

Sponsors: United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Haiti, Germany, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Argentina, Armenia, Ghana, South Africa, Bahrain, Algeria, Guatemala, Qatar, Madagascar

Signatories: India, Indonesia, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Chile, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka

Committee: UNEP

Topic: Electronic Waste Management

Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the global issue with regards to electronic waste,

Realizing the dangers posed by the improper disposal of such electronic waste (e-waste),

Observing that many people in developing nations unknowingly expose themselves to toxic fumes when they unprofessionally melt scrap metal out of imported e-waste to sell for meager profit,

Bearing in mind the Basel Ban of 2005, ratified by 167 countries, that prohibited the import or export of e-waste,

Recognizing the continued illegal trade of e-waste by countries who signed the Basel Convention,

Understanding that the illegal trade of e-waste makes for an imbalanced equation in which less developed nations that do not produce the e-waste suffer for waste they did not produce,

Emphasizes the importance of e-waste imports to the economies of developing nations,

1. Strongly encourages the use of producer-based certification programs under the Electronic Waste International Recycling Program, that will:
 - a. Adopt the process of creating certified waste export centers that all member nations will be required to export waste through to ensure that e-waste shipments are documented and arrive at planned locations,
 - b. Certify recycling centers that all member states will be required to recycle through, upon compliance with,
 - i. Environmentally safe recycling processes
 - ii. Worker safety equipment
 - iii. Adequate workplace conditions;
2. Proposes an amendment to the existing Basel Convention to re-open legal trans-boundary movement of electronic waste only if exporting nations provide importing nations with the fiscal resources for building the appropriate infrastructure for safely

recycling imported material under the terms of EWIRP;

3. Requests that electronic production corporations place recycle labels on all devices to attempt to spread awareness of electronic waste recycling;

4. Recommends that proper “reuse” and refurbishment methods be implemented at a national level in order to reduce the production of potentially reusable materials, in respect to the fact that refurbishment of a desktop computer is twenty percent more environmentally efficient than recycling;

5. Implements an international technology bank, containing the latest electronic waste recycling technologies that can be readily available to EWIRP and all other organizations regarding electronic waste, with the intent of making them freely available to developing nations;

6. Emphasizes the need for awareness available to recyclers and the citizens around recycling centers for harmful toxins and carcinogens that are contained in electronics to ensure adequate safety to recyclers;

7. Promotes the spread of a service-flow economy in which major manufacturers focus on leasing their products, taking them back once they have become obsolete, disassembling them and reusing excess material that can be salvaged before recycling the rest, thus limiting the total amount of electronic waste produced;

8. Emphasizes the need to abide by the International Labor Organization’s Conventions to protect those working in landfills by:

- a. Reforming current government labor laws to meet the ILO standards
- b. Utilizing the UNDP’s program to provide technical and financial support;

9. Encourages the establishment of national recycling programs in order to properly collect and recycle electronic products through:

- a. Basing these programs off of past successful programs such as SWICO
- b. Allowing the EWIRP to oversee and monitor the progress of these national programs to make sure its efficiency
- c. Allowing nations to establish their own programs based on the different models that have been successful;

10. Recommends in the establishment of directives similar to the European Union’s RoHS in order to phase out hazardous materials in electronic products by:

- a. Working with regional organization such as the African Union to develop realistic time goals for the region
- b. Having the EU work with the regional organizations if the region requests for assistance;

11. Encourages manufacturers to consider the harmful toxins in electronic components while designing electronic products;

12. Recommends NGOs to increase awareness and promote education of toxins and chemicals in electronic waste and the harm it does to the environment;

13. Recommends the establishment of a program structured similarly to the Superfund Act, in which manufacturers of electronic products are held responsible for any harm imposed on the environment or the health of people, and should follow through with proper clean-up procedures.