

Basel Convention
Summary Record of the Preparatory Meeting on the
Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)
September 2, 2007
Geneva

A. Opening of the meeting

Ms Katharina Kummer Peiry, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants to the preparatory meeting to discuss establishment of partnership for action on computing equipment under the Basel Convention. She emphasized that public-private partnerships are viewed as a creative mechanism for Parties and all stakeholders to work together in a voluntary forum to ensure that used and end-of-life products are being managed in an environmentally sound manner. She concluded her opening remarks by calling upon Parties, signatories, industry, NGOs to continue to actively support and participate in the partnership programme, as it is an important mechanism under the Convention to help implement the Convention and to address new and/or more complex waste streams.

Following these introductory remarks, the Secretariat outlined the aims of the meeting: (i) review what has been done to date, particularly noting the 28-29 June 2007 informal preparatory meeting in Geneva and (ii) to obtain agreement on the mission statement, working principles, activities to be considered, the organizational structure and how the terms of reference for the partnership could be addressed. The Secretariat reported that the name widely accepted by stakeholders for the partnership is: the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE).

Co-chairs

Following the opening of the meeting, Mr. Osvaldo Alvarez-Perez, Chile and Mr. Marco Buletti, Switzerland, were elected as co-chairs of the meeting. Following the election of the co-chairs, the agenda was reviewed and adopted with no changes.

Participation

There were over 100 participants representing developing countries, countries with economies in transition and developed countries, non-governmental organisations, different industry sectors including manufacturers and recyclers, and academia from all UN regions.

B. Establishment of Partnership and Work Programme

The following mission statement and scope were agreed.

Mission Statement

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

Scope

In the first phase of this partnership computing equipment will consist of: PCs/CPUs, computing displays, and printers. (Note: during the meeting the scope from the previous document was modified by changing CRTs to computer displays – participants were invited to provide any written comments).

Working Principles

Participants reviewed the working principles presented in the document UNEP/SBC/PACE/2, and agreed to the following three working principles:

- 1. Promote dialogue amongst governments, industries, NGOs and academia on initiatives that could be carried out in different UN regions.*
- 2. Seek innovative solutions, showing concrete and practical results consistent with the Basel Convention, and make recommendations.*
- 3. Coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, with other bodies involved in e-waste activities.*

Activities

Participants identified a set of activities that could assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage used and end-of life computing equipment in an environmentally sound manner. It was widely agreed that only a few activities should be selected at first with a set timeframe. It was generally decided that activities viewed to be undertaken and completed fairly rapidly would be first undertaken, with the conditions that the activities would build on what already exists, are practical and do not duplicate other international work.

The four activities below were widely supported, for what could be the first phase of the work plan, based on partners' agreement, the

- Development of ESM refurbishment guidelines including reuse. Criteria for testing, certification, and labelling, taking into account guidelines developed by other organization.*
- Development of ESM recycling practice guidelines/standards and their testing, building on other documents.*
- Development of a guidance document to assist regulators to better distinguish waste from non waste, taking into consideration the EU guidance document on distinguishing between wastes and non wastes.*
- Collection pilot schemes for used and end-of-life computing equipment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.*

Other activities listed in the document UNEP/SBC/PACE/2 would be considered as part of the second phase. Participants were asked to review the list and to submit comments to the Secretariat on any additions or deletions to the list of activities, in order to provide a revised list for consideration by an interim body on the development of the partnership.

Organizational Structure

The following diagram provides a revised proposed Organizational Structure, taking into consideration comments received during the preparatory meeting of stakeholders.

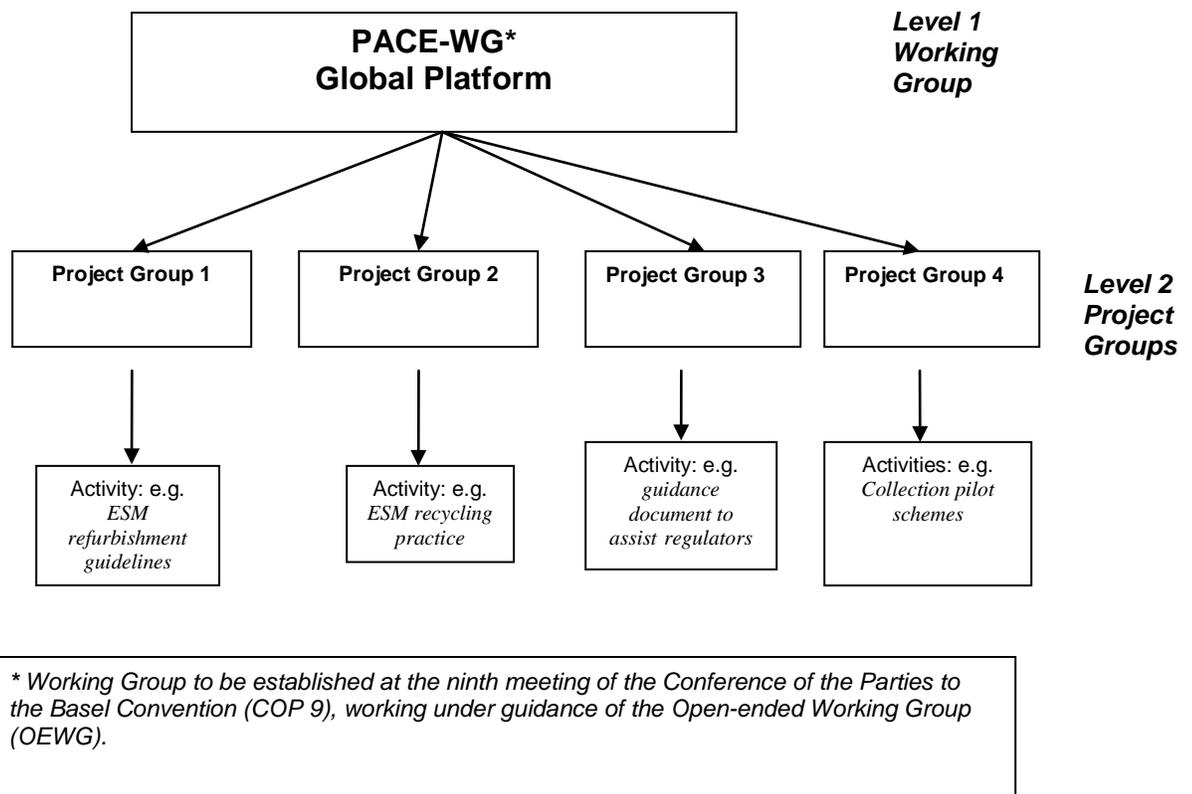
Diagram 1- Proposed Organisation

Level 1 Working Group-Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (

- Memberships open to: Parties, Signatories, Industry, International Organizations, NGOs, Civil Society, BCRCs.
- Headed by two Co-chairs.
- Advisory Group of [x].
- It is a Forum for information sharing. The PACE Working Group (PACE WG) has the ability to initiate or propose activities or projects, provide oversight over awareness raising, outreach, coordination and resource mobilization of level 2 activities. The working group would operate under the guidance of the OEWG.

Level 2 Project Groups

- Memberships open to: members of the PACE-WG that are interested in the particular activity, and other interested groups.
- Undertakes priority activities as assigned by the PACE-WG.
- Selects its own chair to conduct meetings, teleconferences.
- Reports to PACEWG.



Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were not discussed in any detail due to time constraints. Participants were asked to send any comments to the Secretariat.

C. Next Steps

It was recognised that additional discussions would be necessary to prepare documents for the partnership and to undertake other activities in preparation for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following is a list of next steps identified at the meeting:

- The report of the September 2 meeting will be placed on the Basel Convention website under the rubric of partnerships (<http://www.basel.int>).
- Participants and other stakeholders are requested to provide comments on all documents to the Secretariat, in particular on the activities, terms of reference and organisational structure. The Secretariat wishes to **receive comments by 1 November, 2007**.
- It is anticipated that further work would be undertaken electronically with the possibility of one physical meeting in Geneva, or hosted by a stakeholder.
- The outcome of the OEWG discussion on the Partnership through the report of the OEWG and decision should be reviewed in conjunction with the next steps listed above.

Final