Updates on the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead-Acid Batteries

1:30- 2:45 pm, Thursday 2 May 2019, Room 3

Side event of UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch in collaboration with the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat

Background and Objectives:

Lead is a naturally occurring metal which is also a multisystem toxicant with no safe levels. Its exposure can cause chronic and debilitating health impacts in all age groups but is particularly harmful to young children leading to low IQ, learning disabilities, antisocial behaviors and other deficiencies.

Currently more than 80% of the global demand for lead is from batteries. Many reports exist with cases of health and environmental damages from inappropriate recycling of used lead acid batteries (ULAB), particularly in developing countries. The manufacturing and recycling of lead-acid batteries is practiced globally in both regulated industries and unregulated informal establishments. Lead recycling is an important source of environmental contamination and human exposure. The main pathways of exposure to lead from recycling used lead-acid batteries arise from environmental emissions. (WHO, 2017).

UN Environment Assembly Resolution 3/9 on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of waste LAB invited the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention to consider revising the technical guidelines for the ESM of waste LAB and application of new technologies in different aspects of the ESM system. UNEA 3/9 also requests the UN Environment Executive Director to continue assisting countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to further capacity building, technical support and guidance to countries in the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.

Welcome and Introduction

- Abiola Olanipekun, Secretariat of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
- Felix Wertli, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- Joanna Tempowski, World Health Organization

Best practices on the environmentally sound management of ULABs

- Brian Wilson, International Lead Association
- Drew McCartor, Pure Earth
- Mathy Stanislaus, Global Battery Alliance, World Economic Forum

Country experience

- Yun Insani, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- Geri Sanez, Environment Management Bureau, Philippines
- Aita Seck, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal

Concluding Remarks

- Jacqueline Alvarez, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, UN Environment

Moderator: Desiree Narvaez, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division, UN Environment

UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

BASEL CONVENTION

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION