

# **Teleconference of the Working Group of the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste (PACE II)**

**12 September 2022**

## **Report**

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### **Participants**

Abiola Olanipekun, BRS Secretariat; Adiliz Barrera, BCRC – SCRC Panama; Anton Purnomo, BCRC - SCRC Indonesia; Carla Valle-Klann, BRS Secretariat; Carla Worth, Resource Futures, Christopher Cleet, ITI; Dana Lapešová, Slovak Environment Agency, BCRC Slovakia (co-chair); Dan Dar -ziv, BRS Secretariat; Francesca Cenni, BRS Secretariat; Helen Rockey, Environment Agency, UK; Hildauro de Patina, CIIMET, Universidad de Panamá - BSCRC Panama; Irina Talamoni, Ministry of the Environment, Argentina; Isabelle Baudin, FOEN, Switzerland; Jewel Batchasingh, BCRC Caribbean; Jeyanthi Subramanian, Experiential Math Solutions, Joseph Molapisi, Africa Institute; Khawla Awdallah, Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR); Koutoua Thomas Daquin Gnameassou, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Cote d'Ivoire; Leila Devia, BCRC Argentina (co-chair); Lichen Zhang, BCRC – SCRC China; Nathaniel Chalamanda, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, UK; Patricia Whiting, Sims Lifecycle Services; Patrick Hertveld, Umicore; Pavel Bubnov, BCRC Russia; Philomena Joseph, BRS Secretariat; Piret Stendhal, Bonolab; Reyna Uboda, ITU; Rokhaya Ndiaye Diop, BCRC – SCRC Senegal; Stefaan Vanderstraeten, Daikin Europe, Yorg Aerts, DG ENV - European Commission.

### **1. Welcome and introduction**

The co-chairs Ms. Dana Lapesova and Ms. Leila Devia welcomed the participants.

Ms. Dana Lapesova introduced the objectives of the teleconference which were to:

- Provide updates on a new extension of the deadline to express interest in the partnership working group and discuss an eventual mail out to invite more stakeholders to join the working group.
- Discuss the establishment of project groups, co-chairs for the project groups and tentative dates for their upcoming meetings.
- Discuss the tentative schedule of work of the working group until BC COP16.
- Discuss the agenda and the timing of a face-to-face meeting.

- Share information on upcoming events: International E-waste Day and other events organized by other members.

## **2. Review and approval of the agenda**

Ms. Leila Devia introduced the agenda and the working group adopted it without changes.

## **3. Approval of the report of the previous teleconference**

Ms. Leila Devia asked if there were any comments on the draft report of the previous teleconference, organized in June 2022. The draft report was circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the teleconference. There were no comments on the report, therefore the working group approved it without changes.

## **4. Membership**

The secretariat provided a summary of the communications sent out to invite new stakeholders to join the partnership working group, as invited in decision BC-15/22 Part I. The first communication was sent by the secretariat to BRS COPs Parties, signatories and observers, after the conclusion of the BRS COPs, in June 2022, indicating to nominate interested participants in the PACE II working group, by 31 August 2022. The second invitation was sent by the working group co-chairs, to PACE II members and observers, inviting to extend the invitation to join the working group of the partnership among existing networks, by 31 August 2022. In the first week of September, the secretariat sent out a new invitation letter to BRS focal points, signatories and observers in the BRS COPs, extending the deadline to send nominations of interested participants in the PACE II working group, to 30 September 2022. In the discussion which followed, members from industry mentioned that additional private sector potential members, in the refrigeration, cooling and heating home appliances sector, could be invited by reaching out to an association called APPLIA. A member from the recycling sector suggested to extend the invitation to members of Euromeataux, an association of companies in the ferrous and non-ferrous metals production and recycling sectors. It was agreed that the co-chairs will re-send the invitation letter to join the partnership working group, previously circulated by e-mail, with an extended deadline to express interest by 31 October 2022. It was agreed that the invitation will be shared with the mentioned associations, by the co-chairs, with the help of relevant members and that the secretariat would assist in contacting them, as needed.

## **5. Establishment of project groups**

Considering the programme of work of the partnership, for 2022-2023, and the discussions on its implementation, at the previous teleconference, in June 2022, where four (4) groups were proposed, the secretariat presented a proposal for the establishment of the groups, proposing their tasks:

1. Group 1 on Dissemination Activities would remain focused on similar activities, as in the past biennium.
2. Group 2 would be new and would focus on the: guidance document on environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used and ESM of waste television screens, including CRTs, LCDs and LED screens, video and audio equipment.
3. Group 3 would also be new and would focus on the environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used and the ESM of waste refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment.
4. Group 4 would focus on pilot projects. This group would be tasked with the development of ideas for new pilot projects and with monitoring and evaluating ongoing projects, sharing lessons learned and success stories.

The establishment of the four project groups with the tasks proposed by the secretariat was agreed without changes. The secretariat asked to express interest in becoming co-chairs of the project groups. At least two co-chairs per project group would need to be identified. The directors of BCCC Nigeria and BCRC Indonesia offered to continue to co-chair the project group one on dissemination activities.

For project groups two and three on the development of ESM guidance, as in PACE, one party and one member from the industry would be identified, possibly, and for project group four, it was mentioned that regional centres directors could be the co-chairs. Since co-chairs for group one, only, were identified during the teleconference, it was agreed that the secretariat would follow up after the teleconference, trying to identify the remaining project group co-chairs among the members of each project group. It was discussed and agreed that consultants would be hired by the secretariat, to support the ESM guidance development, provided that financial resources would become available. The representative of ITU, suggested that work on the development of the guidance documents on ESM, in the programme of work of the partnership, could be done in cooperation with the ITU study group five, so that the guidance could be developed with contributions from the respective experts. It was suggested that this could be discussed within the relevant project groups. It was agreed that the secretariat would send a poll by email, so that the members would be able to express interest in participating in one or more project groups. Many members had expressed already their availability to take part in one group or another via chat, during the teleconference and the secretariat took note of the indications received.

## **6. Tentative schedule of work until BC COP16**

The secretariat informed that the next BRS COPs would take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 12 May 2023 and that the date for the submission of information documents to

both OEWG13 and COP16 was on 24 January 2023. Next teleconference date was suggested to be on 20 or 27 October. Another teleconference would be organized around 15 December 2022. It was agreed that the secretariat would send a doodle poll to identify a date in October, only. Many members found it was difficult to agree upon a date in December, since there were many meetings upcoming. It was decided to postpone this discussion until next teleconference.

The secretariat introduced a tentative schedule of work which included the development of a table of content and two drafts of each guidance document on ESM for submission to OEWG13 and BC COP16.

The tentative schedule proposed by the secretariat was considered too ambitious. Possibly, a table of contents of the two guidance documents would be submitted to OEWG13 with further inclusion of suggestions for approval of the BC COP16.

## **7. Face-to-face meeting**

Ms. Dana Lapesova introduced that, in the past years, the organization of a face-to-face meeting of the partnership working group was not possible, due to the COVID pandemic. This year, there could be a possibility to organize a face-to-face meeting back-to-back with the Annual joint meeting of directors of regional centres, scheduled to take place in Geneva, from 7 to 9 November 2022. The PACE II working group meeting could be organized from 9 to 11 November 2022. A draft agenda of the meeting was also proposed by the secretariat. In the discussion which followed, it was agreed that it was too early to organize a face-to-face meeting. It was observed that such meeting would be more beneficial if organized to finalize the guidance documents on ESM of new e-waste types. It was agreed that the secretariat would send a doodle poll to all members to collect opinions on the best period in which a face-to-face meeting could take place, in the future.

## **8. Other business**

Ms. Leila Devia invited the members to share information on current activities on e-waste and on upcoming events, also in view of the International E-waste Day, which would be celebrated on 14 October 2022. She reminded that the theme of this year was “Recycle it all, no matter how small!”. This edition would focus on small electrical devices that are no longer in use, are kept in drawers and cupboards or are disposed of in the general waste bin. Ms. Reyna Ubeda, of the ITU, shared information on upcoming events organized in the context of the work of study group five, which would meet in Rome, Italy, from 17 to 27 October 2022. During this meeting, the ITU would organize the 14th Symposium on ICT, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy (Rome, Italy, 25 October 2022), which would be organized as a hybrid event. In the occasion of International E-waste Day, ITU, WEEE Forum and StEP were preparing a document on lessons learned in the implementation of EPR policy schemes, in developing countries.

It was mentioned that the project group on dissemination activities would be tasked with discussing potential activities which could be organized by the members on international e-waste day.

Ms. Leila Devia introduced a presentation by Ms. Piret Stendhal of BonoLab on an online course on e-waste for children, from 7 to 16 years old, developed in cooperation with Ms. Jayanthi Subramanian of Experiential Math Solutions. The course introduced math lessons based on the resolution of e-waste problems. The course would be available on the web for some time, in beta version, and the members were invited to review it to provide comments and suggestions. The course would be available free of charge and would contribute to raising awareness of the impact of e-waste among primary and secondary school students.

After this presentation, the co-chairs thanked all the participants for the very active participation and closed the teleconference.