

Asian Development Bank
CEWG Webinar Session #30
30 October 2024



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
C O N V E N T I O N S

Overview of e-waste in the Basel Convention

Ms. Carla Valle and Ms. Tatiana Terekhova
Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Opportunities:

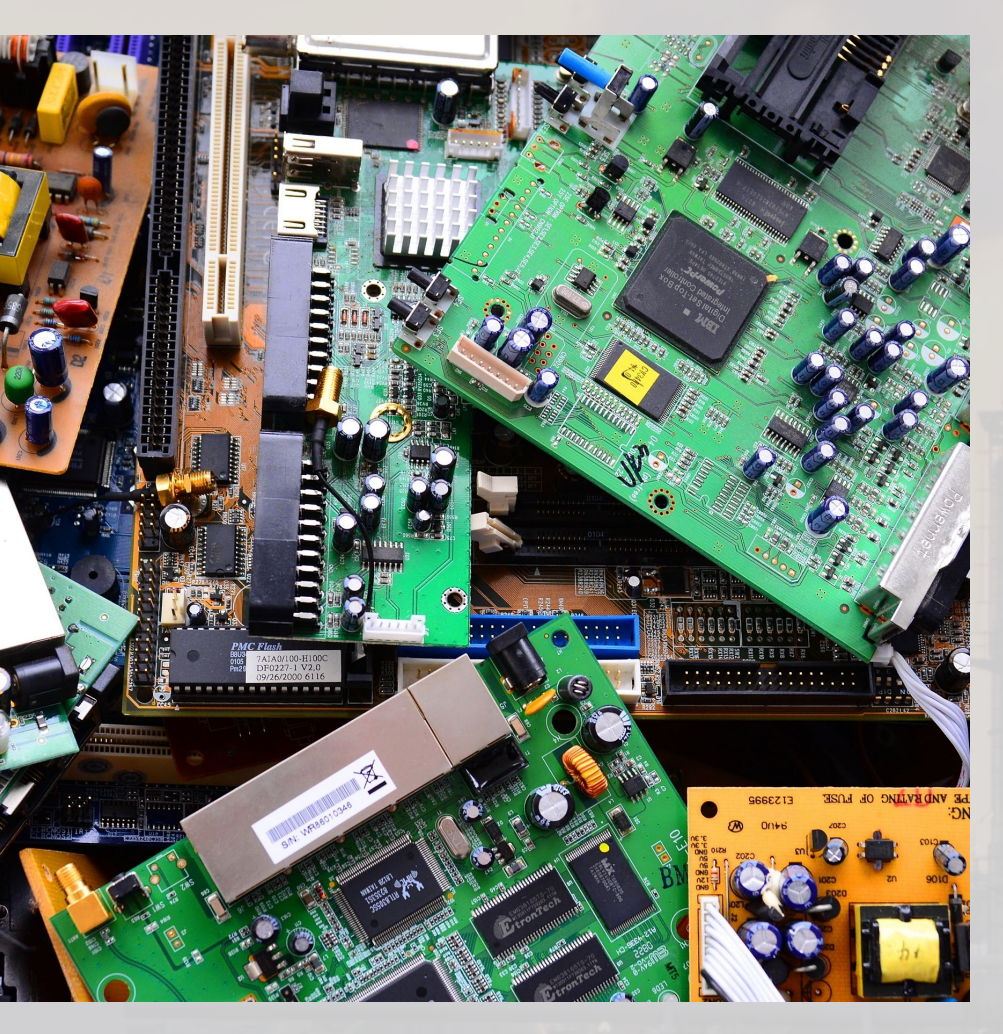
- E-waste has high recycling value, is economically viable and attractive
- Plastics
- Ferrous metal
- Non-ferrous metals
- Precious metals
- Special metals

E-waste generation:

- 62 million tonnes of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) was generated in 2022
- 22.3% collected and recycled
- Value of metals embedded e-waste in 2022 amounts to US \$91 billion (source: ITU and UNITAR)



E-waste as a source of hazardous chemicals



- Over 1,000 substances, among others:
 - Iron, copper, gold, silver, rare metals
 - Heavy metals (lithium, lead, cadmium, mercury, etc)
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - Brominated flame retardants
 - Plastics components
- Open and uncontrolled burning releases large amounts of dioxins and furans to the environment

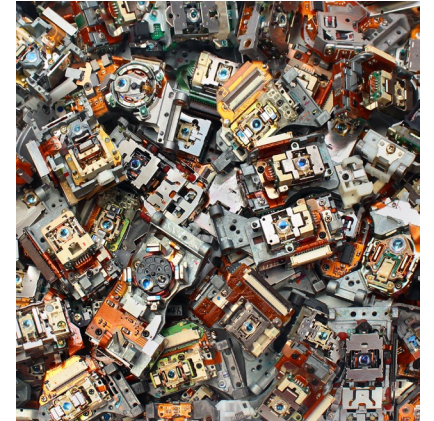
Why the problem is a problem

– Motivations:

- Interest in trade
- Illegal traffic
- Lack of capacity to manage
- Options for a more sustainable scenario

– Factful

- Growth in terms of waste generation (in general) and e-waste generation
- Growth interest in circularity: recovery of materials
- Linkages to other areas: pollution, health, labour, gender, human rights.
- The use of hazardous substances in EE equipment is reducing
- Challenges related to the enforcement of the Basel Convention provisions

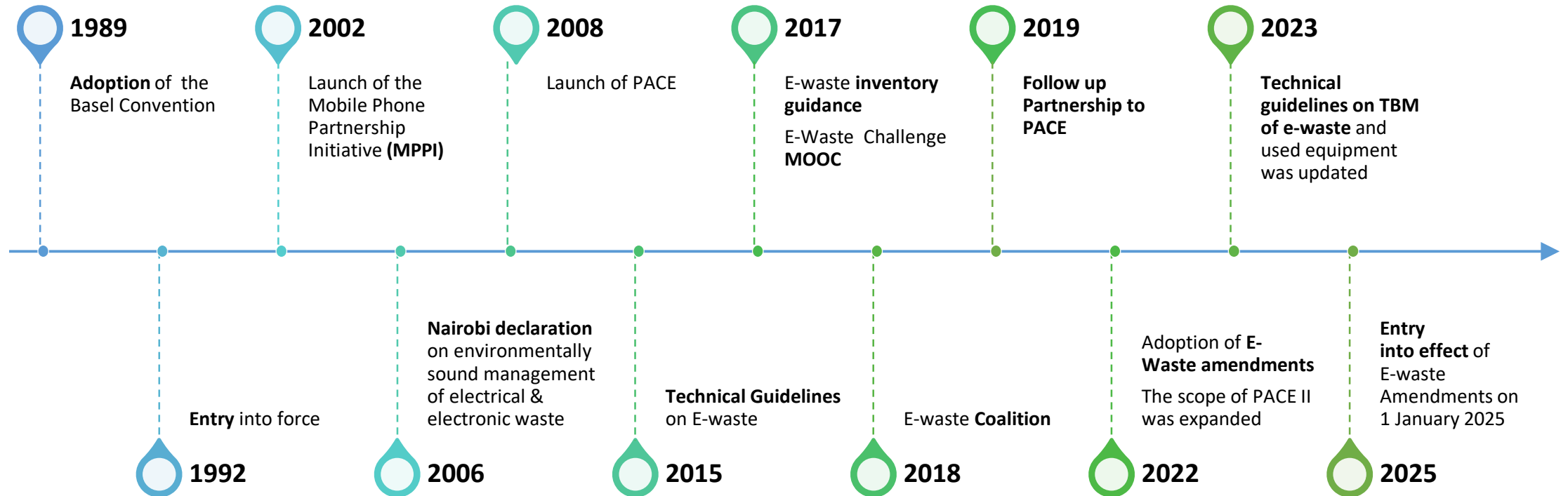


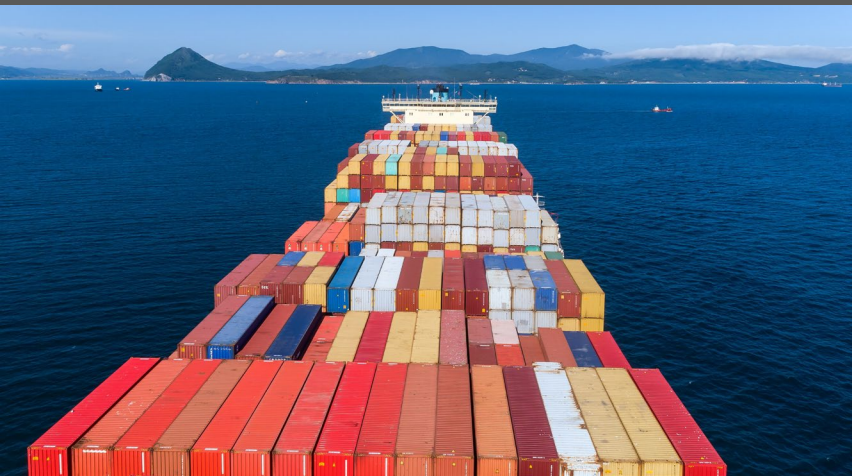


Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

- **Adopted:** 22 March 1989
- **Entry into force:** 5 May 1992
- **Number of parties:** 191
- **Objective:** To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes
- **Scope:** Hazardous wastes and other wastes

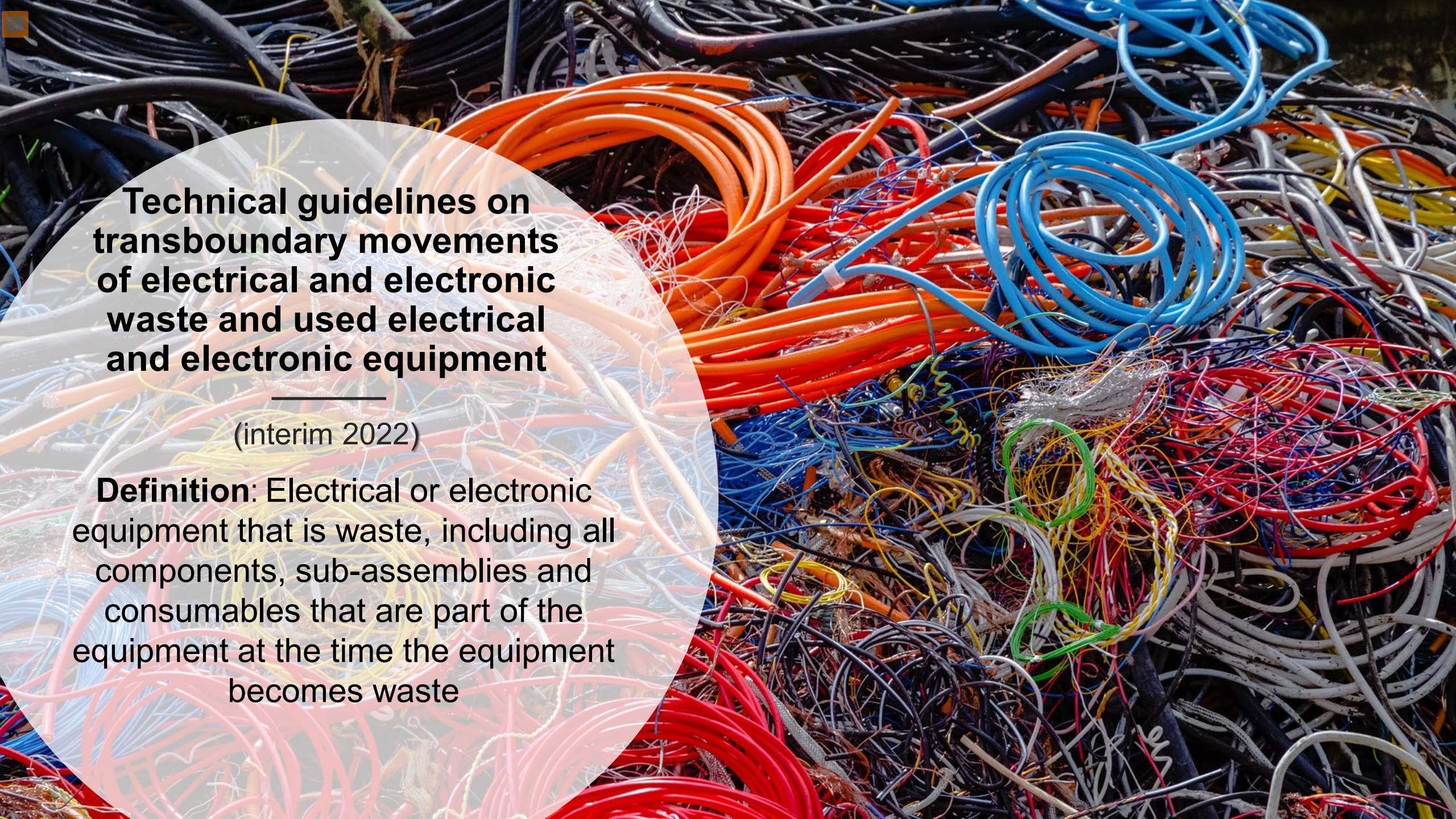
The Basel Convention and E-waste





3 pillars of the Basel Convention

- ❑ **Minimize** the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and degree of hazard;
- ❑ **Control** transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes (conditions and the PIC procedure);
- ❑ **Promote** the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes



**Technical guidelines on
transboundary movements
of electrical and electronic
waste and used electrical
and electronic equipment**

(interim 2022)

Definition: Electrical or electronic equipment that is waste, including all components, sub-assemblies and consumables that are part of the equipment at the time the equipment becomes waste

Scope of the technical Guidelines on Transboundary Movement of E-waste

- Distinction between waste and non-waste
- Transboundary movements of e-waste
- Enforcement of provisions regarding transboundary movements of e-waste and used equipment
- Distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous waste
- Guidance to facilities for conducting failure analysis, repair and refurbishment
- Used equipment is waste in a country if it is defined as or considered to be waste under the provisions of that country's national legislation



Prior informed consent (PIC) procedure

Wastes that require PIC procedure

- Hazardous wastes
 - Annexes I, III, VIII
 - Nationally defined
- Other wastes (Annex II)

Wastes that do not require PIC procedure

- Non-hazardous wastes (Annex IX)



Import/Export restrictions/bans for recovery or disposal

E-waste Amendments



- Amendment proposal made by **Ghana** and **Switzerland**
- Adopted amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX regarding e-wastes **COP Decision BC-15/18** in 2022
- Become effective on **1 January 2025**



All transboundary movements of e-wastes, whether hazardous or not will be subject to the prior informed consent procedure.



Hazardous e-waste Annex VIII – A1181

- containing or contaminated with cadmium, lead, mercury, organohalogen compounds or other Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an **Annex III characteristic**

OR

- with a component containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an **Annex III characteristic**, including but not limited to any of the following components: e.g. a capacitor containing PCBs, certain circuit boards.

containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry on list A



1. Whole equipment

2. Waste Component of electrical and electronic equipment

3. Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling)

Annex II Other waste of e-waste – Y49

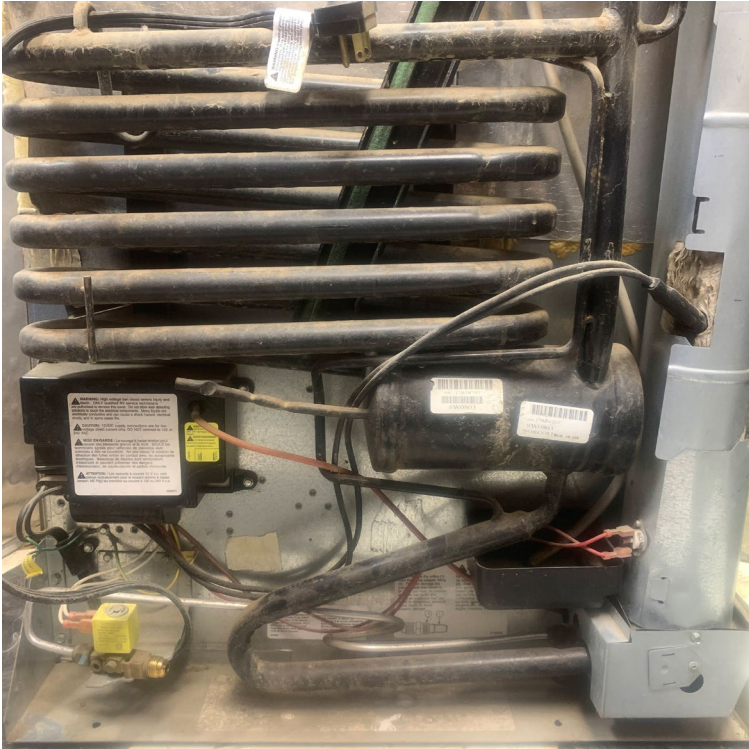
- NOT containing and NOT contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic,

AND

- in which NONE of the components (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) contain or are contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic

NOT containing and NOT contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX

PIC procedure



Trade control regime applicable to e-waste

- Prohibition of export (**A1181**) from Parties listed in Annex VII to Parties non listed in Annex VII destined for final disposal operations, resource recovery, recycling reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses.
- **Hazardous e-waste** can only be transferred under the **PIC procedure between Parties not listed in Annex VII or from Parties not listed in Annex VII to Annex II Parties.**
- E-waste under **entry Y49** can only be transferred under the **PIC procedure between Parties.**
- Some Parties may have decided to **fully** or **partially** prohibit the import, transit and/or export of e-waste, or to impose additional requirements in accordance with the Convention.



The Basel Convention: Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI)

Guidelines on:

- Refurbishment of Used Mobile Phones
- Collection of Used Mobile Phones
- Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Mobile Phones
- Awareness Raising-Design Considerations
- Transboundary Movement of Collected Mobile Phones;

Guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones



- **Guidelines on :**
 - Environmentally Sound Testing, Refurbishment, and Repair of Used Computing Equipment
 - Environmentally Sound Material Recovery and Recycling of End-of-Life Computing Equipment
- Overall **guidance** document
- **Report** with ESM criteria recommendations;
- **Report** on strategies, actions and incentives to promote environmentally sound management of end-of-life-computing equipment
- **Manual** on Steps to Establish and Implement Environmentally Sound Management for Used and Waste Computing Equipment



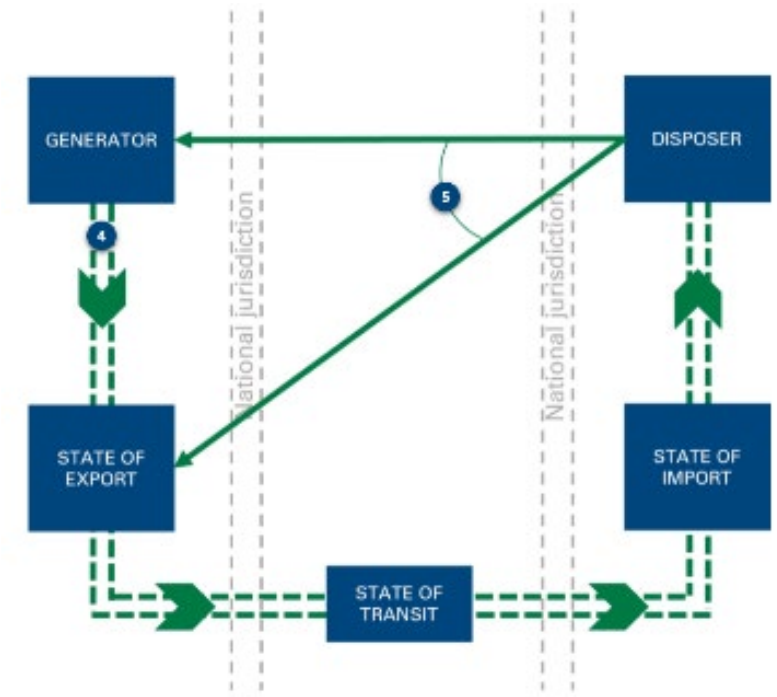
PACE-II

- Focus on used and waste:
 - TV screens, audio and video eq.
 - Refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment
 - Mobile Phones and
 - Computing Equipment
- Programme work on:
 - Pilot projects
 - Dissemination activities
 - Development of ESM guidance on used and waste: TVs, Refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment
- Partnership reaches out to over 500 entities involved with the members



PIC procedure

- **New track of work** to improve the functioning of the **Prior Informed Consent procedure**
- Collection of information on **challenges** in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on **best practices, possible approaches, initiatives and views** to improve the functioning of the procedure, recognizing that developing countries face increasing challenges in implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and that they need further financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to address those challenges.
- **Set of recommendations** to be considered by COP17 in May 2025 in Geneva



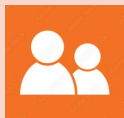
Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents



To develop a report with recommendations on the next steps regarding the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents



Parties are invited to work on projects on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the experiences of other Parties and of non-Parties, and the work carried out by other international organizations, and to submit their lessons learned to the Secretariat.



Small intersessional working group. **Members:** Argentina, Belgium, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, European Commission, Germany, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Sweden and UK. **Observers:** EuRIC, FEAD, Green Cognition, Hazardous Waste Europe, HWE, ILA, ITI

A person wearing a bright yellow raincoat is holding a clear plastic bag. Inside the bag is a globe of the Earth. The person is standing in a field of dark soil littered with various pieces of trash, including plastic bottles and other debris. The background is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the person and the globe.

**Thank you for your
attention!**

**For more information
please visit us at:**

 **@brsmeas**

<http://www.brsmeas.org/>