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E-waste: Priority Waste Stream under the Basel Convention

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Green standards week

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 September 2013

- **E-waste is** listed in Annex VIII as A1180 (**hazardous waste**) and Annex IX as B1110 (**waste containing materials with hazardous characteristics**)

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

Basel Convention

Mandated by the Conference of the Parties (COP) a Small Inter-Sessional Work Group is currently developing a technical guidelines for adoption at the next COP in 2015 on:

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

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)

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.

Secretariat of the Basel Convention cooperates with:

UNU/Solving the E-waste Problem Initiative (StEP)
➢ UN Agencies, governments, academia, NGOs, producing and recycling industry, Basel Convention Regional Centres

Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
➢ UNCTAD, ITU, OECD, EUROSTAT, UNU, UN-DESA, UNESCO, WB, ECA, ESCWA, ECLAC

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
➢ Regional Centres, WSIS Forum, Green Standards Weeks

Further reading:

Basel Convention: http://www.basel.int/

http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/EWaste/tabid/2576/Default.aspx

MPPI: http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PartnershipProgramme/MPPI/Overview/tabid/3268/Default.aspx

PACE: http://www.basel.int/Implementation/PartnershipProgramme/PACE/Overview/tabid/3243/Default.aspx
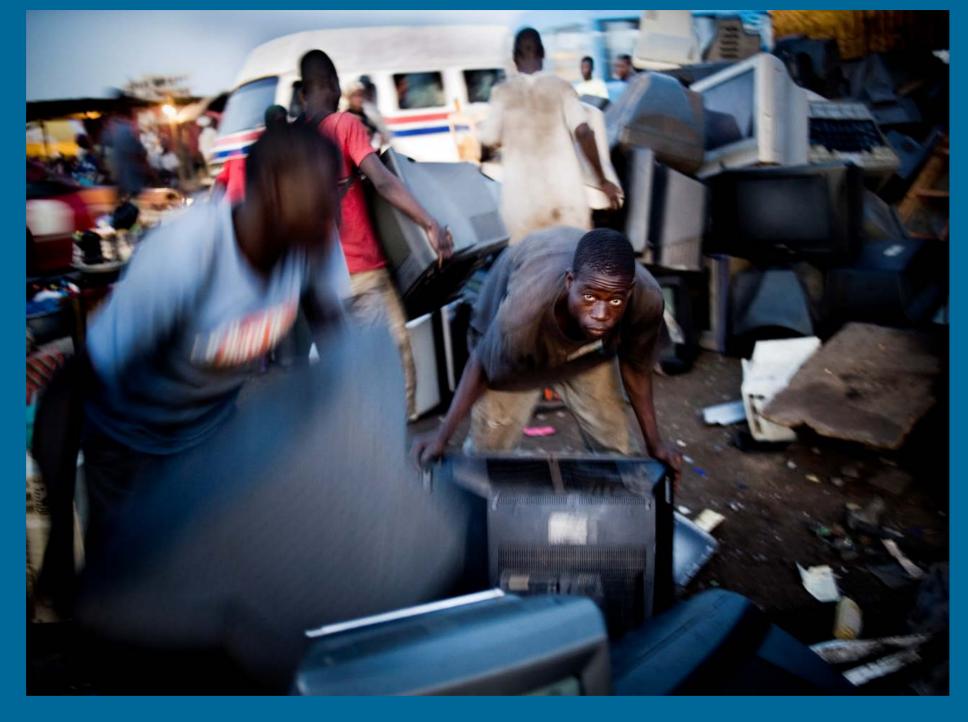
Transboundary movement:

http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/Ewaste/tabid/2377/Default.aspx

Thank you