the working principles set out in document UNEP/SBC/PACE/2 and agreed to the following three working principles:

1. To promote dialogue among Governments, industries, non-governmental organizations and academia on initiatives that could be carried out in various United Nations regions;
2. To seek innovative solutions showing specific and practical results consistent with the Basel Convention and make recommendations;
3. To coordinate and cooperate, as appropriate, with other bodies involved in electrical and electronic waste activities.

D. Activities

5. A set of activities has been identified that would assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to manage used and end-of-life computing equipment in an environmentally sound manner:

- (a) To develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound refurbishment and repair, including criteria for testing, certification and labelling;
- (b) To develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound recycling and material recovery, including facility certification;
- (c) To develop and promote pilot schemes for the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (d) To develop awareness-raising and training programme activities.

Annex II to decision IX/9

Funding proposals for the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)

1. With the assistance of a sub-group of members, the Interim Group on PACE has developed a model sustainable funding mechanism for the Partnership, encompassing prospective funding needs.
2. Partnership funding needs were categorized into four areas as stated below. The proposal is to have a mixture of funding proposals – including modest membership fees and voluntary and in-kind contributions.

A. Partnership funding requirements

1. Operation of the Partnership and its activities (e.g., development of guidelines)

3. This figure covers administrative costs, in-kind contributions, consultancy support work, translation and publication, advertising, meeting arrangements, communication, etc.

4. The estimated budget is \$50,000–\$100,000 per annum.

2. Country participation

(a) Developing countries

5. This figure includes financial support for attending meetings and participating in teleconferences.

6. An estimate of \$3,500 per representative per meeting was used to calculate the cost of funding representatives from five developing countries each to attend two meetings.

7. The estimated budget is \$35,000 per annum.

(b) Developing country non-governmental organizations

8. This figure covers the estimated costs of four developing country non-governmental organizations each to attend two meetings.

9. The estimated budget is \$28,000 per annum.

3. Core projects under the Partnership

10. The budget for this item is to be reviewed after the first year of PACE, but is calculated to be \$100,000, mostly in the second year.

B. Explanatory note

11. At the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties will be considering the provision of resources for one post on partnerships and resource mobilization within the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, under either the Basel Convention Trust Fund or the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund). This post is therefore not covered in item 1. In the event that the post remains on voluntary contributions only, then an additional \$215,000 per annum would be needed.

12. An annual fixed contribution of \$10,000 from a minimum of five trade associations for original equipment manufacturers and the recycling industry is proposed in addition to in-kind technical support from associations and member companies. Funding and in-kind support would go to the development of the guidelines, with any remaining funds allocated to the development and implementation of projects under item 3. Developing guidelines could cost between \$30,000 and \$80,000, potentially including consultancy support. These costs are subsumed under item 1.

13. Item 3 (projects) will depend on their type, but should in any case fit in with the agreed mission and scope of the Partnership. Pilot project costs vary. A basic collection project could be as low as \$20,000, but a larger project could be \$50,000. Pilot projects in developing countries are anticipated in the second year to test guidelines developed in the first year under item 3. The conceptual development of projects should begin at the start of the Partnership to help direct guideline preparation and prepare for second year activities, participants and locations. The estimate of \$100,000 is based on two projects. Additional projects can be put forward. Possible support for these additional projects could come from: first, industry (e.g., original equipment manufacturer and recycling trade associations, companies); second, Governments; third, non-governmental organizations; fourth, international organizations (e.g., UNESCO, StEP); and, fifth, international financial institutions (e.g., World Bank), or a combination of these.

14. The total estimated budget is as follows:

First year: \$163,000–\$213,000

Second year: \$213,000–\$263,000

C. Mechanism for PACE contributions

15. In order that PACE can begin and operate on a reliable basis, it is essential to have predictable funding. All partners involved in PACE should be prepared to provide funds to enable a successful start to the Partnership. The knowledge that

funding is expected should make it easier for organizations to secure the necessary internal agreements for those allocations to be made.

16. The total for funding requirements under items 1, 2 (a) and 2 (b) (operating costs, developing country and non-governmental organization participation) would be between \$113,000 and \$163,000. It is suggested that the funding for these items could be provided by Parties and signatories through voluntary contributions.

17. Industry, industry associations and green non-governmental organization could provide funds through a membership fee that would be based on sliding scales of assessment. The membership fees could be set for the first year at a moderate level and could then be again discussed once the specific work programme was defined. Industry members would be expected to provide an annual membership fee to support project work under item 1. Non-governmental organization observers (including non-governmental organizations from developing countries) could participate at no charge.

18. Parties, signatories, industry and all non-governmental organizations could provide funding for projects. Funding participation for projects should be discussed at a very early stage of their development. Since Parties and signatories would be the major contributors for the operating costs of PACE, it should be the industry's challenge to be the main contributor of funds for projects.

19. Any additional projects agreed by the Partnership to be identified under the PACE umbrella ought to fit in with the agreed mission and scope of the Partnership. Parties and signatories could make voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, target them towards specific projects and agree to them being identified as contributions to PACE; industry could make financial arrangements with specific developing countries on a bilateral basis and identify such projects as being contributions to the PACE. Projects could be funded through collaboration or partnership with international organizations such as the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank or StEP.