

MOBILE PHONE PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MPPI)

Report on discussions and outcome during the Basel Convention's Open-ended Working Group sixth meeting (OEWG 6) Geneva, September 3-7, 2007

A. Report by the Chair of the Mobile Phone Working Group (MPWG), Mr. Marco Buletti (Swiss Office for the Environment)

Mr. Marco Buletti presented a short progress report on the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI), providing information on what has been accomplished during the last five years. He indicated that five projects have been successfully completed and five technical guidelines were produced, these are:

- Refurbishment of used mobile phones.
- Material recovery and recycling of end-of life mobile phones.
- Collection of used mobile phones.
- Transboundary movement of collected mobile phones, and
- Awareness raising on design considerations

In addition, an overall Guidance Document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones was prepared and provisionally adopted by Parties during the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 8).

He mentioned that as part of the next phase of the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI), the industry partners have made a commitment to test the five technical guidelines in a facility type environment, to see if any changes are required to recommendations that are contained in these guidelines. This work has already started, with no additional cost to the MPPI.

In addition, MPPI partners agreed to promote awareness of the MPPI Guidelines in cooperation with activities planned by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and through their own channels. He mentioned that the MPWG is discussing a way forward on phase II program for MPWG, including testing of all approved guidelines, and giving further consideration to establishing new and effective take back schemes in those developing countries and countries with economies in transition, who expressed interest in having such projects. All these activities are reflected in the next phase of the WPWG work programme. He drew everyone's attention to issues, which are presented in the Chairman's Paper which is part of the document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/19/Rev.1, Annex II. Finally, he made a reference to the decision that is also contained in the document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/19/Rev.1 which welcomes the progress that is being made, and requests that OEWG takes note of the proposed work program for the next phase.

B. OEWG 6 Decision on MPPI

During the OEWG 6 meeting, a technical working group was established to deal with all technical issues, includes e-waste issues. Part of the e-waste issue it was agreed to review the

2 proposed decisions on MPPI, one dealing with progress report and MPPI work program, and the second one dealing with the overall Guidance Document.

After some discussions, it was decided to combine these 2 decisions into one since they both deal with the MPPI. A number of delegates indicated that it would be easier to understand by those that were not able to attend this meeting. Furthermore, it was decided to modify the text of draft decisions, shown in documents UNEP/OEWG/6/7 and UNEP/OEWG/6/19/Rev.1. The consolidated decision on the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, document (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/CRP.19), takes note of the progress being made, welcomes the elements of the MPPI 2007-2008 work program, and encourages all participants to participate in testing of the guidelines. The OEWG felt that there is no need to approve the proposed work program, as it considers it being a continuation of the previous work program. Since some of the activities have already started, with no additional cost to the MPPI, the OEWG simply welcomed the elements of the 2007-2008 workplan.

Furthermore, the decision asks Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat by January 31, 2008 on the overall Guidance Document, and by March 31, 2008 on the Chairman's Paper. The decision asks the Secretariat to transmit all comments on the overall Guidance Document to the MPWG for its consideration and possible revision. It requests the Secretariat to submit the revised Guidance Document to COP 9 for its consideration, as requested by decision VIII/6. It also asks the Secretariat to submit to COP 9 all comments received on the Chairman's Paper.

Finally, it requests that a report on the MPPI progress be also submitted to the ninth meeting of the conference of Parties, which will be in Bali, Indonesia, in June of 2008.

C. Issue Requiring Further Consultation

During the meeting of the technical working group, at least 2 delegations continue to raise their concerns on the voluntary notification provision in chapter 4 of the overall Guidance Document. A contact group was set up to explain these provisions, with no success. These countries do not feel that used mobile phones, being shipped for refurbishment in the importing country prior to reuse, should be allowed to use a voluntary notification procedure. According to them such shipments should be subject to Basel Convention transboundary movement control procedures.

The chair of the MPWG and the chair of the Project Group 2.1 met with these delegations to explain how these procedures would work. This issue will require further consultation with these two countries, prior to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

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