

Report Teleconference of the Working Group of the Partnership for Action on Challenges Relating to E-waste

27 June 2022

Participants

Adiliz Barrera, BCRC – SCRC Panama; Alexander Batteiger, GIZ, Germany; Boussoura Talla Gueye, SETTIC. Senegal; Christopher Cleet, ITI; Dana Lapešová, Slovak Environment Agency, BCRC Slovakia (co-chair); Francesca Cenni, BRS Secretariat; Hannah Jung, Closing the Loop; Hildaura de Patina, CIIMET, Universidad de Panamá - BSCRC Panama; Isabelle Baudin. Switzerland; Jeyanthi Subramanian, Experiential Math Solutions, Jana Mandel, GIZ, Germany; Jewel Batchasingh, BCRC Caribbean; Joseph Molapisi, Africa Institute; Kata Tisza, StEP Initiative; Koutoua Thomas d'Aquin Gnameassou, Côte d'Ivoire; Leila Devia, BCRC Argentina, (co-chair); Rokhaya Diop, BCRC - SCRC Senegal; Marco Buletti, Ecopartner, Switzerland; Pavel Bubnov, BCRC Russia; Patrick Hertveld, Umicore; Percy Onianwa, Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the Africa Region in Nigeria; Philomena Joseph, BRS Secretariat; Piret Stern Dahl, BonoLab; Qingyin Dong, BCRC – SCRC China; Reinaldo Duncan; Stefaan Vanderstraeten, Daikin Europe; Yorg Aerts, EU 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:

- Share information on the outcomes of BC COP15 regarding E-waste and the Partnership decision.
- Discuss the invitation to be extended to new members to join the working group of the partnership and the new Terms of References (TORs).
- Discuss the new programme of work of the partnership working group for 2022-2023 (POW).
- Brainstorm on how to implement the POW for the development of guidance documents.
- Share information on the status of ongoing projects, which were funded in the context of the partnership, and discuss the way forward with potential new pilot projects in 2022-2023.

- Brainstorm on the way forward for the organization of new dissemination activities.
- Agree if new project groups would be necessary for the implementation of the POW.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

Ms. Leila Devia introduced the agenda and requested the approval by the group. The group approved the agenda without changes.

3. Information on the Outcomes of BC COP 15 in relation to E-waste

The Secretariat introduced the decisions related to e-waste adopted by BC COP15. The working group was informed that the secretariat had already prepared a communication to Parties, signatories and observers of the Basel Convention to invite them to express interest in participating in the working group of the partnership, by 31 August 2022. The working group decided that the co-chairs would send an invitation to Follow-up to PACE and PACE II stakeholders to extend the invitation to express interest in participating in the working group of the partnership to their network, by the 31 August 2022. It was suggested that the secretariat could contact existing working groups, which included producers and recyclers of refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment as well as TV screens, within the WEEE Forum and StEP.

4. Brief report on implementation of pilot projects

Ms. Leila Devia invited the BCRCs based in Slovakia, Senegal and in Trinidad and Tobago to report on the implementation of the pilot projects being implemented. Ms. Dana Lapesova, Director of the BCRC in Slovakia, provided a report on the implementation of the pilot project in Belarus and Moldova. She mentioned that five webinars were planned in the fall, Ms. Boussoura Talla Gueye, SETTIC, provided a presentation on the implementation of the pilot project in Senegal, mentioning that next steps would be the implementation of a training programme for women involved in sustainable mobile phones recycling. This project was being implemented by the BCRC – SCRC in Senegal, in cooperation with SETTIC. Ms. Jewel Batchasingh, Director of the BCRC for the Caribbean region, presented the progress in the implementation of the pilot project in Trinidad and Tobago introducing the campaign conducted to enhance the collection of mobile phones and the inauguration of new collection points in Trinidad and Tobago.

5. Brainstorming on the implementation of the programme of work 2022-2023

A brainstorming session took place on the implementation of the POW of the partnership, for 2022-2023. It was agreed that project groups were necessary. The project group on

dissemination activities could continue its work. It was noted that, at OEWG12 and COP15, it was mentioned that two guidance documents could be developed focusing on two groups of equipment. Therefore, two project groups would be established for the development of guidance documents. The first one on used and waste TV screens, audio and audio equipment and a second one on used and waste refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment. It was decided that the secretariat would prepare a proposal for tasks to be carried out by the proposed project groups and a proposal for potential co-chairs. It was agreed that the project group on pilot projects could also continue its activities focusing on monitoring and evaluating pilot projects being implemented as well as on developing new pilot project ideas.

6. Deadlines and upcoming meetings

The Secretariat mentioned the deadlines for submitting documents to both the OEWG13 meeting and the COP-16 meeting. The Secretariat also mentioned that it was possible to organize a face-to-face meeting of the partnership working group, back-to-back with the Annual joint meeting of the directors of regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, in November 2022. It was agreed that the Secretariat would develop a proposal for the meeting programme and that the organization of the meeting would be discussed at the following teleconference, which would take place, tentatively, in September 2022.

7. Other business

Ms. Leila Devia shared information on International E-waste Day (IEWD), which will take place on 14 October 2022 and will be organized by the WEEE Forum in collaboration with numerous partners. This year, the theme of IEWG will be "Recycle it all, no matter how small!". The focus will be on small electrical devices no longer used. Devices which are often kept in drawers and cupboards or wasted in the general waste bin. It was agreed that the project group on dissemination activities will discuss how the members of the working group would contribute to the celebrations for IEWD2022.