



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS

Briefing by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat on identification of used goods and trade in recycled materials, work on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure and recent updates to the Basel Convention

Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) Meeting, 4-5 October 2022

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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:** 190
- **Objective:** To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes
- **Scope:** Hazardous wastes and other wastes



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

Prior informed consent (PIC) procedure

Wastes that require PIC procedure

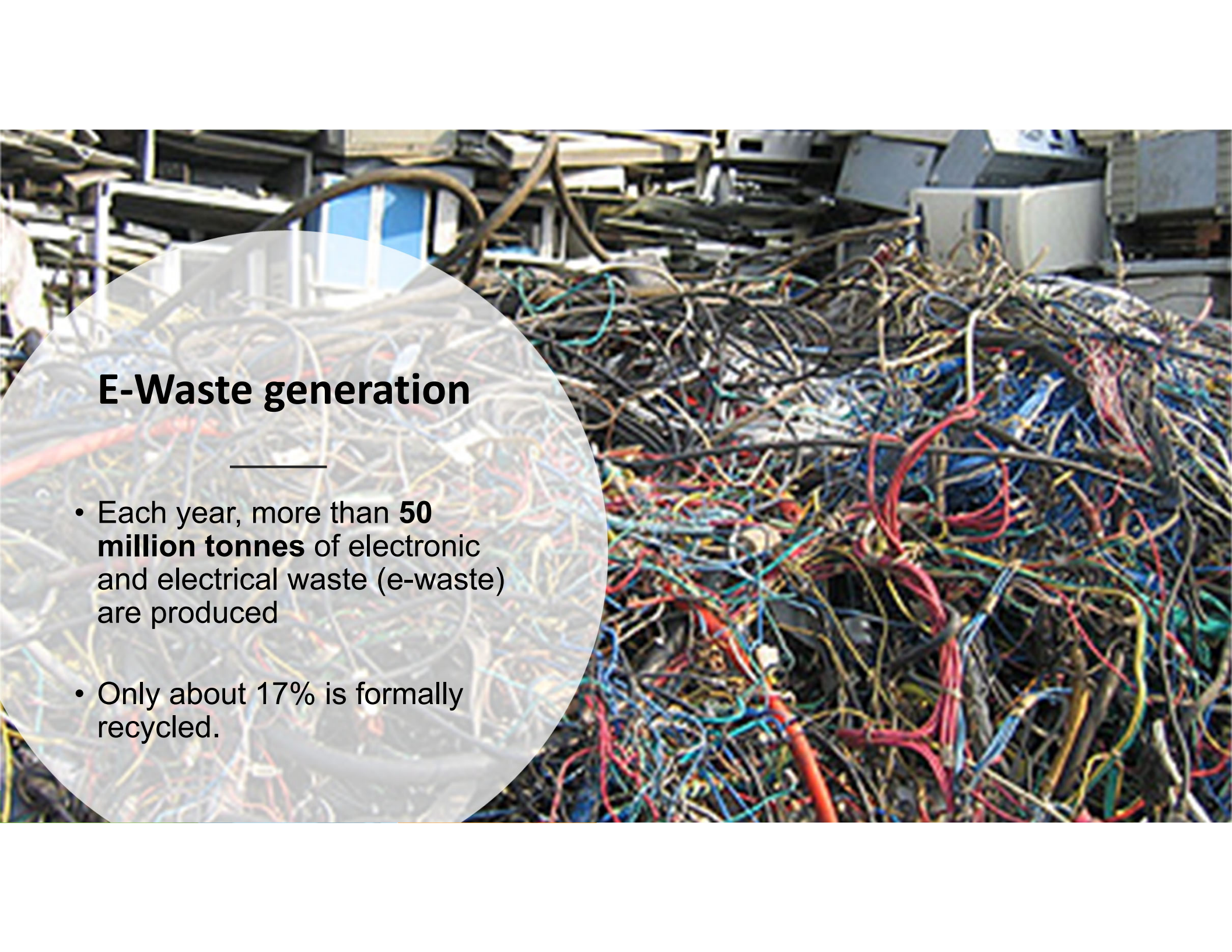
- Hazardous wastes
 - Annexes I, III, VIII
 - Nationally defined
- Other wastes (Annex II)

Wastes that do not require PIC procedure

- Non-hazardous wastes (Annex IX)

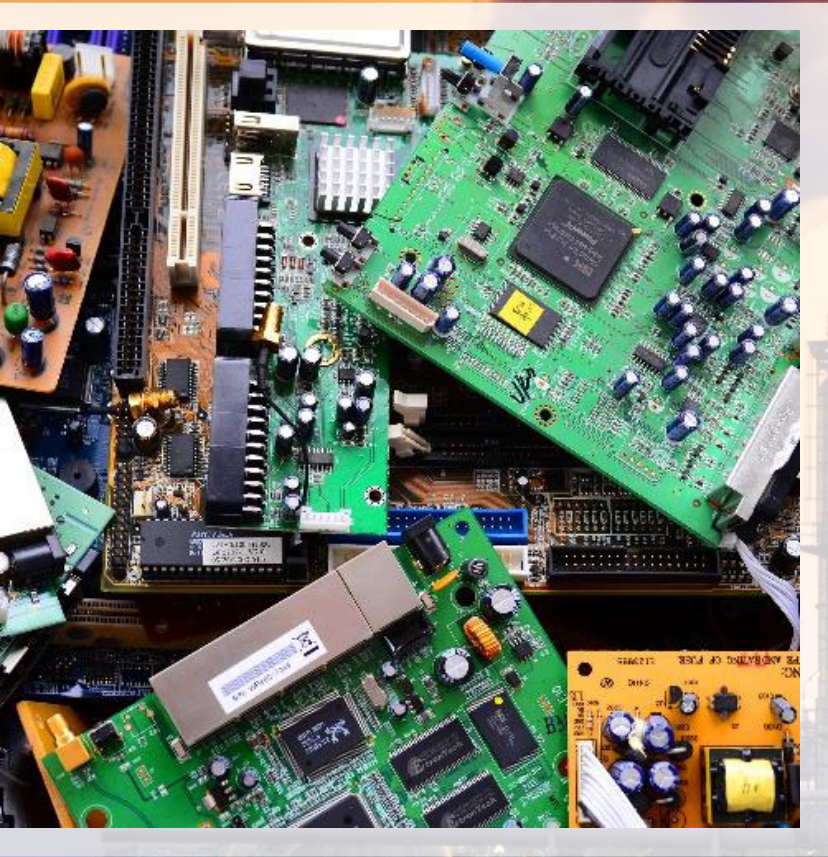
Import/Export restrictions/bans for recovery or disposal



The background image shows a massive pile of electronic waste. In the foreground, there is a dense, chaotic mass of multi-colored wires (red, blue, yellow, green, black) tangled together. Behind this, various pieces of old electronic equipment are visible, including what appear to be computer monitors and internal components, all discarded and piled up.

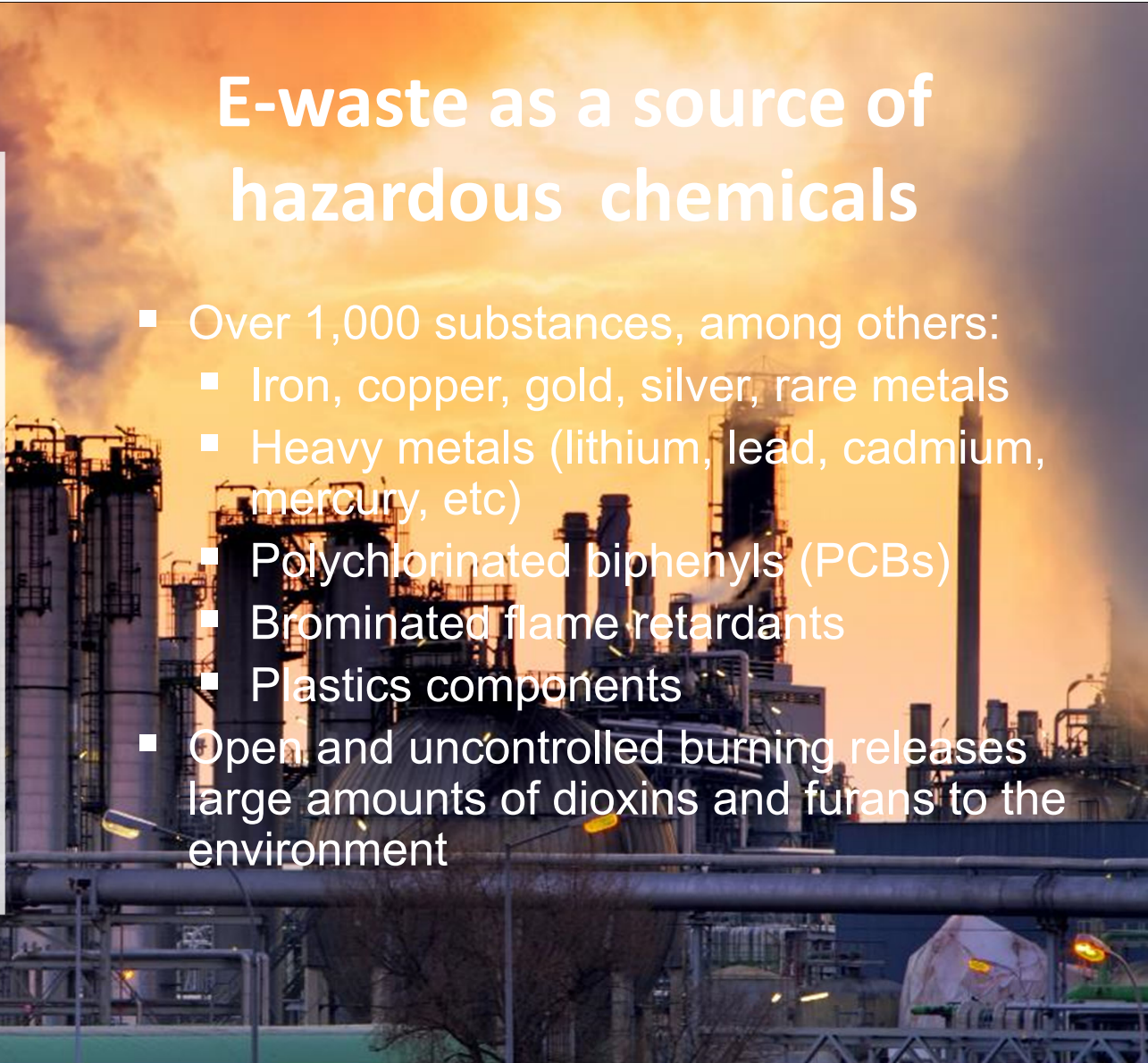
E-Waste generation

- Each year, more than **50 million tonnes** of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) are produced
- Only about 17% is formally recycled.



E-waste as a source of hazardous chemicals

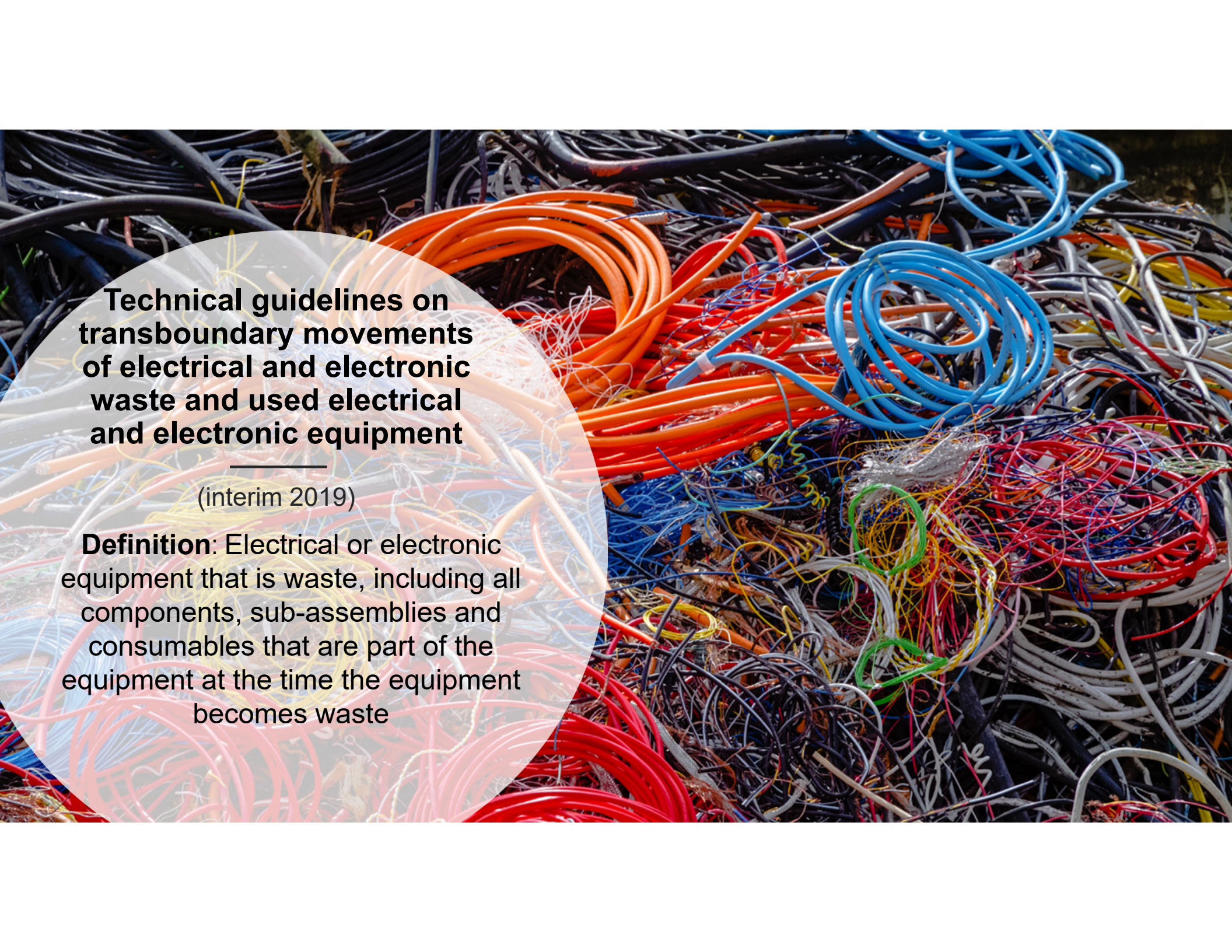
- Over 1,000 substances, among others:
 - Iron, copper, gold, silver, rare metals
 - Heavy metals (lithium, lead, cadmium, mercury, etc)
 - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
 - Brominated flame retardants
 - Plastics components
- Open and uncontrolled burning releases large amounts of dioxins and furans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



Challenges

- Major **environmental and human health impacts** result from dismantling, material recovery and final disposal;
- Cable burning is a major source of **dioxin emissions**;
- **Children and women** are the most vulnerable groups;
- **Current recycling practices** focus on recovery of steel, aluminum and copper and are quite inefficient for other metals;
- Challenges related to the **enforcement** of the Basel Convention provisions (e.g. clear distinction between used EEE and e-waste) and the **management** of the waste following ESM principles





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

(interim 2019)

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



Distinction between UEEE and e-waste

Conditions when used equipment is normally “waste” (para 31)

- (a) The equipment is destined for disposal or recycling, instead of failure analysis or reuse, or its fate is uncertain;
- (b) The equipment is not complete - essential parts are missing and the equipment cannot perform its key functions;
- (c) The equipment shows a defect that materially affects its functionality and fails relevant functionality tests;
- (d) The equipment shows physical damage that impairs its functionality or safety, as defined in relevant standards, and cannot be repaired at a reasonable cost;
- (e) The protection against damage during transport, loading and unloading operations is inappropriate;
- (f) The equipment is particularly worn or damaged in appearance and its appearance reduces its marketability;
- (g) The equipment has among its constituent part(s) hazardous components that are required to be disposed of under national legislation or are prohibited to be exported or are prohibited for use in such equipment under national legislation;
- (h) There is no regular market for the equipment;
- (i) The equipment is destined for disassembly and cannibalization (to gain spare parts); or
- (j) The price paid for the equipment is significantly lower than would be expected for fully functional equipment intended for reuse.

Distinction between UEEE and e-waste

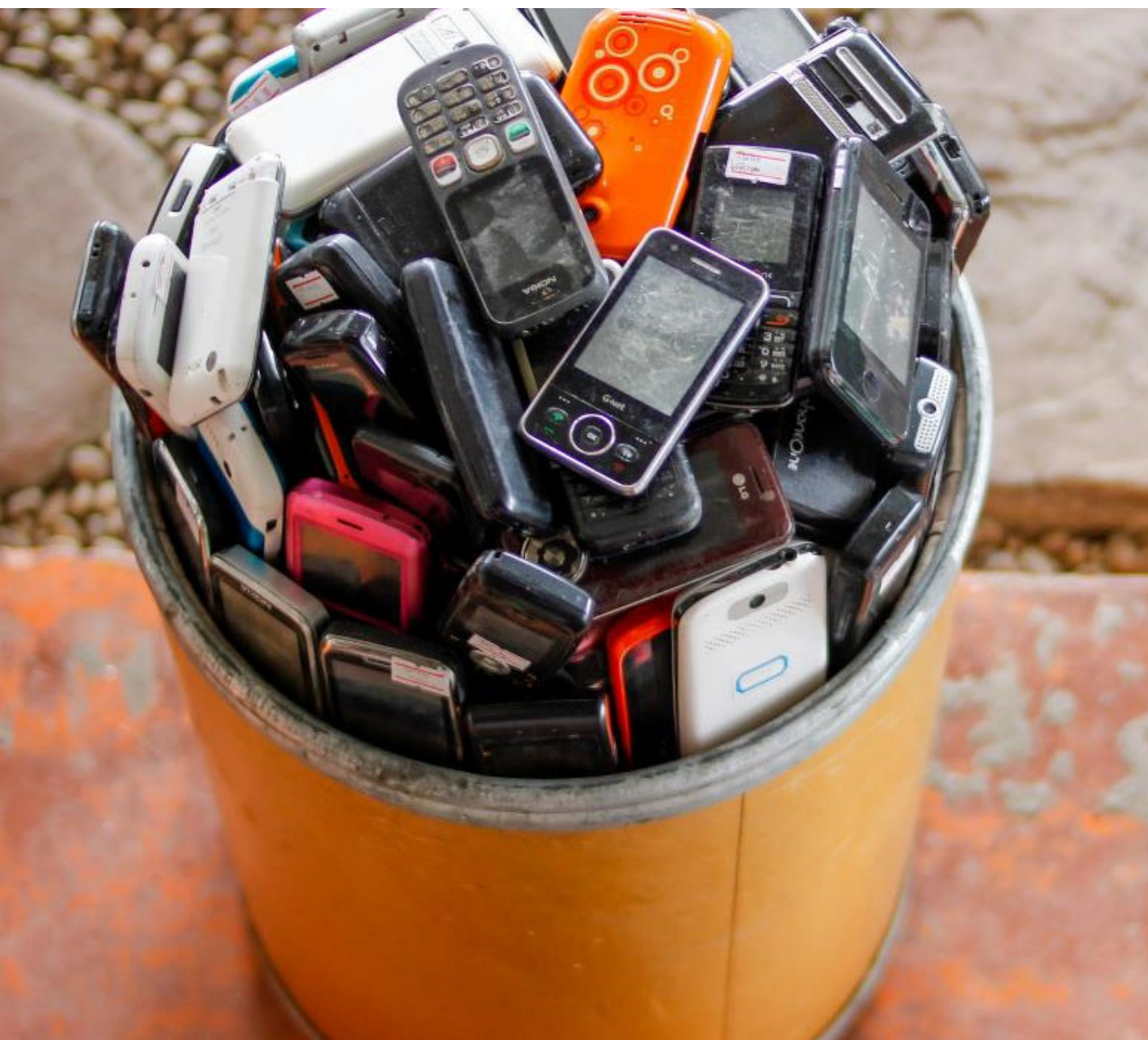
Conditions when used equipment is normally “not waste” (para 32)

- 32a. Equipment not destined for any of the operations listed in Annex IV of the Convention (recovery or disposal operations) and destined for direct reuse or extended use by the original owner for the purpose for which it was originally intended, and specific information supporting this is provided; or
- 32b. Equipment destined for failure analysis, or for repair and refurbishment with the intention of reuse or extended use by the original owner and all of the following conditions are met:
 - (i) accompanying form (Appendix III)
 - (ii) valid contract between the person arranging the transport and facility where the equipment is to be repaired, refurbished or undergo failure analysis
 - (iii) A declaration made by the person who arranges the transport of the equipment that none of the equipment within the shipment is defined as or is considered to be waste in any of the countries involved in the transport (countries of export and import and, if applicable, countries of transit);



Import/export of used EEE

- A party wishing not to allow the import or export of used electrical and electronic equipment destined for failure analysis, repair or refurbishment is fully entitled to do so provided that it complies with applicable international, regional and national legal instruments, and it should notify the Secretariat of the Basel Convention
- A party wishing to import used electrical and electronic equipment destined for failure analysis, repair or refurbishment should notify the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, in accordance with Articles 3 and 13 paragraph 2, as appropriate, that it does not consider such used equipment to be waste when destined for:
 - (a) Facilities that perform such operations in its country; or
 - (b) Facilities they have specifically identified, but not to any other facilities.



E-waste amendments adopted by COP-15 in 2022

- Enlarged the control of transboundary movements of e-waste and making all electronic and electrical waste subject to the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure.
- Become effective on 1 January 2025

E-waste amendments

- Amendment proposal made by Ghana and Switzerland
- Adopted amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX regarding e-wastes
- Non-hazardous e-wastes added to Annex II (“wastes requiring special consideration”)

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





Current classification of e-waste

ANNEX VIII

☐ **A1180** : Waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap containing components such as accumulators and other batteries included on list A, mercury-switches, glass from cathode-ray tubes and other activated glass and PCB capacitors, or contaminated with Annex I constituents (e.g. cadmium, mercury, lead, polychlorinated biphenyl) to an extent that they possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III (note the related entry on list B, B1110).

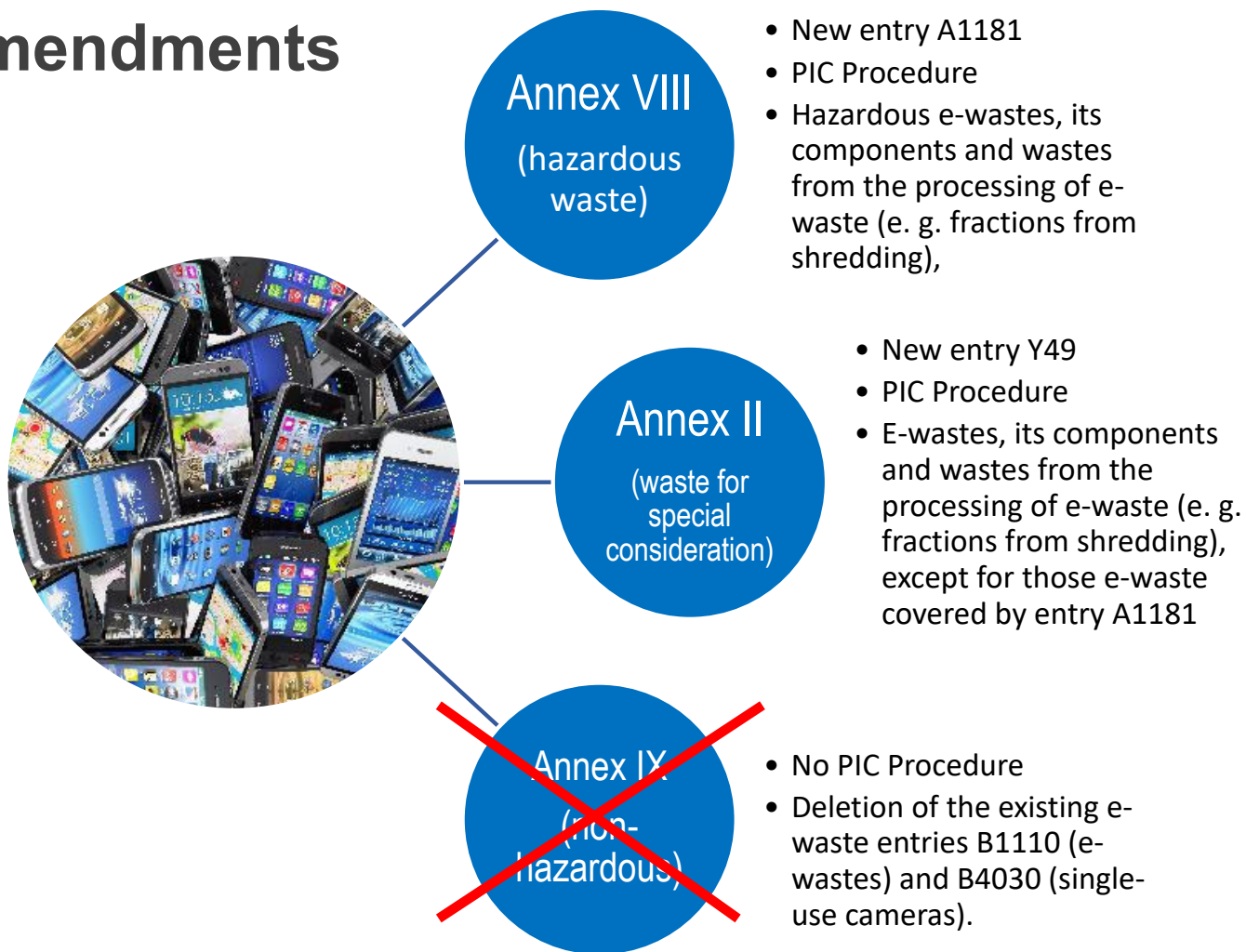
☐ Examples of other entries for hazardous e-wastes:

- **A1170**: unsorted waste batteries
- **A1190**: waste metal cables coated or insulated with plastics
- **A2010**: glass waste from CRT and other activated glass

Annex IX entries for non-hazardous e-wastes: B1110

- ☐ Electrical and electronic assemblies:
- ☐ Electronic assemblies consisting only of metals or alloys

E-waste amendments





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



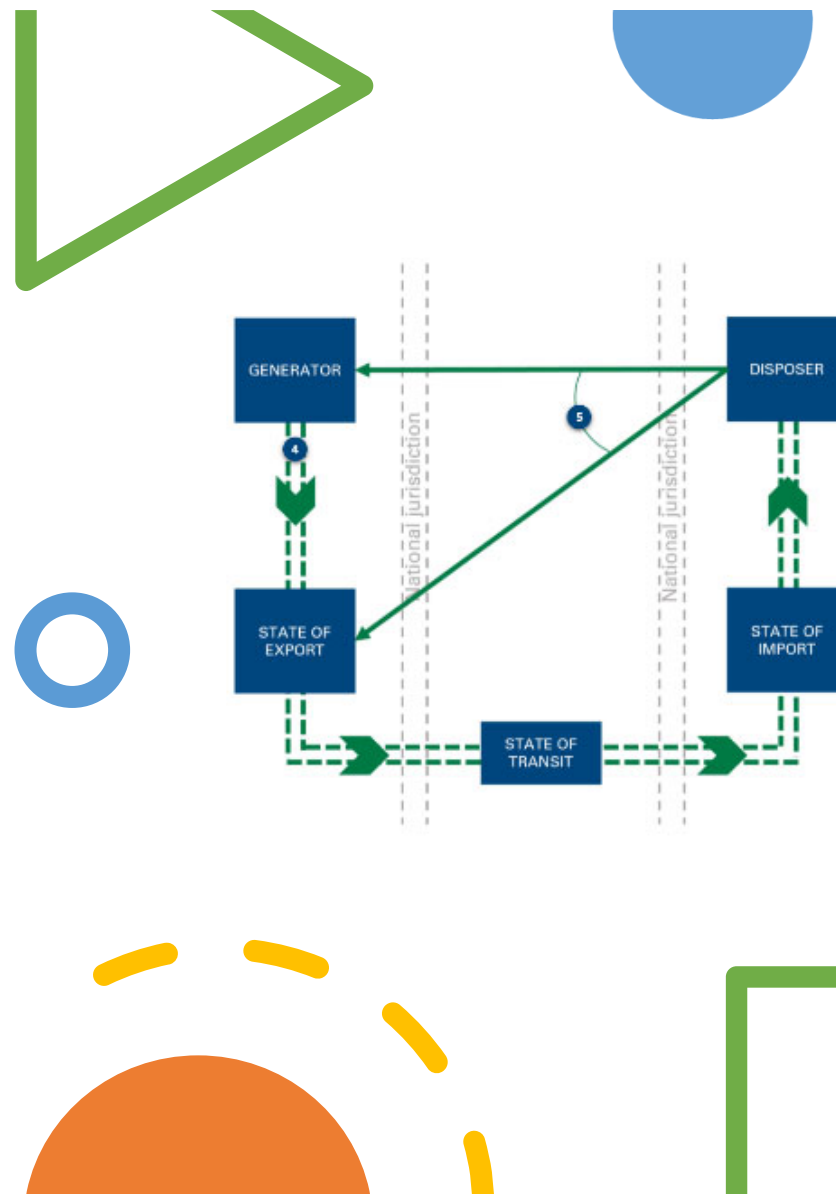
Projects selected

- ❑ Africa: BCRC Senegal,
- ❑ Africa BCCC Nigeria (Senegal and Nigeria respectively)
- ❑ Asia: BCRC Indonesia (Cambodia, Indonesia, Pakistan)
- ❑ Asia: BCRC China (in China and Asian region)
- ❑ CEE BCRC Slovakia (Moldova, Belarus)
- ❑ GRULAC: BCRC Trinidad and Tobago



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



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 that contains a globe of the Earth. The person is standing in a field of dark brown soil littered with various pieces of trash, including plastic bottles, crumpled paper, and other debris. The background is slightly out of focus, emphasizing the person and the globe. A large, semi-transparent yellow circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

**Thank you for your
attention!**

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