



## Letter of Intent (the “LOI”)

### Paving the way for Coordination and Collaboration on UN System-wide Support for E-waste Management

The **International Labour Organization** (hereinafter referred to as “**ILO**”), having its Headquarters located at 4 Route des Morillons, 1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland,

The **International Telecommunication Union** (hereinafter referred to as “**ITU**”), having its Headquarters located at Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland,

The **International Trade Centre** (hereinafter referred to as “**ITC**”), having its Headquarters located at Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland,

The **Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions which are administrated by UN Environment and of the UN Environment-part of the Rotterdam Convention** (hereinafter referred to as “**BRS Conventions**”), having their offices located at 11-15 Chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland, and their postal address at Palais des Nations, 08-14, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland,

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (hereinafter referred to as “**UN Environment**”), having its Headquarters located at United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya,

The **United Nations Human Settlements Programme** (hereinafter referred to as “**UN-Habitat**”), having its Headquarters located at P.O. Box 30030, GPO, Nairobi, 00100, Kenya,

The **United Nations Industrial Development Organisation** (hereinafter referred to as “**UNIDO**”) having its Headquarters located at Vienna International Centre, Wagramerstr. 5, A-1400, Vienna, Austria,

The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research** (hereinafter referred to as “**UNITAR**”) having its Headquarters located at Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10- Switzerland

The **United Nations University** (hereinafter referred to as “**UNU**”), having its Headquarters located at 5-53-70 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan,

The **World Health Organization** (hereinafter referred to as “**WHO**”), having its Headquarters located at 20, Avenue Appia, 1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland,

(hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Signatories” and individually as a “Signatory”)

**NOTING** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its three dimensions - economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection - as a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity;

- NOTING** the current and ongoing Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste, which is coordinated by the UN Environment Management Group, and which aims to increase coordination and collaboration among UN organizations on tackling the e-waste issue;
- NOTING** the letter sent by the Rector of UNU to Heads of UN organizations and discussions among the Signatories to better coordinate and synergize their respective e-waste efforts, ideally paving the way towards a UN alliance to support its Member States (or Parties) in better managing e-waste;
- NOTING** the growing amounts of e-waste globally and the low collection and treatment rates as highlighted in the Global E-waste Monitors, despite the enormous potential of better e-waste management to serve as a resource, in particular through urban mining, and to create green jobs;
- WHEREAS** the Signatories' desire to strengthen non-binding cooperation with each other, leveraging on their respective strengths and capacities, and to initiate steps towards the establishment of the "UN E-waste coalition" through the development of terms of reference and the execution of a formal legal instrument;

**Now, therefore,** the Signatories decide:

## **1 Purpose of this Letter of Intent (LOI)**

The purpose of this LOI is to establish a non-legally-binding framework for the coordination and collaboration, which the Signatories mutually intend to undertake in the areas provided in Paragraph 2 (hereinafter referred to as the "Cooperation").

## **2 Areas of Cooperation**

In accordance with their respective rules, regulations and procedures, the Signatories hereby express their mutual intent to collaborate with one another - and a separate formal legal instrument would be executed later as needed if the Signatories reach agreement on it - on the following areas:

- 2.1 To develop terms of reference to set the modalities of their Cooperation under the present LOI;
- 2.2 To work together on the following activities:
  - a) Participation in the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste and any related meetings or work streams;
  - b) Joint organization of meetings, workshops and / or other capacity building activities;
  - c) Co-financing and joint implementation of projects;
  - d) Joint studies and projects in areas of mutual interest;
  - e) Provision and sharing of e-waste expertise and information among one another; and
  - f) Implementation of other activities that are consistent with the purpose of this LOI, as may be mutually agreed between the Signatories.

2.3 The proposed areas of Cooperation listed in Paragraph 2.2 aim at contributing to the achievement of the ongoing work streams of the Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste:

- Support a UN system-wide knowledge sharing platform on e-waste for UN entities;
- Implement strengthened UN system-wide programmatic collaboration on e-waste;
- Strengthen UN system-wide engagement with other stakeholder groups; and
- Consider ways to deliver as one in countries to tackle national e-waste problems.

2.4 The implementation of any specific joint activities set in Paragraph 2.2 above, including, without limitation, the roles, responsibilities, rights and obligations of each Signatory and the legal, financial and operational aspects, expected outcomes, work schedules, applicable budgets of such joint activities, if agreement is reached among the Signatories, will be set out in one or more separate formal legal instrument(s), project document(s) and/or other instrument(s), which will be separately negotiated, agreed to and signed by the Signatories in accordance with this LOI.

### **3 Status of this LOI**

This LOI serves only as a record of the Signatories' intentions and is not intended as, and will not be deemed or construed as, a legally binding agreement between the Signatories. Nothing contained in this LOI gives rise to any form of fiduciary or legal obligations or responsibilities by any Signatory under national or international law. Any activities that may be conducted hereunder will be subject to and contingent upon the availability of sufficient staff, funds and other resources.

### **4 Prior forms of cooperation between the Signatories**

This LOI does not supersede, nor prejudice, other forms of cooperation between the Signatories on other subject matters.

### **5 Effective date of the LOI; Additional Signatories**

- 5.1 This LOI will become effective on the date of last acknowledgement by the Signatories.
- 5.2 Other entities of the United Nations system seeking to become Signatories to the present LOI may acknowledge this LOI and notify the existing Signatories accordingly.
- 5.3 The text of this LOI accompanied by an up-to-date list of all Signatories under paras. 5.1 and 5.2 above will be maintained on the ITU website.

### **The Signatories:**

**ILO**

**ITU**

**ITC**

**BRS Conventions**

**UN Environment**

**UN-Habitat**

**UNIDO**

**UNITAR**

**UNU**

**WHO**