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**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

**Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention  
on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary  
Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa  
Second meeting**  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
30 January–1 February 2018

## **Decision 2/6: Prevention of electronic hazardous waste and the import and dumping of end-of-life waste electrical and electronic equipment in Africa**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that Africa is one of the main destinations for e-waste from developed countries,

*Aware of* the lack of capacity and resources to address the issue of electrical and electronic waste in an environmentally sound manner in most African countries, which can lead to the dumping of hazardous substances that may be harmful to human health and the environment,

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of article 4 of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, which provides that all parties shall take appropriate measures to prohibit the import of all hazardous wastes into Africa from non-parties to the Convention,

*Recalling also* decision 1/15 on the prevention of hazardous e-waste and near end-of-life importation and dumping in Africa adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting,

*Recalling further* article 2 of the Bamako Convention establishing a definition of hazardous waste which is more comprehensive than that of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and that includes any wastes that belong to any category contained in annex I to the Convention or which possess any of the characteristics contained in annex II to the Convention,

*Noting* that the presence of heavy metals, such as lead and mercury, and persistent organic pollutants, including brominated flame retardants, in end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment or electronic waste, transforms them into hazardous waste and into a priority flow of problematic and hazardous waste globally and in the region, requiring urgent measures,

*Reaffirming* that defective or untested electronic equipment should be considered as hazardous waste and should not be imported into Africa,

*Recognizing* that even if an electronic appliance is not defined as waste because of its functionality, it may rapidly become waste after importation because of its poor condition or age, and therefore the importation of such electronic and electrical equipment close to its end-of-life must be strictly controlled by the parties,

*Aware* that the amount of e-waste resulting from household consumption of electronic products is increasing rapidly in Africa and will have a negative impact on health and the environment unless measures are taken, as a matter of urgency, to equip African subregions and States with collection and recycling infrastructure,

*Recalling* that the African Group, supported by Peru, urged the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its second session, held in Geneva in 2009, to accept waste electrical and electronic equipment as an emerging global environmental policy issue, which was subsequently approved by the Conference in its resolution II/4 on emerging policy issues,

*Recalling* the Arusha Declaration on Africa's post Rio+20 strategy for sustainable development adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at its fourteenth session, in September 2012, in which African ministers of the environment declared their resolve to call on member States individually or collectively to develop policies, guidelines, legislation and other strategies or mechanisms for the management of electrical and electronic wastes,

*Recalling also* the Pan African Forum on E-waste, held in Nairobi from 14 to 16 March 2012, which adopted a "Call for Action on E-waste in Africa" with a set of priority actions, and the views expressed in the communiqué entitled "Abuja Platform on E-waste" adopted at the International Conference on E-waste Control held in Abuja in July 2009,

*Acknowledging* with appreciation the Basel Convention E-waste Africa Project, which was funded by the European Union, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Dutch Association for the Disposal of Metal and Electrical Products,

*Noting* the African Group's support for the interim adoption of the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting, and the need to finalize those guidelines in order to prevent the trade in e-waste under the pretext of exports for repairs and aid,

*Acknowledging* that the problem of e-waste in Africa remains very serious and threatens the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals if not acted upon with universal resolve,

1. *Urges* parties and other African States that have not yet done so to enhance or supplement existing legislation to prevent illegal and unwanted traffic in hazardous and other e-waste from entering their territory and the African continent;
2. *Encourages* parties and other African States to develop and adopt legislation on individual producer responsibility in the collection and environmentally sound recycling of e-waste arising from domestic sources in Africa;
3. *Calls upon* parties and other African States that have not yet done so to legally consider all non-functional or untested used electronic equipment as hazardous waste and prevent the import into Africa of such equipment;
4. *Also calls upon* parties and other African States that have not yet done so to adopt legislation to control the importation of near-end-of-life or unwanted equipment, inter alia by designating such equipment as hazardous waste;
5. *Requests* parties and other African States to strengthen their capacities and institutions to implement all relevant measures on the prevention and control of transboundary movement of e-waste, including by participating in partnerships such as the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement and the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic;
6. *Resolves* to undertake at the national and regional levels the vigorous promotion and implementation of public education and awareness on the environmental and human health problems associated with the uncontrolled importation of e-waste while taking advantage of the economic opportunities, including the creation of green jobs, that may arise from the environmentally sound management of e-waste;
7. *Requests* that the Basel Convention Regional Centres and the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region engage actively in capacity-building, awareness-raising, pilot projects and consultancy activities on the environmentally sound management of e-waste and the control of the transboundary movement of such waste, in order to leverage their regional and international expertise;
8. *Invites* responsible recyclers of electronic and electrical equipment holding internationally accredited electronics recycling certification to establish environmentally sound national or regional recycling operations in Africa for e-waste generated on the continent;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the joint secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and other relevant intergovernmental, industry and non-governmental organizations to fund and develop programmes for capacity-building and institutional-strengthening to assist African States in the enhancement of export and import controls to prevent illegal traffic in e-waste and to establish environmentally sound management of domestic generation of e-waste in accordance with the foregoing decisions.

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