

Draft Summary Report of the Teleconference on the ESM of Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment Partnership

9 May, 2007

Summary Record

The teleconference, opened and facilitated by Claudia Fénérol from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, was meant to provide participants with an update on events which occurred during COP 8, including the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the environmentally sound management of electronic and electrical wastes, and Decisions VIII/2 and VIII/5. The main purpose of the teleconference was to provide a forum for discussion on the launching of the Partnership and on documents UNEP/CHW.8/INF/3 and UNEP/CHW.8/INF/3/Add.1 developed through previous informal stakeholder consultation, and in particular, a scoping paper containing a list of potential activities and projects, stakeholder participation, and resources.

Introduction

- The Basel Convention Secretariat introduced the topic of the teleconference and outlined the agenda and began by re-emphasizing the two pillars of the Basel Convention: environmentally sound management and transboundary movement controls, which includes minimization of such movements. She stressed that finding *creative and innovative solutions* is an important aspect of the Partnership work and should be viewed as an important aspect of this initiative. Finding new innovative solutions for managing used and end-of-life electronics was discussed in more detail by Ministers, and other high-level officials, during COP 8 at the one day high level panel discussion, that included the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, and officials from different organizations. This high-level panel discussed increasing issues associated with e-waste, challenges, and came up with a number of suggestions and recommendations for future actions.

Review of COP 8 outcome

- Ms. Fénérol highlighted some of the important points in the Nairobi Declaration, and briefly summarized the Decision VIII/2 on e-waste and Decision VIII/5 on general partnerships and the 2007-2008 work plan.
- Joachim Wuttke from Germany (chairman of the MPPI project group 2.1 dealing with collection and transboundary movement of collected mobile phones) was given the floor to introduce the document titled *Chairman's Paper*, which was presented during COP 8. While the paper is not a consensus document of the working group 2.1 or the Mobile Phone Working Group, the paper contains issues raised that may have implications on activities under a computing equipment partnership and in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on E-waste. He noted the following main points:
 - the paper contains a number of issues that were raised during discussions of transboundary movement, ranging from different interpretations and understanding of the current classification under the Basel Convention and noted that there is not a definition for *direct reuse* in the Convention. He mentioned that some of the participants in his working group identified a need to improve the implementation of the Convention.
 - the paper contains several ideas of what could be done, proposing solutions when dealing with these issues, and also provide implications of each of these options.

Proposed Partnership Initiative

- A scoping paper developed through an informal stakeholder consultation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention in September 2006, was introduced. This paper was presented to COP 8, as part of the information papers on the topic (INF/3 and INF/3/Add.1).
- The following comments were made by teleconference call participants regarding the list of activities/projects included scoping paper: The scoping paper should:
 - Include other type of displays, and not only CRTs.
 - Address the whole life cycle of computing equipment, including obsolescence of such equipment, as noted in the Nairobi Declaration.
 - Include the promotion of the concept of green design, including promotion of purchases of green computing products should be promoted.
 - Cover collection and establishment of infrastructure in developing countries, including extended producer responsibility in this effort.
 - Address auxiliary power supplies (such as lead acid batteries) that are used in many developing countries to power computing equipment.
 - Ensure that there is no duplication of work already implemented by other agencies and organizations; therefore coordination with those agencies is important.
 - Take into account work of EU (e.g. Correspondence Guideline in response to WEEE), OECD Core Performance Elements and Guidance Document on PCs, UNEP DTIE, StEP, and work of the Interpol on illegal traffic and other bodies.
 - Set priorities, as the list of projects is very comprehensive, and concentrate on developing guidelines on refurbishment of used, and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment
- It was noted by several developing country Parties that the e-waste priorities of developing countries should not be overlooked. They identified producer responsibility and take-back schemes as an important consideration.
- One participant mentioned that since the issue of reduction of transboundary movement was raised , it should also be mentioned that under Article 4 paragraph 9 (b) transboundary movement is allowed, if wastes in question are required as a raw material for recycling or recovery industries in the State of import. It was added that this partnership should be in a position to make recommendations to Parties on transboundary movement controls.
- A number of participants indicated that this partnership needs to embrace the work that is being done by others, and it was suggested that the Secretariat prepare a mapping document on what others are doing, and circulate it to participants for information. To this end, Claudia Fénérol asked that all participants who have activities on e-waste, in particular on computing equipment should send this information to the Secretariat. UNEP DTIE noted that it is in the process of developing an internal paper on UNEP activities on what is being done on e-waste and by whom, as requested by the Executive Director at the February, 2007 Governing Council. They are prepared to develop a more detailed survey and are ready to work with SBC on this. Submissions should be sent to Claudia Fénérol of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and Arab Hoballah of UNEP DTIE
- A number of participants indicated that an effective participation of developing countries is very important to ensure a balanced participation. To achieve this goal, the following suggestions were made by participants:
 - For future teleconference, a telephone line to allow more than 50 participants to be included.
 - Toll free forwarding for developing countries for teleconference should be investigated. A voluntary contribution could help the Secretariat orchestrate this activity.

- Developing country and CEIT Permanent Missions should be informed with much time in advance to prepare for the June physical meeting so as to not avoid conflicts of time within small offices.
- One participant asked for explanation on how this partnership work programme will fit into activities under the Nairobi Declaration. Claudia Fénérol responded by saying that there will be a work program on e-waste, as a follow up to Nairobi Declaration and this work programme on computing equipment will be an important component of that initiative.
- Some participants indicated that a name or easy reference acronym for this partnership was needed. Participants were asked to send suggestions to the Secretariat. To date, the following were identified: e2e (electronics to environment), PCe (Partnership on Computing Equipment), CEPI (Computing Equipment Partnership Initiative). Any suggestions should be sent by 28 May, 2007 to Lauren DeHaven of the Secretariat (lauren.dehaven@unep.ch).
- In conclusion, the Secretariat mentioned that a terms of reference for the partnership group will be worked on, taking into consideration UNEP rules and Basel legal requirements.

Next steps

1. Comments on the scoping paper and activities to be submitted to the Secretariat by May 28, 2007.
2. Secretariat is planning a small physical meeting for June 28-29, 2007, in Geneva, and will involve representatives from UN missions in Geneva and at a minimum, a representative from each regional group, as well as other stakeholder groups.
3. A second physical meeting will be held a day before the OEWG meeting in September, to review partnership documents and the proposed OEWG decision on this subject. Having this meeting back to back to the OEWG meeting will allow developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate and to provide input on directions, issues and activities.
4. The Secretariat will look for a teleconference mechanism for future teleconference calls that would need more than 50 lines. The Secretariat was asked to investigate “toll free forwarding” numbering for developing countries.
5. Suggestions on the name and acronym for the partnership are to be sent to the Secretariat.
6. Information on ongoing e-waste activities, in particular on computing equipment, to be sent to the Secretariat. This information will be used to develop a mapping paper, with detailed descriptions. Also, SBC is to develop a bulletin/reference document with all relevant information and to distribute this prior to future teleconference or a meeting.
7. Chairs of regional groups under the Basel Convention will be contacted to assist in soliciting comments on the scoping paper from countries in their region.

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