

# E-waste: Priority Waste Stream under the Basel Convention

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Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste: Emerging Issues, Challenges and Opportunities  
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BASEL CONVENTION

## Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

- Adopted on 22 March 1989
- Entered into force on 5 May 1992
- 180 Parties to the Convention as of April 2013
- **E-waste is listed in Annex VIII as A1180 (hazardous waste) and Annex IX as B1110 (waste containing materials with hazardous characteristics)**



## **Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, 8th Meeting, Nairobi, 2006:**

Decision VIII/2:

...

Recommended that Parties ... promote the development and introduction of innovative, safe and sound technologies for the treatment, recycling or recovery of e-waste ...

...

Encouraged Parties to take a life-cycle approach and promote clean technology and green design for electrical and electronic products ...

## Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI)

### Products that have been adopted:

- Guidance Document on the Environmentally Sound Management of Used and End-of-life Mobile Phones
- Guideline on:
  - Refurbishment of Used Mobile Phones
  - Collection of Used Mobile Phones
  - Material Recovery and Recycling
  - Awareness Raising and Design Considerations
  - Transboundary Movement of Collected Mobile Phones



# Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)



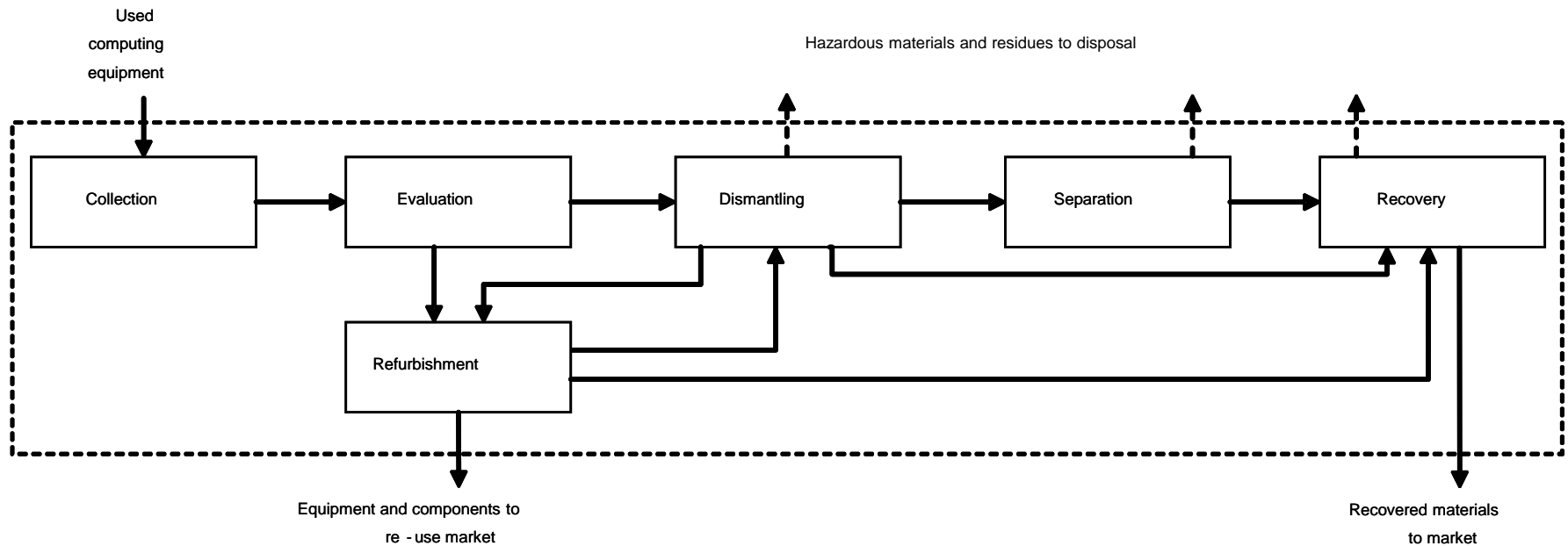
## PACE products that have been developed:

- Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Testing, Repair and Refurbishment
- Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Material Recovery and Recycling
- Overall Guidance Document on Environmentally Sound Management of Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment

# Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)



## Flow Diagram of Environmentally Sound Management of Used Computing Equipment:



# Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)



## PACE activities:

- Pilot assessments on e-waste management in Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Jordan and Serbia;
- Two pilot projects with focus on involvement of the informal sector (Jordan, NN);
- Coordination with the SBC E-waste Management Projects in Africa (EC funded) and Asia (Japan funded)
- Awareness raising video on Management of E-waste;
- Series of webinars on e-waste management.

# Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)



## Initiated PACE activities:

- Development of strategies, identification of incentives and actions that can be taken to promote environmentally sound management, including certification schemes as a tool for assuring the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment.
- Development of concepts for addressing issues related to the transboundary movements of used and end-of-life computing equipment.







## **Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, 11th Meeting, Geneva, 28 April – 10 May 2013:**

Discussion on:

- Draft technical guidelines on transboundary movements of e-waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention
- PACE Guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment
- Work plan 2014-2015 for the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)

## Secretariat of the Basel Convention cooperates with (I):

### UNU/Solving the E-waste Problem Initiative (StEP)

(UN Agencies, governments, academia, public-interest NGOs, producing and recycling industry, Basel Convention Regional Centres)



Cooperation Agreement signed in 2008

- Task Force Capacity Building
- Joint ITU/SBC/UNU-StEP/CEDARE E-waste Survey
- Pan-African Forum on E-waste for governments, the private sector and NGOs, March 2012, Nairobi, Kenya
- Basel Convention Regional Centres cooperate with the StEP regional working groups in Latin America, Africa and Asia/Pacific

## Secretariat of the Basel Convention cooperates with (II):



### Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

(UNCTAD, ITU, OECD, EUROSTAT, UNU, UN-DESA, UNESCO, WB, ECA, ESCWA, ECLAC)

Membership since 2011

#### ➤ Chair of the Task Group on Measuring E-waste:

Develop a framework for monitoring e-waste based on internationally defined indicators, and

Support the compilation of reliable data on e-waste as basis for political decision making and further action on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life ICT equipment.

# Secretariat of the Basel Convention cooperates with (III):

## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



Agreement signed in 2012

- Contributions to ITU-T Study Group 5, and development of:
  - End-of-life section in the Sustainability Toolkit for the ICT sector;
  - Technical paper on life-cycle management of ICT equipment;
- Joint ITU/SBC/UNU-StEP/CEDARE E-waste Survey to collect detailed data on e-waste arising, e-waste management, policies and standards;
- ITU/UNEP PACE Workshop for Capacity Building on Environmentally Responsible Management of WEEE, San Salvador, March 2013, with the support of BCRC El Salvador and Telefónica;
- Joint e-waste sessions at ITU Green Standards Weeks, WSIS Forum

*THANK YOU*

