

# UN SCIENCE-POLICY-BUSINESS FORUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT



## Third Global Session

18-20 February 2021

Integrated Solutions  
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SCIENCE  
POLICY  
BUSINESS  
FORUM

# Addressing E-waste through Tracking, Traceability and Circular Approach



**FEB 18<sup>th</sup>**

**13.00 - 15.00 EAT  
ONLINE**

Co-convened by the Secretariat of  
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm  
Convention & UNEP's Private Sector Unit



# E-WASTE SESSION

*In the past few decades, the consumption of electronics has penetrated nearly every aspect of our daily lives, so it is no surprise that the production and use of electronic products has sky-rocketed, leading to the generation of massive quantities of end-of-life electronics – e-waste. According to the UN's Global e-waste Monitor of 2020, only an estimated 17.4 per cent are currently collected and recycled of the 53.6 million metric tonnes (Mt) of e-waste generated worldwide in 2019 which increased up by 21% in just five years. Efforts to reverse this trend need our attention more than ever before.*

Electronics contain valuable materials, including those of strategic value such as indium and palladium; and precious metals such as gold, copper and silver. These materials can be recovered and recycled, thereby serving as a valuable source of secondary raw materials, reducing pressure on scarce natural resources, as well as minimizing the overall environmental footprint.

**The negative effects of e-waste on human health and the environment continues to be scientifically documented in many regions of the world.** E-waste exported to developing countries can be subject to poor recycling techniques such as open burning leading to inhalation of toxic fumes loaded with persistent.

organic chemicals (POPs) and other substances. This results in long-term contamination of nearby land and rivers, and consequently the food chain, and POPs may eventually end up as contaminants in foods destined for human consumption.

The environmentally sound management of e-waste and the transboundary movements of e-waste or used equipment may serve as a big lever in the direction of circularity by reducing the need for mining of materials of strategic value and increasing recycling and resource recovery as well as creating new market opportunities, jobs and sources of income.

The tracking and traceability of e-waste requires better implementation of policies, innovating systemic and technological solutions involving governments, private sector, academia and the civil society whereby the environmental sound management of e-waste is ensured, and a circular approach is encouraged without jeopardizing human health and the environment.

The session will demonstrate ongoing efforts by different stakeholder groups and explore innovative approaches to sustainable e-waste solutions.

## **The session will examine the following key questions:**

E-waste has been an issue of concern for a number of years. Why is it still a problem despite numerous efforts by governments, industry, civil society and international organizations?

What are the main drivers of e-waste for becoming a global environmental challenge?

What policies and regulatory mechanisms are best suited to tackle e-waste? How to deal with the informal sector and informal practices to manage e-waste?

How does the sustainable management of e-waste contribute to the circular economy? How to avoid the loss of valuable resources?

Can regional cooperation provide solutions to support developing countries?

What role industry can play in dealing with e-waste in a sustainable way? Are there innovative solutions from the manufacturing /design perspective?







# E-WASTE SESSION



**Rolph Payet**  
**Executive Secretary**  
Secretariat of the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm  
Conventions



**Pascal Leroy**  
**Director General**  
WEEE Forum



**Michel Tschirren**  
**Senior Policy Advisor International  
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**Carlos Silva Filho**  
**President**  
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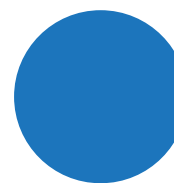
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