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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

Ninth meeting

Bali, 23–27 June 2008

Item 7 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Implementation of the decisions adopted by the
Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:
Partnership Programme**

Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. By decision VIII/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted the workplan of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme for 2007–2008, which described the development of a multi-stakeholder partnership that would address the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment. By decision OEWG-VI/22, an interim group on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment was established for the period between the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Reference is also made to the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste. Furthermore, decision VIII/2 mandated the Open-ended Working Group, beginning at its sixth meeting, to develop a workplan on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. This partnership is included under that workplan, as it directly supports the Nairobi Declaration and the environmentally sound management of e-waste.

II. Implementation

2. The interim group on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment developed the elements for a multi-stakeholder partnership, which are set out in the annex to the present note. Further details on the group's activities, its membership and the creation of the partnership can be found in document UNEP/CHW.9/INF/12. The group comprises representatives from Parties, signatories, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and international organizations. The results of the group's work are presented for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

* UNEP/CHW.9/1.

III. Proposed action

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider adopting a decision along the following lines, as suggested by the interim group:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VI/32, VII/3, VIII/2 and VIII/5,

Having regard to the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste,

Noting the rapid increase in the amount of electrical and electronic equipment used and purchased globally which has led to an increasing volume of used and end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment, particularly computing equipment, which is not being managed in an environmentally sound manner,

Noting also the life cycle benefits of reusing and recycling used and end-of-life electronics in an environmentally sound manner, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving natural resources and providing sustainable economic and social development opportunities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming the work of the interim group on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (hereinafter “the Partnership”),

Acknowledging that awareness-raising on design considerations and the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment is of particular importance to Parties, specifically to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that do not possess the capacity for environmentally sound management,

Acknowledging further that the environmentally sound management of computing equipment and information-sharing on green design are of particular importance to Parties, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming the voluntary financial contributions made by Chile and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Partnership,

1. *Agrees* with the mission, scope, working principles and activities of the Partnership, as developed by the interim group and annexed to the present decision;
2. *Takes note* of the funding methods for the Partnership, as annexed to the present decision;
3. *Also takes note* of the terms of reference for the Partnership, as annexed to the present decision;
4. *Agrees* to establish a working group that would operate under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group as the operating mechanism for the Partnership and sets out other organizational matters;
5. *Requests* the Partnership to develop and implement a more detailed workplan consistent with the interim group’s discussions, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
6. *Requests* the working group of the Partnership to coordinate and collaborate, as appropriate, on activities with other organizations and initiatives to establish synergies and prevent duplication;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To facilitate the Partnership and to provide support to it through the Senior Programme Officer;
 - (b) To develop an electronic catalogue of information on initiatives and associated tools and activities under way or completed on the environmentally sound management of computing equipment, building on existing information, and provide support through an information technology officer;

8. *Encourages* the Partnership to ensure that it has a sustainable funding mechanism;

9. *Encourages* Parties, signatories and members of industry and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the Partnership and to make financial or in-kind contributions or both:

(a) To facilitate the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) To facilitate the implementation of tools and activities.

Annex

Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE)

The following elements of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) were agreed upon by the interim group on PACE.

I. Mission statement

To increase environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, taking into account social responsibility and the concept of sustainable development, and promoting the sharing of information on life cycle thinking.

II. Scope

1. *The scope of the partnership will cover personal computers (PCs) and associated displays, printers and peripherals.*¹

III. Working principles

The group reviewed the working principles set out in document UNEP/SBC/PACE/2 and agreed to the following three working principles:

1. To promote dialogue among Governments, industries, non-governmental organizations and academia on initiatives that could be carried out in various United Nations regions.
2. To seek innovative solutions showing specific and practical results consistent with the Basel Convention and make recommendations.
3. To coordinate and cooperate, as appropriate, with other bodies involved in electrical and electronic waste activities.

IV. Activities

A set of activities has been identified that would assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to manage used and end-of-life computing equipment in an environmentally sound manner:

- To develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound refurbishment and repair, including criteria for testing, certification and labelling
- To develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound recycling and material recovery, including facility certification
- To develop and promote pilot schemes for environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals
- To develop awareness-raising and training programme activities

¹ Personal desktop computer, including the central processing unit and all other parts contained in the computer. Personal notebook and laptop computer, including the docking station, central processing unit and all other parts contained in the computer. Computer monitor, including the following types of computer monitor: (a) cathode ray tube; (b) liquid crystal display; (c) plasma. Computer keyboard, mouse and cables. Computer printer: (a) including the following types of computer printer: (i) dot matrix; (ii) inkjet; (iii) laser; (iv) thermal and (b) including any computer printer with scanning or facsimile capabilities, or both.