

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

19 January 2023

Report

Participants

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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 the implementation of the action points agreed at the past teleconference.

- Discuss the tables of content of the ESM guidance documents in the partnership POW for 2022-2023 with a view to approve them in principle or prepare them for an additional round of comments, prior to submitting them to the OEWG13 and COP16.
- Discuss if the working group would be available to propose a side event at BC COP16
- Take stock of the preparation of OEWG13 and BC COP16 documents.

2. Review and approval of the agenda

Ms. Leila Devia introduced the agenda. The working group adopted the agenda 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 December 2022. The draft report was circulated by the Secretariat in advance of this teleconference. One member asked to amend one sentence of the report. The working group agreed that the Secretariat would reflect the requested amendment and circulate the amended report for online approval.

4. Membership

The Secretariat provided an update on the membership of the Partnership. The working group expressed its appreciation and welcomed a new member: the Circular Electronics Partnership, hosted by the Business Council for Sustainable Development. The working group invited the Secretariat to organize a presentation of this large network of private sector stakeholders, in one of the upcoming teleconferences. The Secretariat would continue to invite new members to join the partnership, in close cooperation with the co-chairs.

5. Draft guidance documents on ESM of used and waste TVs, audio and video equipment and on refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment

After the December 2022 teleconference, the tables of content of the two guidance documents were reviewed, in consultation with the co-chairs of the project groups, and circulated for comments until Wednesday 18 January 2023. The Secretariat received the comments from 1) the UNITAR/SCYCLE programme and 2) the BCRC China. An updated version of the tables of content, including these comments, was circulated in advance of the teleconference for discussion at the teleconference. Additional comments were shared directly during the teleconference and it was agreed that members could send comments to the Secretariat until 27 January 2023. These comments would be included in the draft tables of content by the Secretariat in consultation with the co-chairs of the two project

groups on guidance documents. The version prepared after the round of comments would be submitted by the Secretariat to both the OEWG13 and the BC COP16, at the beginning of February 2023.

This additional round of comments could be launched because the deadline for submission of information documents to both OEWG13 and BC COP16 had been extended until the beginning of February 2023.

6. Tentative schedule of work until BC COP16

The Secretariat had already prepared a working document on partnerships, including on PACE II, to be discussed at OEWG13: UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/9. One information document was in preparation: UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/15, including in annex I the draft table of content of the guidance on TVs and audio and video equipment, in annex II the draft table of content of the guidance on refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment and in annex III the draft programme of work of the partnership for 2024-2025.

During the OEWG13, the Secretariat will introduce the agenda item on PACE II, the mandate and the documents. It was not foreseen work on the tables of content in any contact groups. The Parties, at OEWG13, would decide if comments were to be collected after the OEWG13, to be placed on the web side or if an updated version of the guidance would be prepared by 7 March to be submitted to COP16, including the comments during and after the OEWG13.

As for the structure of PACE II documents submitted to BC COP16, the draft programme of work for 2024-2025 was included in the working document: UNEP/CHW.16/19 -Add. 1. And translated in the six UN languages. One section of this working document focused on PACE II and included the draft decision on the partnership. Two information documents were also being prepared: UNEP/CHW.16/INF/31, including the two tables of content in Annexes I and II, and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/32, including a report on progress in the implementation of the activities of the partnership. The deadline to submit these documents had been extended to 26 January, to allow PACE II members to send the contributions to the Secretariat.

7. Other business

Leila Devia informed about the plan to organize the Green Standard week, in cooperation with the ITU. The working group agreed to submit a proposal for a PACE II side event at BC COP 16. It was also agreed that the Secretariat would send a doodle to identify the date for next teleconference in March, after OEWG13.