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## La ONU denuncia el comercio ilegal y vertido de residuos electrónicos

Cerca del 90 por ciento de los desechos o residuos electrónicos generados en todo el mundo acaban en redes de comercio ilegal o abandonados de forma inadecuada en vertederos o el medio natural, según el informe Waste Crime-Waste Risks publicado el 12 de mayo por el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) en el marco de la reunión en Ginebra (Suiza) de tres convenios internacionales sobre la gestión de residuos.



El estudio sostiene que el 90% de los desechos electrónicos están mal gestionados.

El informe presentado en Ginebra destaca que, "concentrados en la obtención de beneficios, los operadores son propensos a ignorar las regulaciones de residuos y exponer a los trabajadores a sustancias químicas tóxicas". "En una escala mayor, la delincuencia organizada puede estar utilizando los residuos electrónicos en el fraude fiscal y el blanqueo de dinero, ya que los volúmenes manejados no están registrados", indica el PNUMA.

La industria electrónica de consumo -una de las mayores del mundo y de mayor crecimiento- genera cada año unos 41 millones de toneladas de residuos, en aparatos usados como ordenadores o teléfonos inteligentes. La tendencia indica que esta cifra podría llegar a 50 millones de toneladas de residuos en 2017.

El nuevo estudio elaborado por GRID Arendal, centro asociado del PNUMA, indica que, dependiendo de los países afectados, entre el 60% y el 90% de los residuos generados en este sector se comercializan ilegalmente o se vierten de forma inadecuada.

La Organización Internacional de Policía Criminal (INTERPOL) estima que el precio de una tonelada de desechos electrónicos puede alcanzar los 450 euros. A partir de esta cifra se apunta la posibilidad de que el mercado ilegal de este tipo de residuos alcance cada año una cifra cercana a los 17.000 millones de euros.

En la presentación del nuevo estudio, el director ejecutivo del PNUMA, Achim Steiner, ha indicado que, "estamos siendo testigos de una cantidad sin precedentes de los residuos electrónicos que se generan en el mundo, y sólo una pequeña parte de ellos se recicla". "Esta gran montaña de residuos representa una amenaza creciente para la salud humana y el medio ambiente, debido a los elementos peligrosos que contiene", ha destacado Steiner.

El director ejecutivo del PNUMA considera que para hacer frente a este problema son imprescindibles una mayor cooperación internacional, fuertes regulaciones legales y la implicación de los autoridades locales.

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## BASURA SIN CONTROL



Los desechos electrónicos se están convirtiendo en un problema mundial de graves efectos sobre la salud humana y la naturaleza, ha dicho el responsable de la ONU para el medio ambiente, Achim Steiner, en la inauguración de la conferencia bienal sobre el manejo de químicos y residuos peligrosos.

Delegados de 180 países se reúnen desde este lunes y por dos semanas en Ginebra para adoptar decisiones relacionadas con la aplicación de tres convenciones internacionales que regulan el movimiento transfronterizo de desechos tóxicos, el comercio de químicos peligrosos y la eliminación de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

"Estamos frente a una estupidez económica porque tiramos gran cantidad de materias primas que se pueden volver a utilizar", comentó Steiner, quien recordó que entre microondas, televisores, ordenadores fijos, portátiles y teléfonos móviles, estos últimos contienen minerales que podrían reciclarse sin gran dificultad y crear empleos "verdes".

El secretario ejecutivo de las tres convenciones (de Basilea, de Rotterdam y de Estocolmo), Rolph Payet, explicó que al término de la conferencia se espera adoptar un documento con directivas sobre la gestión adecuada de desechos electrónicos.

En 2014 se arrojaron 41,8 millones de toneladas de productos eléctricos y electrónicos, principalmente dedicados a la cocina, al cuarto de baño y al lavado de ropa, una cantidad que Payet comparó con la carga de "1,15 millones de camiones de dieciocho ruedas".

A lo largo de la reunión también se buscarán acuerdos para tener una gestión coordinada y coherente de basura que contiene contaminantes orgánicos persistentes, es decir que no se degradan en la naturaleza, contaminan el suelo y el agua y, por esta vía, entran en la cadena alimentaria y al organismo de personas y animales.

Steiner explicó que tales sustancias -muchas de las cuales son utilizadas en la agricultura, en fertilizantes, pesticidas e insecticidas- pueden tener un grave impacto en el sistema endocrino.

"Vivimos en una época en la que los químicos están en todos lados y cada vez más dentro de nosotros", alertó.

El representante de la ONU comentó que el riesgo que suponen esos químicos queda en evidencia con la cifra de un millón de muertes ocupacionales, provocadas por su manejo en distintas actividades y concentradas en la actividad agrícola.

El objetivo de las convenciones que estarán bajo revisión en los próximos días no es prohibir en todos los casos el uso de las sustancias nocivas, pero sí garantizar que se utilicen de tal modo que se reduzca su impacto negativo y que los países pobres no terminen siendo su destino final.

Asimismo, se intenta transmitir a la industria el mensaje de que se necesita desarrollar productos alternativos a aquellos que está ampliamente demostrado que son tóxicos.

Actualmente, existen al menos 100.000 sustancias químicas cuyo impacto para la salud o el medio ambiente -en la gran mayoría de casos- nunca ha sido evaluado, a pesar de lo cual son ampliamente utilizadas en todo tipo de industrias y "forman parte de nuestra vida física y económica", recalcó Steiner.



## Presentan guía para proteger a los niños de los plaguicidas

25 de mayo de 2015

La Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) junto a la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) desarrollaron una guía ilustrada para reducir la exposición de niños a los **plaguicidas** tóxicos utilizados en la agricultura.



Fotografía: Plaguicidas/FAO

Y es que según datos de la OIT, casi 100 millones de niños y niñas entre 5 y 17 años están sometidos al trabajo infantil en la agricultura, de los cuales muchos se exponen directamente a químicos tóxicos cuando realizan labores agrícolas.

Pero eso no es todo, ya que la FAO indica que los niños también están expuestos cuando ayudan con las tareas de la familia, juegan en los campos, y a través de los alimentos y el agua que consumen.

La preocupación de las organizaciones internacionales radica en que los niños son mucho más sensibles a los **plaguicidas** que los adultos, cuya exposición puede llevar al envenenamiento agudo, haciendo que se enfermen inmediatamente después del contacto.

No obstante, cabe señalar que en muchos casos esto tiene consecuencias a más largo plazo, pudiendo llegar a transformarse en enfermedades crónicas que afecten su salud y desarrollo.

Así, limitar el uso de **plaguicidas** y promover alternativas no tóxicas se ha convertido en una tarea clave para reducir la exposición, donde la educación es igualmente crucial.

De esta manera, la iniciativa –que consiste en una guía visual- llamada *¡Proteja a los niños de los plaguicidas!*, (*Protect children from pesticides!*) proporciona una herramienta de formación fácil y accesible para los niños y sus familias.

Esta ayuda a los agentes agrícolas de extensión, educadores rurales, inspectores laborales, y a las organizaciones de productores, a identificar y minimizar los riesgos en el hogar y en el campo. También aprenden a reconocer y responder a los signos de exposición a sustancias tóxicas, indica FAO.

“La guía -de fácil manejo- cuenta con tres módulos principales: cómo están expuestos los niños a los **plaguicidas**, cuáles son los riesgos para su salud -y por qué los niños son especialmente vulnerables-, y qué se puede hacer para reducir esos riesgos”, detalla el sitio.

“La herramienta fue desarrollada inicialmente en Malí, donde ahora es ampliamente utilizada por los agentes de extensión, las escuelas de campo para agricultores, inspectores del trabajo y las organizaciones de productores”, explicó Rob Vos, director de la División de Protección Social de la FAO.

“Su uso también se está expandiendo en Níger y otros países africanos. Estamos viendo un creciente interés de otras regiones. La guía no sólo está concientizando de que hay que hacer algo, sino que también muestra lo que hay que hacer”, añadió.

Actualmente, la guía está disponible en varios idiomas (inglés, francés, portugués, español y próximamente en ruso), y además se adapta a diferentes contextos regionales, incluyendo Europa oriental, el Cáucaso y Asia Central, América Latina y el Caribe, y Asia-Pacífico.

En relación a lo anterior, es importante señalar que el esfuerzo para adaptar la guía ilustrada y promover su uso es apoyado el Convenio de Rotterdam, un tratado multilateral para promover la responsabilidad compartida en relación con la importación de productos químicos peligrosos. Asimismo, la Secretaría de la convención es ejercida de forma conjunta por la FAO y el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA).

“Este es un buen ejemplo de cómo la labor normativa de una convención puede contribuir a alcanzar a los grupos más vulnerables y mejorar algo sus vidas”, señaló Christine Fuell, coordinadora de la FAO para el Convenio de Rotterdam.

“Las coloridas ilustraciones se basan en el conocimiento local y se refieren a situaciones muy concretas y reales, con lo que también atraen a los niños, aumentando su propia conciencia de los riesgos que plantean los **plaguicidas**”, detalló.

Y es que los niños poseen características biológicas y de comportamiento que los hacen más susceptibles al efecto de los químicos. Respiran más aire que los adultos y por lo tanto aspiran más polvo, vapores tóxicos, y gotas de la pulverización. Asimismo, los niños tienden a comer más –en relación a su peso- lo que facilita que ingieran alimentos con mayor cantidad de toxinas.

“Todos estos factores pueden llevar a una mayor absorción de productos químicos, y los órganos de los niños son menos capaces de eliminar los **plaguicidas** debido a que aún no están completamente desarrollados”, destaca el manual.

Conference to Address Threats of E-waste, Toxic Chemicals - Herald Globe

# Herald Globe

International News & Information Service

## Conference to Address Threats of E-waste, Toxic Chemicals

VoA - News Tuesday 5th May, 2015



GENEVA - Over the next two weeks, 1,500 representatives from 180 countries will seek ways to reduce risks from hazardous chemicals and waste through the sustainable management of these potentially life-threatening substances.

Participants of the conference, which opened Monday in Geneva, also will seek ways to strengthen three international Conventions that together form the basis for addressing these global environmental problems.

The Basel Convention is the most comprehensive international environmental agreement on hazardous and other waste. The Rotterdam Convention deals primarily with the safe international trade of industrial chemicals and pesticides. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain in the environment for long periods.

Every two years, parties to these Conventions gather to examine new threats and agree on new guidelines and measures for better protecting people from existing and evolving hazardous substances.

One of the big issues confronting this year's conference is, what the executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, Achim Steiner, calls a tsunami of e-waste unfolding and rolling out over the world. He says electronic waste is now a very significant part of the world's economic footprint.

He warns that failure to recycle the mountains of electronic waste from cell phones, laptops, microwaves and numerous other products is potentially hazardous to humans and the environment.

"This is under the Basel Convention one of the focal issues of how to deal with electronic waste, which is now a very significant part of our, first of all economic footprint, but more important of our non-recycled waste mountain and because of the content in a great deal of these electronic pieces of equipment, also potentially hazardous to people and the environment," says Steiner.

In 2001, the Stockholm Convention listed 12 of the most toxic persistent organic pollutants. These so-called Dirty Dozen POPs traveled widely throughout the world and accumulated in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, with harmful impacts on human health and the environment.

Since then, 11 more chemicals have been added to the Convention's list of toxic substances. Participants at the Geneva meeting are expected to list three more highly toxic POPs to the Stockholm Convention.

The World Health Organization reports three million people are poisoned by pesticides every year and that 20,000 of them die, most in developing countries. The Rotterdam Convention has an important role to play in informing people about the dangers of pesticides and how to get rid of those that are obsolete because of the dangers they pose to humans.

The meeting will debate the need to phase out the use of DDT, which continues to be used in many developing countries to control malaria. DDT causes a wide range of serious health problems in humans, including breast and other cancers.

Participants at the meeting are expected to signal to the market that alternatives to DDT and other harmful pesticides are urgently needed.



# Belgium



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Notícias



## Wereld dumpst elk jaar 41 miljoen ton elektronisch afval

Elk jaar wordt 41 miljoen ton e-waste geproduceerd, waarvan tot 90 procent illegaal verhandeld en gedumpt wordt. Uit cijfers van de VN blijkt dat de handel jaarlijks goed is voor 12 tot 19 miljard dollar.

IPS . 13 mei 2015



Verwacht wordt dat de totale hoeveelheid aan afgedankte smartphones, computers en televisietoestellen tegen 2017 zal stijgen tot 50 miljoen ton. Naar schatting 60 tot 90 procent van

dat afval wordt illegaal verhandeld of gedumpt, stelt het VN-milieuagentschap UNEP in het rapport [Waste Crime](#).

Naar schatting 60 tot 90 % elektronisch afval wordt illegaal verhandeld of gedumpt

De internationale politieorganisatie Interpol schat de prijs van een ton e-waste op ongeveer 500 dollar (445 euro). De waarde van het jaarlijks illegaal verhandelde of gedumpte afval schommelt dan ook tussen 12,5 en 18,8 miljard dollar.

‘We zijn getuige van een nooit geziene hoeveelheid elektronisch afval dat zich over de wereld verspreidt’, zegt UNEP-directeur Achim Steiner. ‘Die e-waste vormt niet enkel een groot deel van de groeiende afvalberg in de wereld, maar ook een groeiende bedreiging voor de volksgezondheid en het milieu, door de gevaarlijke elementen die het afval bevat.’

### **Tweedehands**

De grootste producenten van e-waste zijn momenteel Europa en Noord-Amerika, maar Aziatische steden zijn aan een snelle inhaalbeweging bezig. Afrika en Azië zijn de belangrijkste bestemmingen. In Afrika springen Ghana en Nigeria eruit, in Azië vooral China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India en Bangladesh.

Toch is de uitvoer van gevaarlijk afval uit EU- of Oeso-landen naar ontwikkelingslanden wettelijk verboden. Daarom worden duizenden tonnen e-waste onterecht bestempeld als tweedehands goederen en vervolgens geëxporteerd naar ontwikkelingslanden. De vaak incompatibele wetgeving tussen oorsprong- en bestemmingslanden draagt bij aan de onduidelijkheid over wat nu gevaarlijk afval is en wat niet.

Volgens Steiner ligt de oplossing bij internationale samenwerking, afstemming van de wettelijke kaders, sterkere nationale regelgeving en een groeiend bewustzijn en preventie. ‘Dat creëert een win-win situatie, waarbij zeldzame en dure materialen op een veilige manier gerecycleerd en hergebruikt kunnen worden, terwijl de economie een boost krijgt, er niet langer geld vloeit naar criminelen en het gezondheidsrisico voor de bevolking vermindert.’

## **NEWEUROPE**

### **Masses of electronic waste are building up around the world**

By Karafillis Giannoulis



Masses of non-recyclable electronic waste (e-waste) are building up around the world and a UN official stressed the need for international community to find a solution.

The head of the United Nations body tasked with setting the global environmental agenda stressed the need to limit the use of dangerous chemicals and to find a solution for the e-waste issue.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told journalists that the “tsunami of e-waste rolling out over the world” not only accounted for a large portion of the world’s non-recyclable “waste mountain” but also needed dealing with because many elements found in electronic equipment are potentially hazardous to people and the environment.

“Never mind that it is also an economic stupidity because we are throwing away an enormous amount of raw materials that are essentially re-useable,” said Steiner. “Whether it is gold, silver or some of the rare earths that you have heard about perhaps in recent years, it is still an incredible amount.”

Steiner stressed that such materials are used in production of various items and becoming more and more present in people’s daily lives. People were becoming “increasingly a repository for the chemical footprint of the 21st century,” often in ways that damage health, he stressed.

“Annually, one million people die from occupational poisoning,” Steiner said, referring to the effects of the use of chemicals on people’s bodies. “This is something that is, in this day and age, not only unnecessary it’s really intolerable. And this is why the sound management of chemicals is something that has brought Governments, civil society but also the private sector and the chemical industry together.”

According to the UN, the Executive Secretary of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Rolph Payet, echoed Steiner’s concerns about the number of people dying from occupational poisoning and described the wide reach of chemicals, with DDT found in polar bear and fat because of its transport in water and in the air.



## Le commerce illégal de déchets électroniques rapporte 17 milliards d'euros par an

[Le Vif](#)

12/05/15 à 18:34 - Mise à jour à 18:34

Source : Belga

Des organisations criminelles engrangent chaque année de par le monde quelque 17 milliards d'euros grâce au commerce illégal de déchets électroniques, ressort-il d'un rapport publié mardi par le programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (Unep).



© Reuters

Quelque 20.000 enfants sont en contact avec de tels déchets dans les décharges où ils travaillent et sont donc exposés à des gaz toxiques. L'Unep exhorte dès lors la communauté internationale à



prender des mesures contre le commerce illégal dans ce secteur. Selon les estimations, les déchets produits annuellement par l'industrie électronique atteindront annuellement 50 millions de tonnes en 2017, contre 41 actuellement, et une grande partie d'entre eux ne peuvent souvent pas être recyclés.

Jusqu'à 90 pc des déchets électroniques sont traités illégalement, peut-on lire dans le rapport intitulé "Waste Crime - Waste Risks: Gaps in Meeting the Global Waste Challenge".

Par ailleurs, ce secteur pose également d'autres problèmes. Ainsi, les composants toxiques contenus dans ces déchets constituent un danger pour l'environnement et la santé, notamment pour les enfants qui travaillent dans les décharges, explique le directeur de l'Unep, Achim Steiner, qui appelle la communauté internationale à prendre des mesures en la matière.

La majorité des déchets se trouvent en Afrique (Ghana, Nigeria, République démocratique du Congo et Côte d'Ivoire) et en Asie (Chine, Inde, Pakistan et Bangladesh). Elles traitent principalement des déchets en provenance des Etats-Unis et d'Europe.



## **Avaliado em US\$ 19 bi, lixo eletrônico gera 41 milhões de toneladas por ano**



Especialistas dizem que, até 2017, a quantidade de lixo eletrônico deve chegar a 50 milhões de toneladas

Foto: [Anna Vignet](#)

O Programa das Nações Unidas para o Meio Ambiente (Pnuma) alertou que o [lixo eletrônico](#) descartado pela indústria do setor ameaça a saúde humana e a natureza.

O diretor-executivo da agência da ONU, Achim Steiner, afirmou que "o mundo está testemunhando uma quantidade sem precedentes de lixo eletrônico".

De acordo com um novo relatório do Pnuma sobre o assunto, a indústria do setor gera, por ano, 41 milhões de toneladas de lixo eletrônico de produtos como computadores e telefones celulares.

E a situação deve piorar nos próximos anos. Os especialistas dizem que, até 2017, a quantidade de lixo eletrônico deve chegar a 50 milhões de toneladas.

Segundo Steiner, isso representa não só grande parte da montanha de lixo não reciclável global, mas também, uma ameaça à saúde das pessoas e ao meio ambiente, devido aos elementos tóxicos contidos no material.

Mercado global desse tipo de material, indo desde a coleta até a reciclagem, movimentou US\$ 410 bilhões por ano

Aproximadamente 90% desse material, avaliado em US\$ 19 bilhões, o equivalente a R\$ 56 bilhões, é ilegalmente vendido ou descartado anualmente.

#### **Interpol**

A Interpol calcula que o preço da tonelada de lixo eletrônico esteja por volta de US\$ 500. Várias ações para combater o problema estão sendo aplicadas em alguns países.

O relatório do Pnuma cita a retirada de metais e de outros materiais de dentro dos produtos eletrônicos, que podem ajudar a reduzir o lixo produzido, diminuir a pressão sobre o meio ambiente e também gerar empregos e renda.

A agência da ONU diz que o mercado global desse tipo de material, indo desde a coleta até a reciclagem, movimentou US\$ 410 bilhões por ano.

#### **Maiores produtores**

Os maiores produtores de lixo eletrônico do mundo, segundo o Pnuma, são a Europa e a América do Norte, com a Ásia se aproximando rapidamente.

Já a Ásia e a África são os maiores destinos desse material descartado. Os países que mais recebem o lixo eletrônico são Gana, Nigéria, Costa do Marfim e República do Congo. Ainda na lista estão China, Hong Kong, Paquistão, Índia, Bangladesh e Vietnã.

*(Por Edgard Júnior, da Rádio ONU)*



#### **Agência da ONU alerta contra aumento de lixo eletrônico**

por [kelcardoso](#), fonte [Opovo](#), data 19 Mai 14:10

Aparelhos velhos exportados ilegalmente dos países industrializados contaminam o [meio](#) ambiente e intoxicam populações de nações em desenvolvimento. Montanha global de detritos ganha 42 milhões de toneladas a cada ano.

Televisores fumegantes, geladeiras, rios contaminados fazem parte do cotidiano das pessoas em Agbogbloshie. O bairro da metrópole Accra, em Gana, se tornou símbolo do impacto do consumo global de eletrônicos.

Os [trabalhadores](#), a maioria jovem, usam pneus de borracha e placas de espuma de geladeiras velhas como material combustível para derreter cobre e outros metais encontrados nos aparelhos. "Podemos dizer que a expectativa de vida dessas pessoas diminuiu significativamente", diz Matthias Buchert, do Instituto de Ecologia Aplicada de Darmstadt, Alemanha.

Devido aos gases tóxicos liberados pela queima dos aparelhos, o Instituto Blacksmith, dos Estados Unidos, incluiu Agbogbloshie, de 40 mil habitantes, na lista dos 10 lugares mais poluídos do [mundo](#). Segundo as autoridades ganenses de proteção ambiental, 250 mil moradores das cercanias são afetados pela poluição.

#### **Tsunami do lixo**

Um estudo do Programa de Meio Ambiente das Nações Unidas (Pnuma) comprovou situações similares em outras cidades da África e da Ásia. "Estamos diante de um tsunami de lixo eletrônico sem precedentes", compara o diretor do Pnuma, Achim Steiner, durante o lançamento do relatório Waste crimes, waste risks (Crimes de lixo, riscos do lixo).

Na África, os países mais afetados são Gana, Nigéria, Costa do Marfim e República Democrática do Congo. Na Ásia, a China, Índia, Paquistão e Bangladesh são os maiores destinos de aparelhos descartados ilegalmente.

A ONU estima que a montanha de lixo eletrônico global cresce quase 42 milhões de toneladas anualmente. Como é crescente demanda por eletrônicos, a organização teme que até 2017 esse número

aumento em outros 10 milhões de toneladas.

#### Bênção e maldição

Agbogbloshie é estação final de dispositivos eletrônicos. Antes que de acabar lá, eles passam por vários intermediários, que ganham um bom dinheiro. O Pnuma avalia em cerca de 17 bilhões de euros o faturamento obtido com transferência e exploração de lixo eletrônico em todo o mundo.

"Não devemos esquecer que estes dispositivos são uma importante fonte de renda para muitas centenas de milhares de pessoas", ressalta Matthias Buchert. Há muitos anos ele estuda a cadeia de abastecimento de sucata eletrônica. "Temos nesse negócio pessoas muito experientes e qualificadas, que pegam televisões, celulares e computadores para consertar e reutilizar."

Para muitos, os dispositivos reconicionados são os únicos que têm meios para adquirir. O problema surge quando os aparelhos não são mais reparáveis. "Faltam, então, estruturas básicas para eliminação e reciclagem dos dejetos", lembra Buchert. A consequência são pilhas de lixo fumegantes, como as de Agbogbloshie, em Gana.

#### Muito lixo da Alemanha

A Alemanha é um dos maiores produtores de sucata eletrônica. Cada alemão produz uma média de 21,6 quilos de dejetos eletrônicos por ano em Gana, essa quantidade é de apenas 1,4 quilo. Embora a exportação de dispositivos eletrônicos defeituosos seja proibida, cada vez mais navios carregados com lixo eletrônico deixam os portos alemães. O Pnuma calcula que "até 90% do lixo eletrônico global seja eliminado e negociado ilegalmente".

Por isso, a entidade pede que os governos imponham proibições a esse tipo de exportação. "Isso não é uma tarefa fácil e requer pessoal suficiente e bem treinado", comenta Buchert. Há alguns anos, ele estudou o embarque de dispositivos defeituosos no porto de Hamburgo.

"Carros e caminhões velhos são abarrotados de dispositivos eletrônicos. Mas também são carregados contêineres inteiros", diz, acrescentando ser muito difícil descobrir o que é lixo e o que ainda está funcionando.

#### Soluções alternativas

O ministro alemão do Desenvolvimento, Gerd Müller, admitiu, durante uma visita a Agbogbloshie, que a Alemanha tem uma parcela de responsabilidade pelas consequências ambientais e de saúde: "A maioria dos aparelhos eletrônicos descartados na Europa, também da Alemanha, vem parar aqui, legal e ilegalmente."

Em março, o governo da Alemanha formulou um projeto de lei que inverte o ônus da prova.

Exportadores de eletrônicos têm que provar que os produtos são realmente úteis. "Uma simples declaração de que o aparelho funciona não é mais suficiente", informa Buchert. A lei ainda precisa ser aprovada por ambas as câmaras do parlamento alemão.

As autoridades também consideram outras soluções para reduzir o lixo eletrônico. Uma delas prevê que no ato da compra se pague um depósito sobre o aparelho, a ser devolvido quando o consumidor se desfizer dele num estabelecimento autorizado. O sistema seria semelhante ao já adotado para garrafas e latas, por exemplo.

por [kelcardoso](#), fonte: [Opovo](#)

[Avalie esta notícia](#)

## Notícias

08/05/2015

09:30:14

### ONU alerta sobre risco do lixo eletrônico e uso indiscriminado de produtos químicos

Agência da ONU para o Meio Ambiente destacou a necessidade de limitar a utilização de produtos químicos perigosos e de encontrar uma solução para as massas de lixo eletrônico se acumulando ao redor do mundo.

O chefe do Programa das Nações Unidas para o Meio Ambiente (PNUMA), Achim Steiner, salientou na última segunda-feira (04) a necessidade de limitar a utilização de produtos químicos perigosos e de encontrar uma solução para a massa de lixo eletrônico que se acumula ao redor do mundo.

O diretor participa da Conferência das Partes sobre as três principais convenções sobre o tema, que acontece em Genebra. Aos jornalistas, Steiner mostrou sua preocupação com o “tsunami de lixo eletrônico” que invade o mundo.

Esta “montanha de resíduos” não só representa uma grande parcela de produtos não-recicláveis, mas também apresenta perigos para a população e para o meio ambiente. Por isso, ressalta o diretor, é preciso lidar com os elementos encontrados em equipamentos eletrônicos.

Grande parte dos elementos do lixo eletrônico poderiam ser reutilizados, mas a falta de conhecimento sobre o descarte apropriado exacerba este problema. Chamando de “mineração urbana”, Steiner explicou que a quantidade de minerais que se encontram em celulares, computadores e outros aparelhos eletrônicos ultrapassam muitas vezes a quantidade existente em jazidas subterrâneas.

Sobre o uso de substâncias químicas, Steiner reforçou que as três convenções não têm a intenção de impedir o seu emprego, mas proteger aos cidadãos de intoxicação e enviar um sinal claro aos mercados que alternativas são necessárias.

“Anualmente um milhão de pessoas morrem por intoxicação química”, disse Steiner. “É algo que nos dias de hoje, não é apenas desnecessário, mas é realmente intolerável. E por isso que a gestão segura de químicos é algo que aproximou os governos, a sociedade civil e o setor privado e a indústria química.”

Informe da ONU Brasil publicado pelo Portal EcoDebate

## Canada



## China



# Colombia



# Croatia



## Russia helps block export restriction on asbestos



In this Nov. 23, 2013 photo, a worker covers his face with a handkerchief as he sees people photographing him and his coworker handling asbestos sheets at the Ramco Industries Ltd. factory in Bhojpur district of Bihar state, India. (AP / Saurabh Das)

Nina Larson, AFP

Published Saturday, May 16, 2015 1:18PM EDT

GENEVA - Four countries including Russia have blocked a bid to add chrysotile asbestos to a list of dangerous substances subject to export restrictions, participants at a UN meeting in Geneva said Saturday.

Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Zimbabwe opposed listing the mineral also known as white asbestos, which health experts say causes cancer, on the Rotterdam Convention list, according to groups attending the Geneva meeting that wrapped up Saturday..

The 1998 Rotterdam Convention restricts trade in chemicals by obliging exporters to ensure that destination countries have been fully informed about the risks involved and have given an explicit green light for imports.



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Civil society groups and unions calling for chrysotile's inclusion on the list voiced outrage that the fifth attempt in a decade to do so had been blocked.

"The failure to list chrysotile asbestos means millions of exposed workers will stay ignorant of its deadly dangers," said Brian Kohler, head of health, security and sustainable development for the IndustriALL Global Union.

"Countries that support the listing must be more aggressive in preventing the Rotterdam Convention from remaining a farce," he told AFP in an email.

The Rotterdam Convention requires full consensus by all signatory members, meaning a single country can block a bid to list a new substance.

The World Health Organization says "cancer risks have been observed in populations exposed to very low levels" of asbestos, including chrysotile

The Geneva meeting did manage to add the insecticide methamidophos to the list, according to conference organisers, but failed to list a range of other chemicals, including the pesticide paraquat, which studies have linked to Parkinson's disease.

The question of whether or not to list chrysotile asbestos and the other chemicals where consensus was not reached will likely be raised again at the next conference on the Rotterdam Convention in 2017.

Alexandra Caterbow, the co-coordinator of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance organisation, warned the meeting that delaying the listing of chrysotile would have dire consequences.

### 'Death sentence'

"Every year you do not list, thousands and thousands of people will be exposed to this substance, which means their death sentence," she told the conference.

According to the World Health Organization, at least 107,000 people die each year from asbestos-related cancers and lung diseases such as asbestosis and mesothelioma.

While other types of asbestos have long been acknowledged to be hazardous to health, chrysotile is still widely used, especially as an inexpensive ingredient in building materials used in developing countries.

Around two million tonnes of chrysotile asbestos is produced each year, with the industry and a number of nations that produce or use the substance maintaining it is safe.

But WHO says "cancer risks have been observed in populations exposed to very low levels" of asbestos, including chrysotile.

About 125 million people are exposed to asbestos at work, according to WHO, mainly in mines, factories and on construction sites.

Workers' families can also be exposed through the dust on clothes, and building materials in homes can continue to be a source of exposure for decades.

Sharad Sawant, a 75-year-old former asbestos worker at a Turner and Newall asbestos factory in Mumbai, came to Geneva to lobby for listing chrysotile, after he and his wife both were diagnosed with asbestosis.

"My children know I'm suffering and that their mother is suffering," he told reporters through a translator, voicing concern his adult children and even grandchildren may have been exposed.

"This is the fault of the asbestos company," he said.

India has long vehemently opposed adding chrysotile to the Rotterdam Convention list, but did not in the end join the four countries officially opposing its inclusion.

The number of countries opposing listing chrysotile has been shrinking in recent years.

Past efforts to do so were long stymied by Canada, a major producer, but the government withdrew support for the industry in 2012.

And this year, activists were pleased to see that Brazil, another chrysotile producer, backed listing the substance.



## Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et Rotterdam

Par Rédaction AFP Relaxnews



Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam.

Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam lors d'une conférence internationale qui s'est achevée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi à Genève sans parvenir à un consensus sur l'amiante blanc.

Cette conférence sur les produits chimiques et les déchets dangereux, qui a réuni pendant deux semaines quelque 1 200 personnes venues de 171 pays, a ajouté à la convention de Stockholm

qui régit les polluants organiques persistants trois substances qui posent de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement.

Il s'agit des naphthalènes polychlorés, de l'hexachlorobutadiène, et du pentachlorophénol.

Le méthamidophos, insecticide extrêmement toxique qui peut avoir de graves effets sur les systèmes nerveux, immunitaire et reproductif a quant à lui été ajouté à la Convention de Rotterdam, consacrée au commerce de produits chimiques dangereux.

Des directives techniques concernant les déchets électroniques ont également été adoptées dans la Convention de Bâle, qui porte sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux.

Ces directives doivent permettre de comprendre comment identifier les déchets électroniques et équipements usagés qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le recyclage des équipements électriques et électroniques.

Selon le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques sont échangés ou déversés illégalement, pour des montants évalués entre 12,5 et 18,8 G\$ par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.

Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le paraquat et l'amiante chrysotile, qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente réunion en 2013.

L'amiante chrysotile, également appelé amiante blanc, matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, est associé notamment à certains cancers.

Le paraquat est quant à lui un produit chimique utilisé dans la production d'herbicide, qui peut provoquer la mort dans les 30 jours après l'ingestion du produit. Il est interdit dans l'Union européenne et en Suisse.

Quatre pays – la Russie, le Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan et le Zimbabwe – se sont opposés à l'ajout de l'amiante chrysotile dans la convention de Rotterdam, selon des participants qui n'ont pas caché leur mécontentement après cinq tentatives infructueuses en l'espace d'une décennie.

Selon l'OMS, plus de 107 000 décès par an sont attribuables à une exposition professionnelle à l'amiante. Bien que plusieurs formes d'amiante soient depuis longtemps considérées comme dangereuses pour la santé, l'amiante chrysotile reste largement utilisée comme ingrédient bon marché dans les matériaux de construction dans les pays en développement.

«Cet échec pour l'ajout de l'amiante chrysotile signifie que des millions de travailleurs qui y sont exposés vont continuer d'ignorer ses dangers mortels», a déclaré Brian Kohler, directeur de la

santé, de la sécurité et du développement durable au sein du syndicat IndustriALL Global Union, dans un courriel adressé vendredi à l'AFP.



### 三国际公约搭建化工科学发展平台

危险化学品、剧毒农药、危险废料、持久性有机污染物等有害化学品如果处置不当会给生态环境和人类健康带来极大的威胁，因此对其监管一直受到世界各国的普遍重视。多年来，国际社会对这些物质采取的环境保护行动也在不断进步，一个以环境公约为手段的多边、多层次的全球环境治理体系正在趋于完善。

作者：呼跃军 来源：[中国化工报](#)

### 践行绿色承诺行业责任重



为保证装置区重大危险源处于受控状态，四川天华股份有限公司制定了严格的职业健康安

全和环

保管理标准，要求工艺车间、检修单位、安全及消防管理部门各司其职，落实到人，对生产装置重大危险源进行定期监测，并认真做好记录，以杜绝各类环境污染责任事故。图为四川天华安全管理人员正在装置区巡检。（黄贵春 摄）

危险化学品、剧毒农药、危险废料、持久性有机污染物等有害化学品如果处置不当会给生态环境和人类健康带来极大的威胁，因此对其监管一直受到世界各国的普遍重视。多年来，国际社会对这些物质采取的环境保护行动也在不断进步，一个以环境公约为手段的多边、多层次的全球环境治理体系正在趋于完善。5月4~15日，《鹿特丹公约》、《巴塞尔公约》、《斯德哥尔摩公约》（以下简称三公约）缔约方180多个国家代表会聚瑞士日内瓦，共同探讨了如何进一步管理危化品等物质。此次会议传递出哪些重要信息？作为三公约的缔约国，我国化工企业履约难点在哪儿？化工企业应当怎样为践行绿色承诺出力？中国化工报记者就此进行了采访调查。

### 管理：从摇篮到坟墓

“此次大会对三公约的具体内容进行了细致地完善，并就下一步如何加强监管含有持续性有机污染物的废物提出技术指南建议。会议强调了三公约不是禁止化学品，而是提供科学平台，降低化学品的负面影响。对化学品实施使用限制，是向企业 and 市场发出信号，尽快找到安全替代产品。”内蒙古科技大学资源与环境学院副院长李继林教授如是说。

据李继林教授介绍，巴塞尔、鹿特丹和斯德哥尔摩公约生效时间分别为1992年、2006年、2004年，经过多年的发展，涵盖了对危化品等物质实行“从摇篮到坟墓”管理的主要环节，即从它们生产诞生、使用，直至无害化处理完成的全过程。其中，前两个公约是针对危化品、某些农药、危险废料的贸易和处理处置的，斯德哥尔摩公约则是针对所谓持久性有机污染物（POP）的，即化学性能稳定，自身不会分解因而会对环境产生持久性影响的有害物质。三公约制定出了国际法律框架，采用一系列的管理措施来控制特定的化学品，为发展中国家建立自己的化学品管理体系提供了参考。同时，通过执行公约，在发达国家所提供的技术、信息和资金支持下，发展中国家可以不断提高其危化品管理能力，防止由于危化品监控不力而导致恶性污染事故的发生。

李继林说，危化品等物质管理处置不当是世界人口五大死亡原因之一，每年造成超过100万人的死亡案例以及1400万人寿命缩短。目前，全球市场

上正在销售的大约14万种化学品中，我们只对很少部分的化学品进行了健康安全和环境影响的评估。联合国环境署统计数据 displays，一些发展中国家企业排放的硫酸、盐酸、氨和硫化氢等无机化学品，以及甲醛、乙醛、苯乙烯、甲苯等有机化学品普遍被直接释放大气中。同时，这些国家向地表水排放的污染物包括硝酸亚硝酸盐混合物、氨和锰等无机化学品，以及甲醇、乙二醇、苯酚、甲苯和甲醛等有机物。此外，约有80%美国制造的电子垃圾，75%的欧洲电子垃圾下落不明，表明化学品的生产、使用和处置从发达国家持续向新兴国家和发展中国家转移的风险正在加剧。

尽管近年来，世界范围内“从摇篮到坟墓”的三公约监管实施成效明显，但一位与会专家向记者透露，许多国家在会上也提出了批评意见，他们认为公约所确立的原则和实质性操作并没有新的突破，长期以来协议的“自愿性”弱化了缔约国的责任和义务。而公约的存在和执行主要取决于是否能够筹集到足够的和可以预期的资金。由于资金的提供是自愿的，对发展中国家来说，主要技术援助的资金来源还是无法预料并且是杯水车薪，尤其是发达国家要向发展中国家提供履约所需要的额外资金不能保证。究其根源在于发达国家与发展中国家之间的意见分歧，如责任义务的分担、资金和技术转让、能力建设等。由于发展水平上的巨大差异，发达国家凭借其在政治、经济、技术上的优势，往往在制度规则上起着主导作用，而发展中国家总是处于不利的从属地位而被“边缘化”。

### 履约：三大难点突出

在谈及我国三公约履约压力时，国务院发展研究中心研究员胡瑞平告诉记者，我国是三公约的共同缔约方，也是世界化学品生产和使用大国，历来高度重视化学品监管，近几年已经逐步将化学品管理纳入到国家社会和经济发展战略，先后颁布了新的《环保法》、“水十条”和“大气十条”等多个环保治理法律法规，在加强本国化学品治理能力的同时，还广泛开展并参与相关的国际公约合作。

胡瑞平指出，作为发展中国家，中国的履约能力还有待提高压力很大，存在的主要突出难点有3个：其一是尚有大量化学物质的危害特性还未明确和掌握。我国现有生产使用记录的化学物质约4万多种，其中3000余种已列入《危险化学品名录》，具有毒害、腐蚀、爆炸、燃烧、助燃等性质。可是在数十种已被三公约列为严格限制和需要逐步淘汰的物质中，还有小部分没有厘清评估，这些物质往往具有急性或者慢性毒性、生物蓄积性、不易降解性、致癌致畸致突变性等危害。在我国经济高速发展的背景下，化学品的生产使用量和贸易量持续增加，化工行业突发环境事件频繁发生，持久性有机污染物等引起的环境损害与人体健康问题日益显现，化学品环境风险防控形势日趋严峻。

其二是危化品绿色环保生产技术制约。我国化工行业产值世界第一，现有规模以上化工企业近3万多家。生产企业数量多、布局分散，生产技术管理法规标准不健全，落后工艺装备仍占相当大的比例，安全环保投入不足，大宗原料和产品中，80%以上属于危化品，危险源数量多而散。比如农药行业，我国虽然是农药生产大国，但产品多为不受专利保护的环保性较差的普通农药，很多受到三公约限制，而绿色农药关键技术依然掌握在发达国家，国外技术壁垒高筑。目前世界上经常使用的高效低毒低残留农药中，中国生产不足200种，中国产量最高的21种农药大多是高毒农药。其中年产量最大并呈上升趋势的是甲胺磷、久效磷、对硫磷、甲基对硫磷等多种高毒农药，占到总产量的四分之一以上，而且这4种高毒农药已被联合国粮农组织和环境规划署限制或禁用。由此，这也对中国的农产品国际贸易制造了障碍。此外，还有诸多关键技术亟待开发，比如持久性有机污染物削减与替代共性技术、生活垃圾医疗废弃物焚烧阻滯二恶英产生成套技术与装备开发、染料和焦化废水中POPs污染物削减工程化技术与示范、污染控制协同技术及技术标准和规范等等。

其三是风险管理水平落后，较三公约要求尚有差距。我国化学品环境风险管理较为薄弱，法规制度、监督监管、基础能力尚不能适应形势发展要求，缺乏足够的基础设施来监控和使用这些物质，化学品环境风险防控能力和防控水平亟待提升。比如农药、医药、染料、纺织和精细化工等行业尚未实施有效的特征化学污染物污染防治和环境监测，全氟辛烷磺酸盐、溴化阻燃剂等公约认定的持久性有机污染物尚未纳入管理范围，目前国内仍在生产和使用部分公约已禁止或严格限制的危化品。此外，由于监管力度不够，污染频发。比如在长江下游已监测出大量有毒有机污染物，三峡库区水域中曾检测出难降解有机污染物170余种，其中有18种属于美国环保署优先控制污染物名单所列物质；天津海河段等地区底泥沉积物中也能检测出滴滴涕等持久性有机污染。



为做好夏季危化品的安全生产等工作，红日阿康在近期开展危险化学品储存和外来车辆大

检查，从操作规程、工艺指标到危化品装卸标准都进行了更加严格的规定，并增设专人巡检制度。（李从容 摄）

### 践行：多管齐下寻突破

环保部污染防治司相关负责人在接受记者采访时表示，国际社会为促进三公约的协调合作及提高效率作出巨大努力，也采取了积极措施。例如，成立联合秘书处、召开联席会议、制定共同规则和开展合作活动等，协同进程取得了实质性的进展。但这些措施远远不够，仍需各方继续共同努力，还应坚持“协同是手段、增效是目的”的理念，确保承认和尊重各公约的法律独立性，允许缔约方有根据本国国情和优先事项采取适当行动的灵活性，并在其职责范围内寻找为化学品和废物管理集资的途径。

这位负责人说，践行三公约的绿色承诺，技术和资金是争论的焦点，关键是解决对包括中国在内的发展中国家的先进技术转让和资金支持问题。在三公约中，只有斯德哥尔摩公约有正式的资金机制，即全球环境基金。欧盟等发达地区国家强调综合融资，即从各个渠道集资，特别是在各国内部集资。发展中国家则认为最主要的是应实施斯德哥尔摩公约所规定的有关原则，特别是发达国家要向发展中国家提供履约所需要的额外资金和先进技术。

我国如何践行绿色承诺？在胡瑞平与李继林等专家看来，需要采取多管齐下的强有力手段：第一是突破危化品绿色生产技术瓶颈，推动三公约中指定污染类物质的淘汰、削减和控制，开发有毒化学品的安全替代品，加强对废料的循环利用等行动。加大对危化品行业安全技术、工艺、装备和产品研发的投入，提升关键技术和装备。重点改造光气化、电解、氯化、硝化、合成氨、裂解裂化、氟化、加氢、重氮化、氧化、过氧化、胺基化、磺化、聚合、烷基化等15种危险工艺。同时完善检验检测技术，推进《全球化学品统一分类和标签制度》（GHS）实施进程，建立国家危化品基础数据库，积极推动GHS在我国的全面实施。

第二是完善环境管理基础信息，摸清风险底数。完善危化品环境管理登记制度，制定重点环境管理危化品清单，建立化学品生产和使用种类、数量、行业、地域分布信息数据系统，重大环境风险源种类、数量、规模和分布数据系统，有毒有害化学污染物质的排放数量和污染数据系统，化学物质转移状况、受影响的生态物种和人群分布情况数据系统。实施重点工程计划，开展典型区域水体、大气、土壤等介质中高环境风险化学品环境基本信息调查；在环境保护重点区域开展特征污染物类重点防控化学品排放类型、数量和分布调查；开展环境敏感地区化学品环境污染场地调查、无害化管理与修复试点等。



## 加强合作实现履约

第三是按照三公约倡议改进化学品管理的关键方法。化学品管理要全面纳入到国家社会和经济计划中，形成系统的方法和评估手段，监控化学品风险及其对环境和健康的影响；还需要整合机构，避免多个机构共同承担责任，导致行动分散、无效；增加利益相关方，生产商、制造商和进口商应该是化学品管理的第一线，在和政府共同制定政策中发挥积极的作用；政府应制定预防性政策，注重防范风险，提倡更安全的替代品，而不是仅仅补救危害；吸引投资，强化能力建设，充分利用本国及公约协议国际经济援助资金，促进创新、使用更安全的化学品。

业内专家还指出，践行三公约绿色承诺，在供应链的各个阶段减少有害化学品，改善化学品的管理是向低碳、资源节约型和包容性的绿色经济过渡的关键环节。我国正在加强与国际组织机构及相关国家的交流与合作，积极引进、消化、吸收先进理念和管理经验，促进国外先进技术转让。随着我国履行三公约进程的推进，有效限制或禁止某些对我国生态环境和人民身体健康危害严重的化学品进入中国国门将成为常态。通过多边机制解决可能出现的双边贸易问题，我国化学品进出口秩序进一步规范。利用公约建立的资料交流机制，还可以及时了解其他国家禁用化学品的科学、技术、经济等方面信息，弥补中国基础研究和管理体系的不足，降低科研和管理成本。



先进技术的使用是确保安全环保生产的关键。宁夏金昱元化工集团有限公司采用世界领先水平的离子膜烧碱工艺装备，不但实现了污水达标排放，还彻底杜绝了过去隔膜法工艺氯气泄漏事故现象发生。图为公司操作工细心观测运行数据。

### 相关评论

环保部化学品登记中心专家毛岩：履行三公约是一个艰巨而复杂的任务，是一个不断推进、在实践中不断探索的发展进程。一些危化品关键技术仍然掌握在发达国家手中，发达国家会以技术和能力建设为诱饵，用经济和贸易制裁手段施压，迫使诸如我国这样的发展中国家承担更多的义务。当然，公约间的整合和协同也会给我国带来益处，如提升我国化学品和危险废物的管理能力，特别是推动建立和完善国内公约履约协调机制，这对有效履约是具有实际意义的。公约的整合也可优化我国现阶段复杂纷乱的化学品管理体制，建立全生命周期的化学品管理体系，使我国化学品管理更具有合理性、科学性。

工信部赛迪智库工业经济研究所张厚明博士：面对不断涌入的电子垃圾给我国生态环境和国民健康带来的严重危害，我国必须从法律制度建设、经济发展思路与战略调整、电子废弃物体系化管理，以及加强国际合作等主要方面着手，积极行动，采取多管齐下的强力应对措施，全力阻止国外电子垃圾的大量涌入。例如，由于美国至今尚未批准加入《巴塞尔公约》，可以考虑尽早与美国签订关于危险废弃物的进出口协定。重点加强我国与广大发展中国家之间的合作，以集体的力量共同应对发达国家制定的不合理条款，使国际规则的制定充分考虑发展中国家的实际情况和发展阶段，符合发展中国家的合理要求。

内蒙古发展研究中心研究员李强：随着全球经济一体化，我国逐渐加入并履行了一系列国际公约，如《联合国气候变化框架公约》、《斯德哥尔摩公约》、《鹿特丹公约》、《巴塞尔公约》，还有处于谈判期的国际汞公约等。这些公约的履约对化工行业“十二五”、“十三五”期间的环境保护工作提出了新要求，如为积极应对气候变化，我国政府提出了到2020年，单位GDP二氧化碳排放降低40%~45%的目标，这必然对化工行业的产业结构调整和节能减排工作带来新的压力。中国在发展经济，改善环境质量，履行国际环境公约中，得到了一些国际组织和许多友好国家的支持和帮助，但我们希望发达国家向发展中国家在提供新的、额外的资金和转让环境无害技术方面，能够拿出更多的诚意，迈出更大的步伐，提供更加有效的帮助和合作。这才是扭转国际社会在合作解决全球环境问题上一再受挫的被动局面的关键所在。

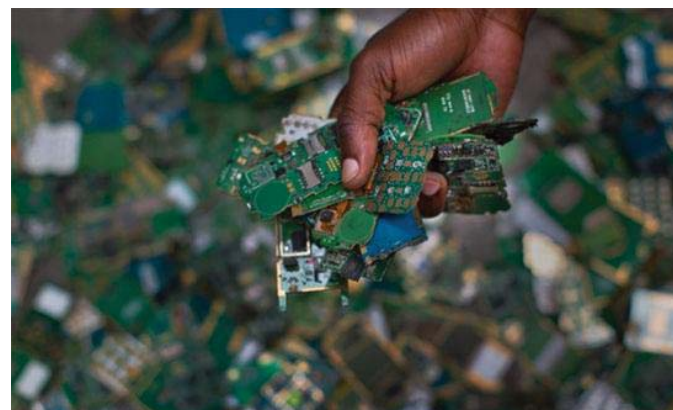
内蒙古科华利化工有限公司总经理齐放：合理使用农药，减轻对人体健康和环境的损害，首先需要评估某种农药对环境和健康造成的风险，但大多数国家并不具备这样的基础设施和技术能力。《鹿特丹公约》规定了出口商向进口国提供该类化学品的资料，但是仅仅限于海关编码、名称标签、安全贮存等事项，并没有要求出

口国提供相关技术指导，协助进口国家评估危害风险、采用合理使用方法、补救污染损害等。同时，《鹿特丹公约》还要求发达国家向发展中国家提供技术援助，以提高这些国家在化学品整个生命周期内对其进行管理的基础设施水平和能力。然而，相关技术掌握在发达国家的私营部门，受到知识产权保护。如果没有资金机制的支持，发达国家提供技术援助的承诺是不可能兑现的，发展中国家就很难具备评估进口农药的危害。至于开发替代产品和技术，就更没有可能了。因此，建立公约的资金机制，已经成为避免该公约成为一纸空文的关键所在。

往期专题



联合国称全球90%电子垃圾被非法倾销  
2015-05-18 15:51:00



图释：手机电路板就是联合国环境规划署所称的“前所未有的电子垃圾潮”中的一员。

据英国《卫报》报道，联合国环境规划署近日在日内瓦发表报告称，全球每年有高达90%的电子垃圾被非法交易或倾销，其总价值约为190亿美元(1美元约合6.2元)。

报告指出，目前全球每年产生4100万吨电子垃圾，其中废弃的电脑和智能手机占了相当大的比重。预计到2017年全球电子垃圾总量将增长到5000万吨。

联合国大学在上月发表的报告也显示，2014年被扔弃的4200万吨电子垃圾给全球经济造成了520亿美元的损失。

虽然《巴塞尔公约》规定，禁止欧盟和经合组织成员国（Organization for Economic Co-operation and development，简称OECD）向非经合组织成员国出口危险废物，但联合国环境规划署表示

## 全球電子垃圾貿易“繁榮”依舊

鉅亨網新聞中心 （來源：新浪財經） 2015-05-22 08:15:00

聯合國環境規劃署(unep)在日前發布的一份報告中警示，發展中國家是全球電子垃圾非法傾倒的主要地點。智能手機等廢棄電子產品給環境和居民都帶來了嚴重危害，現在更有犯罪團伙參與到電子垃圾交易之中。

報告顯示，全球約六到九成的電子垃圾在發展中國家堆積如山，或是通過非法走私網絡銷往各地，涉案金額高達數十億美元。

([內文詳見新浪網](#))

，每年依然有数千吨电子垃圾以二手商品的名义从发达国家流向发展中国家。例如将废电池谎报为塑料或混合金属废品，或是将阴极射线管和电脑显示屏描述成金属废品。

加纳、尼日利亚、中国、巴基斯坦、印度和越南等亚非国家正逐渐沦为非法电子垃圾的回收站。

联合国环境规划署警告说，数量激增的电子垃圾、城市垃圾、食品垃圾、废弃化学物和杀虫剂均会对环境和经济产生重大影响。此外，各垃圾出口国也因垃圾转移流失了大量珍贵资源，如稀土金属、铜、金等。而在垃圾进口国，由于垃圾处理技术和条件相对较差，极易对当地人的健康造成威胁。

联合国环境规划署希望各国能完善电子垃圾相关立法，加强执法力度，并采取措施提高电子垃圾中有价金属和其它资源的回收率。

联合国副秘书长、环境规划署执行主任阿希姆 施泰纳(Achim Steiner)说：“我们正面临电子垃圾大潮席卷全世界的局面。”

他说：“通过增加国际合作及立法一致性、强化国家法规和提升执法力度、提高公众相关意识并采取良好预防措施，我们确信能够遏制电子垃圾的非法交易和倾销的势头。这将促成双赢的局面，一方面可以安全回收利用稀有元素和贵金属，振兴经济，另一方面可以使违法者无利可图，进而减少公众的健康隐患。”（编译 马晓舫）

编辑：小微



联合国环境规划署（UNEP）：电子垃圾贸易猖獗

2015-5-25 22:46:40

来源:[环球网](#) 作者:

原标题：联合国环境规划署（UNEP）：电子垃圾贸易猖獗

联合国环境规划署（UNEP）在日前发布的一份报告中警示，发展中国家是全球电子垃圾非法倾倒的主要地点，智能手机等废弃电子产品给环境和居民都带来了严重危害，现在更有犯罪团伙参与到电子垃圾交易之中。

报告显示，全球约六到九成的电子垃圾在发展中国家堆积如山，或是通过非法走私网络销往各地，涉案金额高达数十亿美元。

这种状况与《巴塞尔公约》背道而驰，该公约的主要目的是控制危险物的国际交易。

在缺乏完善的设备的情况下，拆除废旧电子产品中的铜、铅和塑料等零部件不仅给周边地区的空气、土壤和水造成污染，还会使本就身处极度危险环境中的拆卸工人面临更大的健康隐患。

UNEP报告显示，目前电子工业每年产生4100万吨的电子垃圾，而这一数字最快到2017年就可能增加到5000万吨。

### 监管漏洞

电子垃圾非法交易大多秘密进行，规模难以确定，但报告估计其交易额每年至少在190亿美元以上。

各国对电子垃圾进出口管理标准设定不一，这不仅为打击非法交易制造了难题，也使得非正规市场红火发展。

### 建议

UNEP在报告中给出了一些解决策略，包括监测电子垃圾的贸易路线和制定严格的保障措施防止犯罪行为等，这些措施将需要发达国家和发展中国家的共同参与。

UNEP还提到，各国不但应加强执法力度，还应紧密合作起来，鼓励安全遣返非法走私货物，同时推动制定国际协议。

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## 三公约缔约国大会召开

发布时间：2015-05-14 19:32:58 | 来源：新民网 | 作者：佚名 | 责任编辑：徐忠彪

本报综合报道 《关于控制危险废物越境转移及其处置的巴塞尔 公约》、《关于在国际贸易中对某些危险化学品和农药采用事先知情同意程序的鹿特丹 公约》和《关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩 公约》缔约国大会5月4~15日在日内瓦举行，来自全球180 个国家的政府、民间社会和非政府组织以及企业和国际组织代表在为期两周的时间里，就全球废物管理技术指南等议题进行讨论。

《巴塞尔 公约》、《鹿特丹 公约》和《斯德哥尔摩 公约》就保护人类的身体健康和生存环境免遭危险化学品和危险废物的危害提供了一系列控制措施。联合国环境规划署执行主任施泰纳在3个《 公约》 缔约国会议 5月4日开幕当天举行的记者会上指出，应建立良好的化学品和废物国际治理框架，以减少人们遭受这些物品所带来的危害，防止过去百年来由于大量引进某些化学品而导致严重后果等悲剧的发生。

施泰纳指出，这三项《 公约》不是禁止化学品，而是提供科学平台，向决策者和民众以及环境提供保护，使其免遭毒性物质的侵害，减少化学品的负面影响。

此次大会旨在对3个 公约 的内容进行进一步完善，并对含有持续性有机污染物的废物管理提供技术指南。

## 全球电子垃圾贸易高速增长 中国大陆受害严重

(博讯北京时间2015年5月19日 转载)

联合国环境规划署近日在日内瓦发表报告称，全球每年有高达90%的电子垃圾被非法交易或倾销。中国大陆在这一污染环境的电子垃圾贸易中，扮演越来越重要的角色，深受电子垃圾之害。

海外环保网站《中外对话》日前发文说，联合国环境规划署最新的报告显示，目前全世界每年有60%到90%的电子垃圾流向发展中国家。一些不法商人通过地下走私渠道非法交易电子垃圾，从中牟取数十亿美元的暴利。这些行为违反了《巴塞尔公约》有关禁止欧盟和经合组织成员国向非经合组织成员国出口危险废 物的规定。

报告说，在中国大陆，尤其是珠江三角洲地区仍然是全球电子垃圾的主要目的地。去年，欧盟环境法实施与执行网络（IMPEL）执法行动项目的一项调查显示，中国珠江三角洲的电子垃圾达到全球发展中国家电子垃圾总量的56%。与此同时，加纳、尼日利亚、巴基斯坦、印度和越南等国家也逐渐沦为世界非法电子垃圾的回收站。

中国河南民间环保人士霍岱珊周一晚间接受自由亚洲电台记者电话采访时表示，近年来，中国的消费者制造越来越多的电子垃圾，同时，中国还从国外进口大量洋垃圾。他说，

“就是把来自于发达国家的电子垃圾，集中到一个地方进行拆解，然后把铝、铜、铅分开、回收、进行冶炼。”

霍岱珊表示，珠江三角洲地区有很多小作坊，设备简陋条件恶劣，他们回收拆除废弃电子产品中的铜、铅、塑料和值钱的零部件，在造成严重环境污染的同时，也危害作坊工人以及周边居民的健康。他说，

“电子垃圾不规范拆解应该取缔，要么这个企业升级规范起来，要么取缔。比如冶炼铅，空气中会弥漫含铅的蒸汽，升在一米多的位置，会造成儿童血铅超标。”

美国南卡州立大学教授谢田也表示，不符合环保要求私下拆解电子垃圾，会给工人健康造成严重威胁。由于中国大陆的“环保法”徒有虚名，“劳工法”又不完善，此类问题难以引



起当局的重视。他说，

“拆解电子垃圾是一部分，中国的拆船业，也存在同样的环境污染的问题。拆船的工人和拆解电子垃圾的工人一样，也会暴露在有害物质之下。这实际上和中国环保法实施有关，中国目前环境污染那么严重，但是环保法却很完善。究其原因，是因为中国徒有法典，却没有实施。”

报告指出，中国大陆有13亿人口，人们生活水平在提高，对电子产品的需求不断增加。近年来电子产品因大规模生产，价格低廉，产品寿命短，电子垃圾数量惊人。截至2014年年底，中国大陆移动通讯用户超过10亿，他们中很多人不断更新手机，产生电子垃圾。2006年，中国大陆大约产生170万吨电子垃圾，到2015年，预计将上升到540万吨。这意味着电子垃圾将成为中国大陆的一个主要环境污染源，会有更多的电子垃圾被运往其它不发达的西非洲。

谢教授认为，一方面，中国大陆这些运往西非的电子垃圾会严重污染非洲的环境；另一方面，会有不法商贩利用电子垃圾以次充好，影响产品信誉。他说，

“比如有些旧的电子产品会运去重新利用，比如发达国家淘汰的电脑，运去那里会重新用。”

联合国环境规划署警告说，全球数量激增的电子垃圾、城市垃圾、食品垃圾、废弃化学物和杀虫剂都会对生态环境和经济活动造成重大损害。垃圾出口国也会因垃圾转移，流失大量宝贵资源，如稀土、金属、铜、金等。在垃圾进口国，由于电子垃圾处理技术和条件相对较差，因此产生的污染物极易威胁当地人的健康。

联合国环境规划署敦促各国完善管控电子垃圾的相关立法，加强环保执法力度，同时采用先进技术，提高电子垃圾中有价金属和其它资源的回收率。

来源：自由亚洲电台 (博讯 [boxun.com](http://boxun.com))



大陸已淪為全球電子垃圾的主要傾銷地  
北京時間: 2015-05-20 07:54:42

Read more at: <http://big5.soundofhope.org/node/627611>



電子垃圾處理現場（網路圖片）

Read more at: <http://big5.soundofhope.org/node/627611>

【希望之聲2015年05月20日訊】近日,聯合國環境規劃署發表報告稱,目前全球電子垃圾中有60%--90%流向發展中國家。而中國珠三角地區的電子垃圾總量則佔全球發展中國家的56%,已成為全球電子垃圾的主要傾銷地。

根據《巴塞爾公約》,歐盟和經合組織成員國不能向非經合組織成員國出口危險垃圾。但一

些不法商人為了牟取暴利,利用走私進行非法交易。聯合國環境署報告稱,有90%的電子垃圾交易都是非法的,而中國大陸卻在這會造成環境污染的,而且是非法的交易中,正扮演著越來越重要的角色。

另外,中國大陸除非法進口電子垃圾外,自身還在不斷的產生新的電子垃圾,而且速度相當驚人。聯合國環境署估計,2015年中國大陸將產生540萬噸電子垃圾。

電子垃圾 (Electronic waste, e-waste or e-scrap) 中除含有一些有價值的材料外,還同時含有大量的有毒成分。若在回收和循環再利用的過程中處理不當,會對周圍的環境造成嚴重的污染,而且對人體健康的危害也非常大。

大陸雖有“環保法”和“勞工法”,但卻形同虛設。目前,大陸已有部分地區深受其害。如:有“電子垃圾第一鎮”之稱的廣東省汕頭市潮陽區貴嶼鎮,許多兒童都患有“鉛中毒”。貴嶼鎮現已成為“血鉛鎮”和“癌症區”,被外界稱為“全球最毒地”。

另外,大陸的一些無良商人還把電子垃圾運到西非,污染那裡的環境。大陸正在成為電子垃圾的集散地。

文編:文清

責編:安娜

Read more at: <http://big5.soundofhope.org/node/627611>

## 格林美牵手亚太区域中心 拓展金属回收市场

[www.jctrans.com](http://www.jctrans.com) 2015-5-13 11:17:00

**导读:**格林美午间公告,公司与巴塞尔公约亚太区域中心签署关于巴塞尔公约亚太区域金属资源回收伙伴关系计划的倡议和关于巴塞尔公约亚太区域金属资源回收伙伴关系计划合作备忘录。

格林美午间公告,公司与巴塞尔公约亚太区域中心签署关于巴塞尔公约亚太区域金属资源回收伙伴关系计划的倡议和关于巴塞尔公约亚太区域金属资源回收伙伴关系计划合作备忘录。

根据协议,亚太区域中心将发起亚太地区金属资源回收伙伴关系计划,由公司提供支持。双方将建立区域范围的金属资源回收信息共享平台;搭建以典型金属为核心的3R信息中心;开展资源回收示范项目,促进技术进步;选择典型企业,建立综合性教育示范基地,进行先进经验推广和信息交流;打造资源回收利用技术转移平台;设立资源回收奖项,推动资源回收领域的技术创新和改革;建立金属回收和资源管理的高层次人才培养网络。

亚太区域中心全称“联合国环境规划署巴塞尔公约亚洲太平洋地区培训和技术转让区域中心”,是根据《控制危险废物越境转移及其处置巴塞尔公约》缔约方大会第三次会议的决定于1997年成立运行,是全球14个巴塞尔公约区域和协调中心之一。亚太区域中心兼具促进巴塞尔公约和斯德哥尔摩公约区域履约的职责,协助区域内的发展中国家和经济转型国家实现两公约的各项目标,核心职能包括培训、技术转让、提供信息、咨询服务和宣传活动,目前已逐渐形成了化学品和废物管理政策和技术研究、能力建设、信息交换等优势领域,在国际范围内有着较大的影响力。

公司表示,此次合作备忘录的签订,进一步提升公司以金属资源回收为主导的再生资源回收利用在国际上的影响力,促进公司有效建立再生资源回收利用的大数据体系,为公司全面提升金属资源回收技术水平提供有力保障、为公司培养再生资源回收利用的高层次人才提供强大的平台支撑。

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## 电子垃圾贸易繁荣依旧

2015-05-25 08:32:27 来源：网络

[分享到：QQ空间新浪微博腾讯微博微信](#)

联合国环境规划署(UNEP)在日前发布的一份报告中警示，发展中国家是全球电子垃圾非法倾倒的主要地点，智能手机等废弃电子产品给环境和居民都带来了严重危害，现在更有犯罪团伙参与到电子垃圾交易之中。

报告显示，全球约六到九成的电子垃圾在发展中国家堆积如山，或是通过非法走私网络销往各地，涉案金额高达数十亿美元。

这种状况与《巴塞尔公约》背道而驰，该公约的主要目的是控制危险物的国际交易。

在缺乏完善的设备的情况下，拆除废旧电子产品中的铜、铅和塑料等零部件不仅给周边地区的空气、土壤和水造成污染，还会使本身就处极度危险环境中的拆卸工人面临更大的健康隐患。

在中国南部地区和非洲西部地区，随处可见类似车库的小作坊，这些小作坊雇佣成千上万的工人拆卸废旧电子产品以取出值钱零部件。现在，电子垃圾的数量正与日俱增。

UNEP报告显示，目前电子工业每年产生4100万吨的电子垃圾，而这一数字最快到2017年就可能增加到5000万吨。

UNEP执行主任阿希姆·施泰纳在一份声明中说道：“我们正在见证电子垃圾以史无前例的速度侵占全球。”

监管漏洞

电子垃圾非法交易大多秘密进行，规模难以确定，但报告估计其交易额每年至少在190亿

美元以上。

各国对电子垃圾进出口管理标准设定不一，这不仅为打击非法交易制造了难题，也使得非正规市场红火发展。

有规定要求经合组织成员国不得向非成员国出口危险物品。报告认为，这项禁令催生了电子垃圾的非法交易。

报告中提到了电子垃圾进口国在打击非法走私方面做出的努力，比如中国在2013年发起的“绿篱”行动，但此类行动一般只会导致走私网络开辟新的走私路径。

一般来说，电子垃圾倾倒或走私的目的地国家的环保法规或执法力度较为薄弱。装箱货运时，严禁出口的废旧电子产品被故意贴上其他标签，比如电池被贴成了“塑料”或“废旧五金”。

亚洲

亚洲地区的电子产品消费正不断增长，并将逐渐赶超经合组织成员国。这意味着未来很可能有越来越多的危险品被运往工资水平更低、环保标准更宽松的非洲国家。

欧盟环境法实施与执行网络(IMPEL)去年的调查显示，流入发展中国家的电子垃圾中有56%都进入了中国，尤其是珠三角地区，从而令中国成为电子垃圾的主要“中心”之一。其他“中心”还包括孟加拉国、科特迪瓦、加纳、香港、印度、尼日利亚、巴基斯坦、刚果共和国和越南。

中国现在自己也制造了大量电子垃圾。流入不正规的小作坊的电子垃圾数量通常要高于正规回收点。

中国有13亿人口，随着国内生活水平的提高，制造业的迅速发展，大批廉价、使用寿命短的电子产品被制造出来。即便大部分电子垃圾被运往西非贫困国家，中国国内生产的电子垃圾也会对本国环境构成巨大威胁。

近十年来，有不少来自非洲的中间商在中国南方收集电水壶、电动剃刀、洗衣机之类的二手商品，然后再转运到加纳和尼日利亚等国。



## 联合国称全球90%电子垃圾被非法倾销

2015-05-20 08:22 来源：网络 [试用手机平台](#) [资讯监督](#)

据英国《卫报》报道，联合国环境规划署近日在日内瓦发表报告称，全球每年有高达90%的电子垃圾被非法交易或倾销，其总价值约为190亿美元(1美元约合6.2元)。

报告指出，目前全球每年产生4100万吨电子垃圾，其中废弃的电脑和智能手机占了相当大的比重。预计到2017年全球电子垃圾总量将增长到5000万吨。

联合国大学在上月发表的报告也显示，2014年被扔弃的4200万吨电子垃圾给全球经济造成了520亿美元的损失。

虽然《巴塞尔公约》规定，禁止欧盟和经合组织成员国（Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development，简称OECD）向非经合组织成员国出口危险废物，但联合国环境规划署表示，每年依然有数千吨电子垃圾以二手商品的名义从发达国家流向发展中国家。例如将废电池谎报为塑料或混合金属废品，或是将阴极射线管和电脑显示屏描述成金属废品。

加纳、尼日利亚、中国、巴基斯坦、印度和越南等亚非国家正逐渐沦为非法电子垃圾的回收站。

联合国环境规划署警告说，数量激增的电子垃圾、城市垃圾、食品垃圾、废弃化学物和杀虫剂均会对环境 and 经济产生重大影响。此外，各垃圾出口国也因垃圾转移流失了大量珍贵资源，如稀土金属、铜、金等。而在垃圾进口国，由于垃圾处理技术和条件相对较差，极易对当地人的健康造成威胁。

联合国环境规划署希望各国能完善电子垃圾相关立法，加强执法力度，并采取措施提高电子垃圾中有价金属和其它资源的回收率。

联合国副秘书长、环境规划署执行主任阿希姆·施泰纳(Achim Steiner)说：“我们正面临电子垃圾大潮席卷全世界的局面。”

他说：“通过增加国际合作及立法一致性、强化国家法规和提升执法力度、提高公众相关意识并采取

截至2014年底，中国市场手机保有量已超过10亿部。随着产品的更新换代，这些手机将被逐渐淘汰。

2006年，中国生产出约170万吨的电子垃圾。预计到2015年，这一数字将增长到540万吨。

建议

UNEP在报告中给出了一些解决策略，包括监测电子垃圾的贸易路线和制定严格的保障措施防止犯罪行为等，这些措施将需要发达国家和发展中国家的共同参与。

UNEP还提到，各国不但应加强执法力度，还应紧密合作起来，鼓励安全遣返非法走私货物，同时推动制定国际协议。

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良好预防措施，我们确信能够遏制电子垃圾的非法交易和倾销的势头。这将促成双赢的局面，一方面可以安全回收利用稀有元素和贵金属，振兴经济，另一方面可以使违法者无利可图，进而减少公众的健康隐患。”



## Do you know up to 90% of Electronic Waste is disposed of illegally?

May 18, 2015 02:02 GMT **Source:**[scrap register](#)

Tags: [e-waste](#), [scrap base metals](#)

UNITED STATES May 17 2015 9:00 AM

A recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), between 60 and 90 percent of all e-waste is disposed of illegally. That means that of the 41.8 million tons of e-waste generated globally last year, anywhere from 25 to 37 million tons were just dumped. But how? There are strict controls in place for what can go into a landfill, and while there may be an occasional slip-up, developed countries are usually pretty good about keeping it separated.

The answer, of course, lies in the method of disposal – illegally. Proper recycling of e-waste costs money. Improper dumping of e-wastes costs significantly less money. So, in the name of profit, the waste is shipped out to developing countries in Asia and Africa where regulations either aren't as strict, or aren't there at all. Even the United States, with our stringent waste policies, isn't immune. We illegally ship out over 30 million tons of hazardous waste, mostly to Asia.

It leaves from free ports (ports that only levy customs tariffs on a few select items), usually with forged or misleading documents listing it as "secondhand electronics," sounding almost like a reputable business that collects old phones for reuse and distribution by charities.

Once the waste reaches its destination, it's either taken to a landfill, an incinerator or an informal recycling facility. There, it's torn apart and stripped of anything worth selling. Whatever's left is simply dumped with little or no regard for environmental and health factors.

In the Chinese town of Guiyu, for example, illegal disposal has caused serious health issues in the local population. According to UNEP's report, 80 percent of Guiyu's children have respiratory issues and leukemia rates are skyrocketing. And that's just the beginning of the laundry list of ailments these kids are suffering.

An official Chinese ban on the import of hazardous waste has slowed the trade, or at least forced shippers to get more creative, but this isn't just a Chinese problem. Developing countries, like Ghana and Nigeria, also import substantial amounts of illegal e-waste.



Why would these countries risk the health of their people and the destruction of their environment by allowing this to continue? Because it's a \$20 million industry in a country with a \$48.1 billion GDP (compared to our \$16 quadrillion). For the workers, it puts a little bit of food on the table. For the illegal exporters, it puts a lot of food on the table, with revenue reaching around \$500 per ton. And so the consequences are overlooked or ignored.

The report turned a harsh light on our global e-cycling practices, illuminating the need for more investigation and international control on a massive scale. It calls for crackdowns on waste crime, increases in awareness and an emphasis on prevention measures.

Since you're probably not a member of the UN, though, you might be wondering what you can do. The best step you can take is to make sure your used electronics end up at reputable recyclers. Make sure their methods are transparent and they're forthcoming about where your used device ends up. If we start from the bottom and the UN starts from the top, we might just meet in the middle and put the people responsible out of business.



29 May 2015

### **UN Report Finds Lacklustre Efforts Being Made to Treat WEEE; While in Europe, Some EU Member States Still Fail to Implement Recast EU WEEE Law**

The United Nations University (UNU) recently released a report which found that 41.9 million tonnes of waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) was discarded globally in 2014 without being reused or disposed of in an environmentally-friendly way. It is estimated that this waste is worth approximately €48 billion. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme said that: "We are facing the onset of an unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste rolling out over the world".

With global efforts not being as efficient as they should be, it seems that the EU, for its part, may also not be doing enough. The European Commission announced on 29 April 2015 that it has ordered Slovakia to send it details about how the EU's recast WEEE Directive (2012/19/EU) is being transposed nationally, an obligation that should have been fulfilled by 14 February 2014. The new WEEE Directive replaces and updates older rules on WEEE, seeking to improve efficiency and overall impacts of resource use.

After missing the original deadline, Slovakia was sent a letter of formal notice on 31 March 2014. As its new Waste Act, which is to transpose the Directive into national law, enters into force only on 1 January 2016, the Commission has now sent Slovakia its further request. If Slovakia fails to act by the end of June, the case may be referred to the EU Court of Justice.

The Commission also announced on 29 April that it is referring Poland and Slovenia to the EU Court of Justice over their failure to enact the WEEE legislation. Neither of these Member States are said to have enacted any of the new or substantially modified provisions concerning WEEE. For Poland, the Commission is asking the Court to impose penalty payments of EUR 71,610 per day until the law is enacted. For Slovenia, the Commission is asking the Court to impose penalty payments of EUR 8,408.4 per day until the law is enacted.

At a more global level, the US and China are said to have generated the largest volumes of WEEE in 2014. However, in terms of WEEE per capita, Norway produced the most with an average of 28.4kg generated per person. Also generating high levels of such waste per capita in Europe were Switzerland (26.3kg per capita), Iceland (26.1kg), Denmark (24kg), the United Kingdom (23.5kg), the Netherlands (23.4kg), Sweden (22.3kg), France (22.2kg), and Austria (both 22.1kg). Ironically, Africa produced the lowest amount per capita (1.7kg).

The report states that the rising sales and the shortening life cycles of electrical and electronic equipment are leading to these escalating volumes of waste. It warns that the amount of WEEE being discarded without being reused or disposed of in an environmentally friendly way is likely

to increase to 50 million tonnes before 2017.

The report assesses the sources of this waste. Small appliances, including mobile phones, calculators, PCs and printers generate approximately 7% of the WEEE, most of which are frequently thrown into mixed residual waste bins. Large and small kitchen, laundry and bathroom appliances account for almost 60% of the WEEE. Specifically, WEEE in 2014 comprised: 12.8 million tonnes of small equipment (such as vacuum cleaners, microwaves, toasters, electric shavers and video cameras), 11.8 million tonnes of large equipment (including washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers and electric stoves), 7 million tonnes of cooling and freezing equipment, 6.3 million tonnes of screens, 3 million tonnes of small ICT equipment, and a million tonnes of lamps.

Regarding the make-up of the waste, the report found that this waste included 300 tonnes of gold, 201,000 tonnes of silver, 16 megatons of steel, 16,500 kilotons of iron, 1,900 kilotons of copper, and large volumes of aluminium and palladium plastic.

The report also highlights that this waste also included harmful heavy metals and chemicals, such as mercury, cadmium, beryllium and chromium. In particular, this waste included 2.2 million tonnes of harmful lead compounds and 4,400 tonnes of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases which deplete the ozone layer. Hong Kong traders will see that this has two implications. First, countries are losing significant amounts of their valuable natural materials, particularly metal, copper and gold. Secondly, these heavy metals and chemicals, which are commonly used in electronics, can leach into the ground and into water supplies, which can lead to kidney and liver damage, and to impaired mental development. The UN Under-Secretary-General and Rector of UNU, David Malone, stated that: "The hazardous content of e-waste constitutes a 'toxic mine' that must be managed with extreme care".

All of this waste, it is alleged, could and should have been recovered and recycled. However, the report found that: "Only 6.5 megatons of the 41.8 megatons of e-waste are documented and recycled to the highest standards. Thus, the full potential of e-waste collection and treatment has not been explored."

Malone hopes that the report will provide: "a baseline for national policymakers, producers and the recycling industry, to plan take-back systems. It can also facilitate cooperation around controlling illegal trade, supporting necessary technology development and transfer, and assisting international organisations, governments and research institutions in their efforts as they develop appropriate counter measures. This will eventually lead to improved resource efficiency while reducing the environmental and health impacts of e-waste."

Director of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Kazuhiko Takemoto, has however, pointed out that despite efforts being made in this field, the collection and state-of-the-art treatment of WEEE is limited.

The UNU Global E-waste Monitor 2014: Quantities, Flows and Resources can be accessed [here](#).

In the EU, two instruments of legislation regulate WEEE: the Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (2012/19/EU – the WEEE Directive) and the Directive on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (2011/65/EU – the RoHS Directive). Together, these two directives, which are recasts of much older versions, aim to improve the environmental management of WEEE, to contribute to the circular economy, and to enhance and improve the collection, treatment and recycling of electronics.

The WEEE Directive provides for the creation of collection schemes whereby consumers can return their WEEE free of charge. These schemes aim to increase the recycling and re-use of WEEE. The RoHS Directive requires that lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium, as well as the flame retardants polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) are substituted by safer alternatives.

While the WEEE Directive should have been transposed by 14 February 2014, it was recently reported that some Member States had not yet transposed the WEEE Directive. Apart from Slovakia, Poland and Slovenia mentioned above, the Czech Republic, Germany, Cyprus, Latvia, Spain, Hungary and Romania are also said to be dragging their heels over the recast WEEE Directive's implementation in their respective territories.



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- See more at: <http://economists-pick-research.hktrc.com/business-news/article/Business-Alert-EU/UN-Report-Finds-Lacklustre-Efforts-Being-Made-to-Treat-WEEE-While-in-Europe-Some-EU-Member-States-Still-Fail-to-Implement-Recast-EU-WEEE-Law/baeu/en/1/1X2ZT68A/1X0A2IMW.htm#sthash.R1bZtFji.dpuf>

# Colombia



# Croatia



## La ONU denunció que los desechos electrónicos son un "tsunami" con graves efectos sobre la salud



Los desechos electrónicos se están convirtiendo en un "tsunami mundial" de graves efectos sobre la salud humana y la naturaleza, dijo hoy el responsable de la ONU para el medio ambiente, Achim Steiner, tras inaugurar una conferencia bienal sobre el manejo de químicos y residuos peligrosos.

Delegados de 180 países se reúnen desde hoy y por dos semanas en Ginebra para adoptar decisiones relacionadas con la aplicación de tres convenciones internacionales que regulan el movimiento transfronterizo de desechos tóxicos, el comercio de químicos peligrosos y la eliminación de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

En esta conferencia, la forma de gestionar los desechos de aparatos electrodomésticos y electrónicos, cuyas cantidades son las que más rápido crecen, será uno de los temas centrales de discusión.

Ello es debido a sus cantidades colosales, a que contienen sustancias que pueden perjudicar la salud de las personas y el medio ambiente y a que la recuperación de sus elementos reciclables es muy escasa.

"Estamos frente a una estupidez económica porque tiramos gran cantidad de materias primas que se pueden volver a utilizar", comentó Steiner, quien recordó que entre microondas, televisores, ordenadores fijos, portátiles y teléfonos móviles, estos últimos contienen minerales que podrían reciclarse sin gran dificultad y crear empleos "verdes".

El secretario ejecutivo de las tres convenciones (de Basilea, de Rotterdam y de Estocolmo), Rolph Payet, explicó que al término de la conferencia se espera adoptar un documento con directivas sobre la gestión adecuada de desechos electrónicos.

En 2014 se arrojaron 41,8 millones de toneladas de productos eléctricos y electrónicos, principalmente dedicados a la cocina, al cuarto de baño y al lavado de ropa, una cantidad que Payet comparó con la carga de "1,15 millones de camiones de dieciocho ruedas".

A lo largo de la reunión también se buscarán acuerdos para tener una gestión coordinada y coherente de basura que contiene contaminantes orgánicos persistentes, es decir que no se degradan en la naturaleza, contaminan el suelo y el agua y, por esta vía, entran en la cadena alimentaria y al organismo de personas y animales.

Steiner explicó que tales sustancias -muchas de las cuales son utilizadas en la agricultura, en fertilizantes, pesticidas e insecticidas- pueden tener un grave impacto en el sistema endocrino.

"Vivimos en una época en la que los químicos están en todos lados y cada vez más dentro de nosotros", alertó.

El representante de la ONU comentó que el riesgo que suponen esos químicos queda en evidencia con la cifra de un millón de muertes ocupacionales, provocadas por su manejo en distintas actividades y concentradas en la actividad agrícola.

El objetivo de las convenciones que estarán bajo revisión en los próximos días no es prohibir en todos los casos el uso de las sustancias nocivas, pero sí garantizar que se utilicen de tal modo que se reduzca su impacto negativo y que los países pobres no terminen siendo su destino final.

Asimismo, se intenta transmitir a la industria el mensaje de que se necesita desarrollar productos alternativos a aquellos que está ampliamente demostrado que son tóxicos.

Actualmente, existen al menos 100.000 sustancias químicas cuyo impacto para la salud o el medio ambiente -en la gran mayoría de casos- nunca ha sido evaluado, a pesar de lo cual son ampliamente utilizadas en todo tipo de industrias y "forman parte de nuestra vida física y económica", recalcó Steiner.



## Većina svjetskog elektroničkog otpada se odlaže ilegalno

Matija Pavlić | pet 15.5.2015 | 07:02



Prema istraživanju agencije Ujedinjenih naroda, Program Ujedinjenih nacija za okoliš (United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP), oko 90% svog elektroničkog otpada na svijetu, s vrijednošću koja doseže 19 milijardi dolara, odlaže se ili u prodaje na nelegalan način.

Tisuće tona elektroničkog otpada deklarira se kao rabljena oprema (stare baterije se deklariraju kao plastika ili miješani metalni otpad) te se izvozi u zemlje kao što su Gana, Nigerija, Pakistan, Indija, Vijetnam i Kina.

Na taj način želi se zaobići legalno svjetsko tržište za otpad i recikliranje, koje trenutčno godišnje vrijedi oko 410 milijardi dolara.

Ilegalnim odlaganjem elektroničkog otpada zemlje gube potencijalno značajne resurse, kao što su rijetki metali, bakar i zlato, a s druge strane takav otpad se gotovo uvijek odlaže na način koji je štetan za ljudsko zdravlje i okoliš.

UNEP poziva na jačanje zakonodavstva u pojedinim zemljama, temeljito provođenje zakona o elektroničkom otpadu te na jačanje napora oko izvlačenja rijetkih metala i drugih resursa iz elektroničkog otpada.



CRNA SLIKA INDUSTRIJE

## 90 posto elektroničkog otpada se odlaže ilegalno



Otpad koji čine računala i pametni telefoni sve je značajniji. Do 2017. godine projicira se kako će elektronički otpad prijeći 50 milijuna tona, a da stvar bude gora, velika većina tog otpada će završiti u zemljama u razvoju, ilegalno 'odložen'

Ovu crnu sliku industrije je nedavno prezentirao UN Environment Programme u Ženevi. Prognoza slijedi nakon što je prošli mjesec objavljeno UN University izvješće, koje govori o tome kako je tijekom 2014. godine napravljeno 42 milijune tona elektroničkog otpada, što je globalnu ekonomiju koštalo 52 milijarde, prenosi The Guardian.

Izvoz opasnog otpada iz EU i OECD-a u druge zemlje je izričito zabranjen, no UNEP govori kako je na tisuće tona otpada deklarirano kao polovna roba i izvezeno u zemlje u razvoju. To, na žalost, uključuje i baterije, miješani otpad, katodne cijevi i dr.

Mnoge zemlje u razvoju su tako postale čvorištima ilegalnog skladištenja elektroničkog otpada i tržišta za reciklažu koje se procjenjuje na 410 milijardi dolara godišnje. Snažnije regulative i kontrole su tek dio



rješenja, smatraju u UN-u. Problem se, naime, ne tiče samo financija, već i negativnog utjecaja na zdravlje milijuna ljudi.

**Denmark**  
**Ingeniøren**

## Ingeniøren

ANDRE SKRIVER

### FN: Op mod 90 procent af elektronisk affald dumpes ulovligt

Af [Martin Bernth](#) 13. maj 2015 kl. 06:56

Selvom det ikke er lovligt at eksportere farligt affald fra EU- eller OECD-lande til lande uden for disse fællesskaber, vurderer FN's miljøbeskyttelsesorgan, Unep, at så meget som 90 procent af elektronisk affald mærkes som genbrugsmateriale og sendes til u-lande, hvor enkelte lande er ved at udvikle sig til illegale affaldscentraler for den vestlige verdens elektronik-skrot.

## France



(English)



(French)



Journal de l'environnement





## Russia helps block export restriction on asbestos



AFP / Kenzo Tribouillard  
About 125 million people are exposed to asbestos at work, according to the WHO, mainly in mines, factories and on construction sites

Four countries have blocked a bid to add chrysotile asbestos to a list of dangerous substances subject to export restrictions during a UN meeting in Geneva that concluded early Saturday, participants said.

Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Zimbabwe opposed listing the mineral also known as white asbestos, which health experts say causes cancer, on the Rotterdam Convention list, according to groups attending the Geneva meeting.

The 1998 Rotterdam Convention restricts trade in chemicals by obliging exporters to ensure that destination countries have been fully informed about the risks involved and have given an explicit green light for imports.

Civil society groups and unions calling for chrysotile's inclusion on the list voiced outrage that the fifth attempt in a decade to do so had been blocked.

"The failure to list chrysotile asbestos means millions of exposed workers will stay ignorant of its deadly dangers," said Brian Kohler, head of health, security and sustainable development for the IndustriALL Global Union.

"Countries that support the listing must be more aggressive in preventing the Rotterdam Convention from remaining a farce," he told AFP in an email Friday.

The Rotterdam Convention requires full consensus by all signatory members, meaning a single country can block a bid to list a new substance.



AFP / Fabrice Coffrini  
The World Health Organization says "cancer risks have been observed in populations exposed to very low levels" of asbestos, including chrysotile

The Geneva meeting did manage to add the insecticide methamidophos to the list, according to conference organisers, but failed to list a range of other chemicals, including the pesticide paraquat, which studies have linked to Parkinson's disease.

The question of whether or not to list chrysotile asbestos and the other chemicals where consensus was not reached will likely be raised again at the next conference on the Rotterdam convention in 2017.

Alexandra Caterbow, the co-coordinator of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance organisation, warned the meeting that delaying the listing of chrysotile would have dire consequences.

- Death sentence -

"Every year you do not list, thousands and thousands of people will be exposed to this substance, which means their death sentence," she told the conference.

According to the World Health Organization, at least 107,000 people die each year from asbestos-related cancers and lung diseases such as asbestosis and mesothelioma.

While other types of asbestos have long been acknowledged to be health hazardous, chrysotile is still widely used, especially as an inexpensive ingredient in building materials used in developing countries.

Around two million tonnes of chrysotile asbestos is still produced each year, with the industry and a number of nations that produce or use the substance maintaining it is safe.

But WHO says "cancer risks have been observed in populations exposed to very low levels" of asbestos, including chrysotile.

About 125 million people are exposed to asbestos at work, according to WHO, mainly in mines, factories and on construction sites.

Workers' families can also be exposed through the dust on their clothes, and building materials in homes can continue to be a source of exposure for decades.

Sharad Sawant, a 75-year-old former asbestos worker at a Turner and Newall asbestos factory in Mumbai, came to Geneva to lobby for listing chrysotile, after he and his wife both were diagnosed with asbestosis.

"My children know I'm suffering and that their mother is suffering," he told reporters through a translator, voicing concern his adult children and even grandchildren may have been exposed.

"This is the fault of the asbestos company," he said.

India has long vehemently opposed adding chrysotile to the Rotterdam Convention list, but did not in the end join the four countries officially opposing its inclusion.



04 mai 2015

## **Produits toxiques et déchets électroniques au menu d'une réunion à Genève**

Amiante, pesticides, déchets électroniques: quelque 1.500 experts représentant plus de 180 pays sont appelés à se prononcer sur une multitude de sujets lors de la conférence internationale sur les produits chimiques et les déchets dangereux qui s'est ouverte lundi à Genève.

Cette réunion, qui va durer jusqu'au 15 mai, regroupe les représentants des Etats membres des trois conventions qui gèrent ce domaine: celle de Stockholm sur les polluants organiques persistants, celle de Rotterdam sur le commerce de produits chimiques dangereux et celle de Bâle sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux.

Ces deux prochaines semaines, plusieurs nouvelles substances devraient être soumises à la législation internationale, comme l'hexachlorobutadiène, aux propriétés insecticide et fongicide, et le pentachlorophénol, utilisé comme solvant ou comme biocide dans des produits phytosanitaires.

Deux produits, l'amiante chrysotile et le paraquat -- déjà débattus lors de la dernière réunion en 2013 -- seront nouvellement proposés pour être intégrés à la Convention de Rotterdam, dans l'espoir que les pays parviennent cette fois à un consensus, a expliqué aux médias Rolph Payet, secrétaire exécutif des trois conventions.

L'amiante chrysotile, également appelé l'amiante blanc, est un matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, mais qui est associé notamment à certains cancers.

Le paraquat est quant à lui un produit chimique utilisé dans la production d'herbicide. La mort peut survenir dans les 30 jours après l'ingestion du produit. Il est interdit dans l'Union européenne et en Suisse notamment.

La Convention de Rotterdam régit les importations et les exportations de certains produits, elle ne les interdit pas: cela signifie qu'un produit chimique visé ne peut être exporté qu'avec le consentement préalable de l'importateur.

Pendant ces deux prochaines semaines, les experts vont également essayer de s'entendre pour créer un système de contrôle du respect des obligations liées aux conventions de Rotterdam et de Stockholm. Ce système existe seulement pour la convention de Bâle.

Ils devront aussi essayer de définir ce que sont les déchets électriques et électroniques, première étape avant de savoir comment traiter ces produits hautement toxiques, alors qu'en

2014 seulement environ un sixième des déchets d'équipements électriques et électroniques ont été correctement recyclés.

Dans le domaine des déchets dangereux (Convention de Bâle), la Suisse et l'Indonésie entendent militer pour que ces déchets n'aboutissent que dans les pays aptes à gérer leur élimination. Il s'agit notamment d'élaborer des standards internationaux permettant la labellisation d'installations de traitement des déchets dangereux dans le monde entier.

Il existe des centaines de milliers de produits chimiques différents. Près de 700 sont présents dans le corps humain du fait de son exposition permanente à ces produits.



## Déchets électroniques : quand le recyclage se criminalise

Publié par [Aurélien Audy](#) le vendredi 15 mai 2015

Le rapport publié le 12 mai par des équipes de l'UNEP (Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement) jette un pavé dans une marre moribonde : de 60 à 90 % des déchets électroniques, dont le volume augmente d'année en année, ne seraient pas traités. Ils seraient en fait revendus, parfois à des filières criminelles, traités sans précaution, ou tout simplement dispersés dans la nature. Un business qui représenterait une manne de 11 à 17 milliards d'euros que différents acteurs grignotent, toujours au détriment de l'environnement. Le problème n'est pas nouveau, mais la piqure de rappel semble nécessaire.



[WASTE CRIME - WASTE RISKS, Gaps in meeting the global waste challenge](#), c'est le nom du rapport alarmant réalisé par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement. Il commence par établir un parallèle avec le gaspillage existant dans le domaine de l'alimentaire : 1,3 milliard de tonnes de nourriture est produite chaque année pour les 7 milliards d'individus qui peuplent la Terre. D'après la FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), le gaspillage de cette denrée chiffrerait à 1 000 milliards de dollars. Ce qui est vrai pour l'alimentaire l'est aussi pour les déchets, ces derniers étant devenu en enjeu stratégique à plusieurs niveaux.

- Écologique bien sûr, les DEEE (Déchets d'Équipements Électriques et Électroniques) étant bardés de substances toxiques et nocives (mercure, plombs et retardateur de flamme principalement).
- Industriel, puisqu'il faut envisager les traitements adaptés pour dépolluer les DEEE de leurs substances toxiques, recycler ce qui peut l'être et même inclure la question du recyclage dans la conception même des nouveaux produits, en amont.



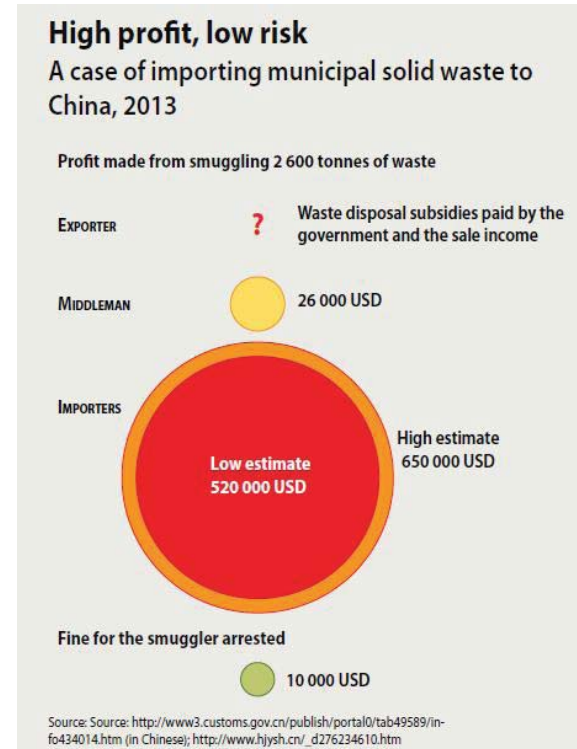
- Economique, puisque la filière de gestion des DEEE, de la collecte à la valorisation finale, est assise sur au minimum 410 milliards de dollars d'après le rapport.
- Humain enfin, parce que le traitement des déchets crée des emplois, et que sans une démarche volontaire du consommateur pour faire son tri correctement, rien n'est possible.

Seulement voilà, le rapport met le doigt là où ça fait mal : « *Comme dans tout secteur économique de grande ampleur, il y a des opportunités pour des activités illégales à différents niveaux de la chaîne de gestion des déchets. Dans la course aux profits, les opérateurs peuvent ignorer les réglementations sur les déchets et exposer des gens aux substances toxiques. Sur une échelle plus grande, le crime organisé peut s'adonner à de la fraude fiscale et du blanchiment d'argent.* »

### Les chiffres et les faits

A la base du problème soulevé par ce rapport, il y a un chiffre : 41,8 millions. C'est le nombre de tonnes de DEEE générées dans le monde en 2014. Chiffre qui semble condamné à augmenter et pourrait grimper à 50 millions d'ici 2018 selon [le rapport Baldé de l'Université des Nations Unies](#). Seulement 10 à 40 % de ces déchets seraient convenablement recyclés et stockés, d'après différentes estimations compilées lors d'une enquête d'envergure conduite par [le Bureau des Nations Unies sur les Drogues et le Crime \(ONODC\)](#). A l'inverse donc, 60 à 90 % des déchets échapperaient aux filières officielles de traitement. Soit tout de même entre 25 et 38 millions de tonnes ! A 450 euros la tonne, [comme le jugeait Interpol en 2009](#), ça nous fait entre 11 et 17 milliards d'euros de valeur potentiellement créée.

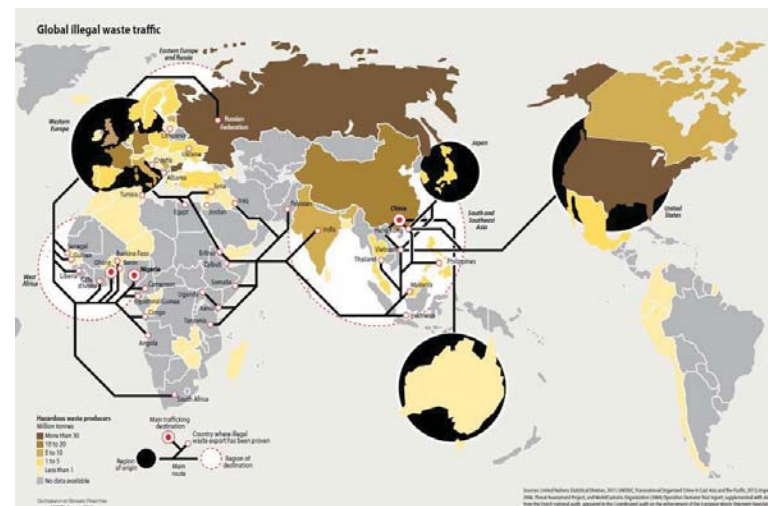
A qui le trafic profite ? Un peu à tout le monde en fait. Aux sociétés qui réceptionnent des DEEE et perçoivent des paiements pour effectuer des traitements qu'elles ne feront pas, aux acteurs qui réussissent à valoriser les matériaux à moindre coûts car sans respecter les règles environnementales contraignantes, ou encore aux nombreux « broker » ou vendeurs qui expédient des produits de deuxième main pour une bouchée de pain (mais toujours plus que ce que eux les ont payés). D'après [un ouvrage de Jim Baird](#), il y aurait 200 à 300 % d'économies possibles en confiant son recyclage à des filières illégales. Des services municipaux ou sociétés de gestion des déchets seraient alors toujours gagnants en payant pour qu'on les débarrasse de leur déchets au lieu de s'occuper de leur traitement.



Comment cela est-il possible ? La [Convention de Bâle](#) signée par 181 Parties vise à réglementer les mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux « *et exige de ses Parties qu'elles veillent à ce que ces déchets soient gérés et éliminés d'une manière écologiquement rationnelle.* » En clair, on n'exporte pas ses DEEE comme des cravates, et surtout pas vers des pays sans la moindre infrastructure pour réceptionner, démanteler, dépolluer et revaloriser lesdits déchets. La pratique frauduleuse courante que relève le rapport de l'UNEP consiste à étiqueter ses conteneurs différemment, comme des produits d'occasion, pour sortir du champ des DEEE. Ou encore à broyer ses DEEE et les mixer avec des déchets jugés non dangereux donc autorisés (plastiques, papier, métal, etc.).



Dans le pire des cas, ce sont des organisations criminelles qui récupèrent les déchets : elles utilisent les importations pour faire du blanchiment d'argent, puis se débarrassent des cargaisons dans la nature (mer et océans, enfouissement sauvage, décharges à ciel ouvert). Et dans le meilleur des cas, ce sont des petites entités familiales ou des gigantesques hubs de démantèlement asiatiques qui vont tenter de récupérer ce qu'il y a à récupérer (métaux précieux notamment) mais sans respecter les règles de sécurité sanitaires et écologiques. Le rapport précise toutefois qu'il est difficile de savoir quelle part des déchets devient quoi. Les exportations se font principalement à destination de l'Afrique (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigéria, Congo) et de l'Asie (Chine, Inde, Pakistan, Hong-Kong, Indonésie, Bangladesh).



Chez nous, tout consommateur paye une éco-contribution à chaque nouvel achat de produit électronique. Cette éco-contribution est supposée [financer à 60 % la filière en charge du traitement des DEEE](#) (les éco-organismes), les 40 % restants venant de la revente des matériaux récupérés. Mais le rapport évoque également toute une filière informelle. Comme les « *waste tourists* », ces acteurs qui chinent du matériel de seconde main pour l'envoyer à des proches ou associés dans des pays moins développés, ou encore des sites Web qui offrent un peu de monnaie contre un vieux appareil mais aussi des organisations caritatives qui se détournent parfois de leur mission.



Alors qu'il semble difficile de contrôler ces flux à échelle planétaire, et même si la solution préconisée par le rapport de « *faciliter le retour des envois illégaux de déchets à l'expéditeur et à ses frais* » est séduisante, la meilleure chose que nous puissions tous faire, à notre niveau, pour limiter la casse, c'est de consommer intelligemment. Autrement dit, de manière plus raisonnée, en tirant sur la corde tant que les produits le permettent ou en veillant à offrir une deuxième vie à ceux dont on se sépare.

# Doctissimo

## Les News Santé

### **Conférence de Genève : 4 produits chimiques ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et Rotterdam**

lundi 18 mai 2015

**Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam lors d'une conférence internationale qui s'est achevée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi à Genève sans parvenir à un consensus sur l'amiante blanc.**



Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam

### Quatre produits chimiques reconnus comme dangereux au niveau international

Cette conférence sur les produits chimiques et les déchets dangereux, qui a réuni pendant deux semaines quelque 1.200 personnes venues de 1717 pays, a ajouté à la convention de Stockholm qui régit les polluants organiques persistants trois substances qui posent de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement.

Il s'agit des naphthalènes polychlorés, de l'hexachlorobutadiène, et du pentachlorophénol.

Le méthamidophos, insecticide extrêmement toxique qui peut avoir de graves effets sur les systèmes nerveux, immunitaire et reproductif a quant à lui été ajouté à la Convention de Rotterdam, consacrée au commerce de produits chimiques dangereux.

### Nouvelles directives pour les déchets électroniques

Des directives techniques concernant les déchets électroniques ont également été adoptées dans la Convention de Bâle, qui porte sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux.

Ces directives doivent permettre de comprendre comment identifier les déchets électroniques et équipements usagés qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le recyclage des équipements électriques et électroniques.

Selon le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques sont échangés ou déversés illégalement, pour des montants évaluées entre 12,5 et 18,8 milliards de dollars (10,9 à 16,4 milliards d'euros) par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.

### Pas d'accord sur l'amiante blanc

Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le paraquat et l'amiante chrysotile, qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente réunion en 2013.

Le paraquat est un produit chimique utilisé dans la production d'herbicide, qui peut provoquer la mort dans les 30 jours après l'ingestion du produit. Il est interdit dans l'Union européenne et en Suisse.

L'amiante chrysotile, également appelé amiante blanc, matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, est associé notamment à certains cancers.

Quatre pays - la Russie, le Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan et le Zimbabwe - se sont opposés à l'ajout de l'amiante chrysotile dans la convention de Rotterdam, selon des participants qui n'ont pas caché leur mécontentement après cinq tentatives infructueuses en l'espace d'une décennie.

Selon l'OMS, plus de 107.000 décès par an sont attribuables à une exposition professionnelle à l'amiante. Bien que plusieurs formes d'amiante soient depuis longtemps considérées comme dangereuses pour la santé, l'amiante chrysotile reste largement utilisée comme ingrédient bon marché dans les matériaux de construction dans les pays en développement.

*"Cet échec pour l'ajout de l'amiante chrysotile signifie que des millions de travailleurs qui y sont exposés vont continuer d'ignorer ses dangers mortels"*, a déclaré Brian Kohler, directeur de la santé, de la sécurité et du développement durable au sein du syndicat IndustriALL Global Union, dans un courriel adressé vendredi à l'AFP.

AFP/Relaxnews

Photo : ©angelo gilardelli/shutterstock.com





19 mai 2015

A l'occasion de la conférence internationale de Genève du 4 au 15 mai dernier sur les conventions de Bâle, Rotterdam et Stockholm, des directives techniques ont été adoptées pour limiter l'impact des substances chimiques et améliorer la gestion des DEEE, en particulier leur transport transfrontalier.

Ces directives permettent de comprendre comment identifier ces flux qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le recyclage des équipements électriques et électroniques. Selon le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques sont échangés ou déversés illégalement, pour des montants évaluées à environ 17 milliards d'euros par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.

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Crédits de l'illustration : DR

## Un «tsunami de déchets électroniques» menace la planète



Le directeur exécutif du Pnue a profité de la conférence de Genève pour tirer le signal d'alarme [\[JDL\]](#)

Dans le cadre des discussions qui ont lieu à Genève jusqu'au 15 mai, le directeur du Programme de l'ONU pour l'environnement met en garde contre l'utilisation de certaines substances chimiques et des exportations de déchets électriques.

Le 5 mai, Achim Steiner, directeur exécutif du programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (Pnue), a alerté la communauté internationale sur la nécessité de réduire l'utilisation de produits chimiques et de lutter contre les exportations illégales de déchets d'équipements électriques et électroniques (DEEE). Ce sujet sera au cœur des débats qui se tiennent à Genève jusqu'au 15 mai.

«Un tsunami de déchets électroniques est en train de se propager à travers le monde», a déclaré Achim Steiner lors de la conférence de Genève, réunissant du 4 au 15 mai les Etats parties aux conventions de Bâle, Stockholm et Rotterdam. Il souhaite que les 1 500 représentants de 180 pays (gouvernements, ONG, industrie, société civile) s'entendent pour limiter l'impact des DEEE sur l'environnement et la santé des travailleurs et pour organiser



l'accès aux ressources qui les composent, comme l'or, l'argent ou les terres rares. L'Indonésie et la Suisse militent notamment pour élaborer un standard international touchant les installations de traitement de déchets dangereux.

### **L'amiante et le paraquat bientôt réglementés ?**

Plusieurs nouvelles substances devraient être soumises à la réglementation, comme l'hexachlorobutadiène (un sous-produit de la production de solvants chlorés) ou le pentachlorophénol (fongicide). L'amiante chrysotile et le paraquat (entrant dans la composition d'herbicides) seront une nouvelle fois proposés pour être intégrés à la convention de Rotterdam sur les produits chimiques et les pesticides dangereux. Leur exportation ne pourra alors être autorisée qu'avec l'accord du pays importateur.

### **La balle dans le camp des États**

Pour chacune des trois conventions, la création d'une plate-forme d'information destinée aux décideurs politiques et aux scientifiques a été actée. Les États parties sont invités à les financer par des contributions volontaires, pour un coût total estimé à 80 000 dollars (71 000 €). Les pays sont également conviés à «prendre des mesures d'incitation pour promouvoir la gestion rationnelle des produits chimiques et des déchets, en encourageant la responsabilité élargie des producteurs et en incitant les industries à internationaliser les coûts selon le principe du pollueur-payeur». Enfin, une décision vise à développer les antennes régionales des secrétariats des trois conventions.

Pour rappel, la convention de Bâle est dédiée au contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux, tandis que la convention de Rotterdam réglemente la procédure de consentement préalable applicable à certains produits chimiques et pesticides dangereux. Enfin, la convention de Stockholm interdit certains polluants organiques persistants. «Chaque année, un million de personnes meurent d'une intoxication professionnelle aux produits chimiques», a rappelé Achim Steiner.



## **De nouveaux produits chimiques ajoutés à la convention de Stockholm**

**Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam lors d'une conférence internationale qui s'est achevée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi à Genève sans parvenir à un consensus sur l'amiante blanc.**

Le 21/05/2015 à 17:23 - Par AFP



L'amiante blanc, encore appelé amiante chrysotile, est dangereux mais n'a pas encore fait l'objet d'un accord dans le cadre d'une convention pour interdire son utilisation. © Wikipédia, CC by-sa 3.0

Une conférence sur les produits chimiques et les [déchets](#) dangereux, qui a réuni pendant deux semaines quelque 1.200 personnes venues de 171 pays, a ajouté à la [convention de Stockholm](#), qui régit les polluants organiques persistants, trois substances qui posent de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement. Il s'agit des naphthalènes polychlorés, de l'hexachlorobutadiène, et du pentachlorophénol.

Le méthamidophos, insecticide extrêmement toxique qui peut avoir de graves effets sur les systèmes nerveux, immunitaire et reproductif a quant à lui été ajouté à la [convention de Rotterdam](#), consacrée au commerce de [produits chimiques](#) dangereux.

Des directives techniques concernant les déchets électroniques ont également été adoptées dans la [convention de Bâle](#), qui [porte](#) sur le contrôle des [mouvements](#) transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux. Ces directives doivent permettre de comprendre comment identifier les déchets électroniques et équipements usagés qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le [recyclage](#) des équipements électriques et électroniques.

Selon le Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90 % des déchets électroniques sont échangés ou déversés illégalement pour des montants évalués entre 12,5 et 18,8 milliards de dollars (10,9 à 16,4 milliards d'euros au cours actuel) par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.



Récupération de matériaux sur des tubes cathodiques dont le verre est fortement enrichi en plomb (sa fusion est source de vapeur toxique de plomb, facteur de saturnisme), ici à New Delhi, en Inde. © Wikipédia, CC by-sa 2.0 de

### Échec d'un accord sur l'amiante blanc

Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le [paraquat](#) et l'[amiante](#) chrysotile qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente

réunion en 2013. L'[amiante](#) chrysotile, également appelé amiante blanc, matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, est associé notamment à certains [cancers](#). Le paraquat est quant à lui un produit chimique utilisé dans la production d'[herbicides](#) et qui peut provoquer la mort dans les 30 jours après l'[ingestion](#) du produit. Il est interdit dans l'Union européenne et en Suisse.

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Selon l'[OMS](#) (Organisation mondiale de la santé), plus de 107.000 décès par an sont attribuables à une exposition professionnelle à l'amiante. Bien que plusieurs formes d'amiante soient depuis longtemps considérées comme dangereuses pour la santé, l'amiante chrysotile reste largement utilisée comme ingrédient bon marché dans les [matériaux de construction](#) dans les pays en développement.

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## Déchets électroniques : un trafic mondial de 17 milliards d'euros

Par Frédéric Bordage - 18/05/2015



60 % à 90 % des déchets électroniques mondiaux sont exportés illégalement.

Selon une récente étude du Programme pour l'Environnement des Nations Unies (UNEP), 60 à 90 % des déchets électroniques sont revendus et / ou jetés illégalement par des trafiquants. Interpol estime qu'une tonne de déchet électroniques se négocie environ 500 dollars (438 euros) au marché noir. Avec une prévision de 41 à 75 millions de tonnes émises chaque année dès 2017, le montant du trafic est estimé entre 12 et 19 milliards de dollars, soit 10 à 17 milliards d'euros.

L'étude [Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector](#) rappelle que les déchets électroniques sont désormais la principale source de déchet dans le monde et également ceux dont la quantité croît le plus vite.

Alors que l'opinion publique peine à prendre conscience du phénomène, « *nous devons faire face à un véritable tsunami de déchets électroniques qui déferle sur le monde* » a indiqué Achim Steiner, directeur exécutif de l'UNEP lors de la présentation de l'étude mi mai.

### Un marché légal de 410 milliards de dollars

Selon l'Unep, en plus du renforcement de l'arsenal juridique pour lutter contre ce fléau, le monde doit prendre conscience que la gestion des déchets représente un potentiel d'affaires annuel de 410 milliards de dollars (360 milliards d'euros). De quoi créer des millions d'emplois partout dans le monde, et surtout à la source de ces déchets : l'Amérique du Nord et l'Europe. Car c'est bien en France, en Europe et en Amérique du Nord qu'il faut régler le problème.

Pour rappel, l'exportation des déchets d'équipements électriques et électroniques (DEEE) est interdite en Europe car ses pays membres ont signé la convention de Bâle. Or, les Etats-Unis et l'Europe exportent massivement leurs déchets vers l'Afrique (Ghana, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, République Démocratique du Congo) et l'Asie (Chine, Inde, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam) qui sont entrain de devenir les poubelles électroniques du monde.

### A quand le développement d'une économie du réemploi en France ?

Qu'attendent donc les pouvoirs publics français pour réagir ? De nombreux amendements ont été proposés dans le cadre de la loi « consommation » pour favoriser l'allongement de la durée de vie des équipements ainsi que l'essor d'un marché de l'occasion soutenu par la remise en état des équipements par les acteurs de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (ESS). Droite et gauche ont rejeté ces amendements !

La COP21 qui aura lieu à la fin de l'année doit être l'occasion de montrer des actions concrètes : chiche !

Sources : GreenIT.fr et communiqué de l'UNEP.

## Journal de l'environnement

### Un «tsunami de déchets électroniques» menace la planète

Published: 13/05/2015 - 09:10



Le directeur exécutif du PNUE a profité de la conférence de Genève pour tirer le signal d'alarme [JDLE](#)

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## Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et Rotterdam

16 Mai 2015, 12h37 | MAJ : 16 Mai 2015, 12h37



Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam [angelo gilardelli/shutterstock.com](#)

**(AFP) - Quatre nouveaux produits chimiques présentant des dangers pour la santé ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam lors d'une conférence internationale qui s'est achevée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi à Genève sans parvenir à un consensus sur l'amiante blanc.**

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**Le Point.fr**

Le Point - Publié le 23/05/2015 à 10:57 - Modifié le 24/05/2015 à 20:45

## Gare au tsunami de déchets électroniques

**VIDÉO. Le progrès high-tech, c'est bien beau, à condition de recycler notre production. Ce qui n'est pas encore le cas, comme on peut le voir dans #TECH24.**



Un mineur essaie d'extraire du cuivre à main nue, à New Delhi en Inde. © Sayantan Bera / Flickr

Par [Guillaume Grallet](#)



L'avertissement vient d'[Achim Steiner](#), le directeur du [Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement](#) (Pnue) : "Un tsunami de déchets électroniques est en train de se propager à travers le monde." En effet, chaque année, environ 50 millions de tonnes de déchets d'équipements électriques et électroniques sont jetées, comme on peut le voir dans [#TECH24](#), l'émission high-tech de [France 24](#) dont Le Point.fr est partenaire. Selon l'[ONU](#), environ 75 % de ces déchets disparaissent des circuits officiels de retraitement. Aux États-Unis, selon Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), trois quarts des ordinateurs terminent dans des placards ou aux ordures. Or, ils sont très dangereux : s'ils ne comptent que pour 2 % des déchets, ils constituent 70 % de leur toxicité.

Voici donc le paradoxe des déchets électroniques : ils ont beau être toxiques, ils ont de la valeur. Ainsi, selon l'ONU, un million de téléphones mobiles abritent 24 kilos d'or, 250 kilos d'argent ou encore 9 000 kilos de cuivre. À tel point que, l'an dernier, la valeur de tous les déchets rejetés dans le monde a atteint 48 milliards de dollars... Problème, ces petits bijoux sont noyés au milieu de matières extrêmement dangereuses, comme le cadmium ou encore le béryllium. Un mélange particulièrement nocif alors que, dans des zones difficiles, on brûle des circuits imprimés à la main pour récupérer ce qui a de la valeur, sans s'inquiéter des dangers pour ses doigts. C'est ainsi le cas à Accra et Agbogloshie au Ghana... Souvent, il s'agit de zones portuaires qui accueillent les déchets des pays "riches" par cargos entiers. Bref, un véritable [déséquilibre international du recyclage](#), particulièrement dangereux.

Pour améliorer la situation, il faudrait harmoniser les réglementations dans le monde entier afin que les trafiquants de déchets électroniques, qui préfèrent envoyer les déchets à l'autre bout de la planète plutôt que de les recycler sur place, soient découragés. Il s'agit aussi de regarder l'apport du recyclage à domicile : ainsi, d'après [l'organisation Coalition for American Electronics Recycling](#), la limitation sur l'export illégal de déchets électroniques hors des États-Unis permettrait de créer immédiatement [42 000 emplois à domicile](#). Enfin, la dernière option est de travailler sur des matériaux plus "durables", bref, d'agir contre l'obsolescence programmée. Un vaste chantier à l'ère de la multiplication des objets connectés.



### PNUE : l'enjeu du recyclage des e-déchets



Une importante réunion consacrée aux produits chimiques et déchets dangereux commence aujourd'hui à Genève. Les parties prenantes des Conventions de Bâle, Stockholm et Rotterdam se retrouveront jusqu'au 15 mai prochain pour examiner plusieurs dossiers qui sont sur la table des négociations. Amiante, autres herbicides et déchets électroniques sont au cœur des discussions.

Les déchets électroniques sont au centre des préoccupations du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement. Jusqu'au 15 mai, cette réunion, qui se tient à Genève, examinera certains aspects des déchets dangereux et surtout électroniques. Il s'agit de voir, par exemple, comment limiter les exportations de téléphones portables usagés dans les pays industrialisés et leur transformation dans les pays en développement souvent dans des conditions dangereuses pour l'environnement et les populations locales.

Car sur le terrain, la production des déchets électroniques ne faiblit pas et a atteint un record l'année dernière. Le Secrétaire exécutif des Conventions de Bâle, Rotterdam et Stockholm, parle ainsi d'une crise invisible voire silencieuse, en mettant en lumière le nombre de fours à micro-ondes, de machines à laver, de souris d'ordinateurs ou encore de piles jetés à la poubelle. Selon Rolph Payet, il y a eu 41,8 millions de tonnes de déchets électroniques en 2014.

Dans ces conditions, la réunion de Genève permettra de « déterminer à partir de quand un équipement électronique devient un déchet ». Et il faut s'attendre à l'adoption de nouvelles lignes directrices visant à optimiser le cycle de vie des e-déchets et leur élimination.





[Société](#)

09:40 17.05.2015(mis à jour 10:41 17.05.2015)

**La contrebande de déchets électroniques (e-déchets), de leur traitement et enfouissement est estimée à presque 19 milliards de dollars par le rapport du Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) qui vient d'être rendu public à Genève.**

Les auteurs du document considèrent l'absence de contrôle approprié dans ce secteur comme un sérieux facteur de risque pour la santé.

Chaque année, explique l'étude, l'industrie électronique — l'un des secteurs qui connaît le développement le plus dynamique — génère jusqu'à 41 millions de tonnes de déchets comme les produits ménagers, les ordinateurs et les smartphones inutilisables. Ces déchets s'amoncellent chaque année sur notre planète et d'ici 2017, au moins 50 millions de tonnes en seront produites annuellement.

Selon les experts, entre 60 et 90% de ces déchets font ensuite l'objet d'un commerce clandestin, ou sont traités et enfouis sans contrôle approprié. Étant donné qu'une tonne de ces déchets électroniques vaut environ 500 dollars sur le marché noir, selon Interpol, il est question d'un commerce illégal s'élevant à 12,5-18,8 milliards de dollars.

"Nous sommes confrontés à un tsunami sans précédent de déchets électroniques. Il ne s'agit pas uniquement de l'augmentation du "tas de déchets" mondial. Cela représente une menace pour la santé des populations et pour l'environnement à cause des éléments dangereux qu'ils contiennent", explique Achim Steiner, sous-secrétaire général de l'Onu et directeur exécutif du PNUE.

Les e-déchets ne sont pas l'unique type d'ordures sur notre planète, rappelle le PNUE. Le rapport constate que chaque année environ un tiers des produits alimentaires — 1,3 milliard de tonnes d'une valeur de 1 milliard de dollars — n'arrive pas jusqu'au consommateur, est jeté ou se perd.

Dans l'ensemble, le marché mondial de traitement des déchets est estimé par les experts à 410 milliards de dollars. Comme tout autre secteur économique, soulignent les auteurs, il offre des possibilités aux activités légales, mais aussi illégales. Poussés par la soif de profit, les opérateurs du marché peuvent ignorer les règles de traitement des déchets et mettre le personnel du secteur face à un danger d'intoxication. Les experts avertissent que cette sphère pourrait également attirer le crime organisé spécialisé dans le blanchiment d'argent et la fraude fiscale, parce que les quantités de déchets sont difficiles à comptabiliser et, par conséquent, peuvent être manipulées — à la hausse ou à la baisse.

Bien que l'exportation de déchets dangereux des pays de l'UE et de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques soit interdite dans les États qui ne font pas partie de cette structure, selon le témoignage des experts, "des milliers de tonnes d'e-déchets sont déclarées comme des marchandises d'occasion et sont exportées des pays développés vers les pays émergents". Parmi ces "marchandises" — les piles et les écrans d'ordinateur. Diverses méthodes de contrebande sont utilisées — des transports organisés en camion à travers les pays d'Europe et d'Amérique du Nord à l'utilisation de grands hubs de contrebande en Asie du Sud et des transports en conteneur par la mer.

Les principaux destinataires de ces marchandises toxiques pour l'enfouissement ou le traitement sont l'Afrique et l'Asie. La palme d'or, en Afrique occidentale, revient au Nigeria et au Ghana. La Côte d'Ivoire reçoit également une grande quantité d'e-déchets toxiques. Selon les experts du PNUE, en Asie, les livraisons illégales de déchets concernent la Chine, le Pakistan, l'Inde, le Bangladesh et le Viêt Nam.

Les auteurs du rapport préconisent de renforcer la législation nationale et le suivi dans le domaine du traitement des déchets. Il est également nécessaire de promouvoir les activités préventives, notamment de simplifier la procédure de retour des déchets illégalement envoyés.

*Contenu réalisé à partir d'informations émanant de sources ouvertes*

# Germany



Hamburger Abendblatt

DIE WELT

Martgräfler Tagblatt



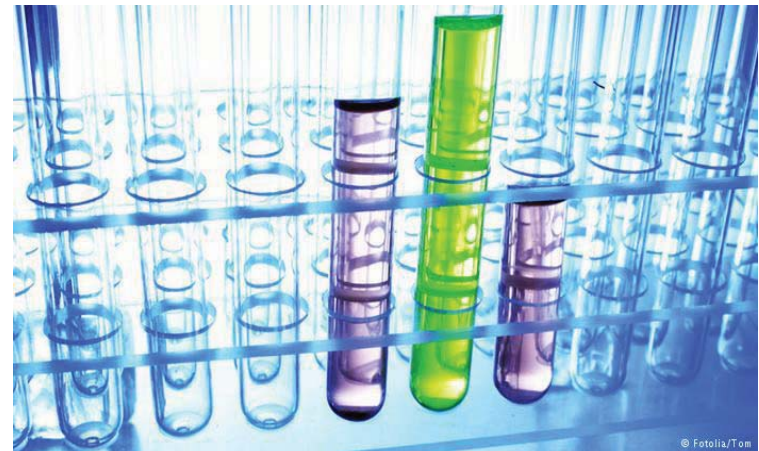
NACHRICHTEN

ELEKTRONIK  
PRAXIS



## The dirty dozen and other deadly chemicals

While meeting in Geneva this week, 140 nations that have teamed up to ban pesticides and other hazardous substances are determined to end the use of even more chemicals. DW takes a look at some of the most dangerous.



Although "POPs" may sound harmless, after you've heard biologists go into detail about "persistent organic pollutants," you might change your mind.

In 1995, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) called for global action to be taken on POPs, which it defined as "chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment."

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was signed in 2001 to "protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants," and became effective May 2004. Only a few countries -like the United States, Israel, Italy and Malaysia - have never ratified the convention.



From May 4 to 15, parties to the convention are [meeting in Geneva](#) to further discuss sound management of chemicals and waste. DW details some of these chemicals below.



Anti-malaria campaign with DDT in South Africa

### DDT

DDT is one of the most well-known POPs. Though production and use were terminated in Western countries a long time ago, in some African regions DDT is still used in the fight against [malaria](#).

Less known POPs are Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor or Mirex. And probably most people have never heard of Hexachlorobenzene or Toxaphene. Along with PCBs, polychlorinated dioxins and furans these make up the "dirty dozen."

When DDT was first used on humans to fight the transmission typhoid fever via head lice, DDT did not affect people, as it is difficult for DDT to be absorbed through human skin. But in the 1960s people started to get worried when high concentrations of DDT were detected in breast milk. Milk production depends heavily on the use of stored bodyfat, and this is where DDT accumulates in human bodies. High concentrations of DDT can cause headaches, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and tremors. DDT is also under suspicion of increasing a woman's risk of breast cancer.

But not only humans are affected. DDT causes the thinning of eggshells in birds high on the food chain, like eagles, pelicans, falcons or hawks.



Likely containing PCBs: Electronic waste at a processing plant in Germany

### PCBs

Polychlorinated biphenyls are widely used in electrical and industrial equipment. Despite a production ban in the 1970s in the US, PCBs were manufactured in many other countries until the Stockholm convention put an end to them in 2001.

PCBs vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids - and present a wide range of toxicity. Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point, and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications, including electrical and hydraulic equipment. They were also used in paints, plastics, rubber products, pigments, dyes and copy paper.

Like other chemicals from the dirty dozen, PCBs are known to cause cancer, as well as having a negative effect on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems of humans and other living creatures.



Workers install a roof in India using corrugated asbestos sheets

### Asbestos

Because of the strength and heat resistance of its fibers, asbestos was used for decades in construction materials as insulation and as a fire retardant. Today in Germany, when buildings with high concentrations of asbestos are torn down, the rubble has to be treated as toxic waste. Since it was banned in 1993 as a carcinogen - or a substance that causes cancer - disposal of asbestos has become quite costly.

Today, India is the world's fastest-growing market for asbestos. In recent years, India's asbestos imports have almost quadrupled. The government helps the country's multi-billion-dollar asbestos manufacturing industry with low tariffs on imports.

Asbestos fibers lodge in lungs and cause diseases like cancer. The International Labor Organization estimates 100,000 people die every year from workplace exposure - and experts believe thousands more die from exposure elsewhere.



Quicksilver, aka mercury

### Mercury

Most people can recall the sight of mercury from their childhood. They probably remember the silvery substance inside a medical thermometer when they had a fever.

Today, it is less used in thermometers but increasingly so in fluorescent lamps. In many gold mines, it is used to isolate gold from the ore and other minerals - which leaves behind toxic wastelands.

Mercury concentrates in the bodies of fish, thus making its way into the human food chain. Eventually, the chemical also accumulates in humans' inner organs. Extremely high levels of the chemical - which is also widely known as quicksilver - causes headaches, nausea and chest pain.

Severe mercury poisoning can harm the central nervous system and result in psychotic behavior such as delirium, hallucinations, and suicidal tendencies. With continuing exposure, tremors and violent muscular spasms occur. Concentrations between 150 and 300 milligrams are considered lethal.

In January 2013, 140 countries agreed on the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#) by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to prevent emissions. The convention is named after the Japanese town Minamata, where thousands of people were diagnosed with severe mercury poisoning from contaminated fish in the mid-1950s.





Technology

## Report highlights growing global e-waste problem

The illegal disposal of electronic appliances poses a threat to both human health and the environment. Yet still the pile continues to grow, a new UNEP report says. Solutions are slow in the making, including in Germany.



Smoldering television sets, burning refrigerators and polluted rivers are all features of everyday life in the Agbogbloshie district of Ghana's capital, Accra. Predominantly young people burn rubber tires and old refrigerator foam to glean copper and other metals from defunct electronic devices. And in so doing, they are exposing themselves to some of the worst side-effects of a globalized world.

"One can assume they will be looking at a drastically reduced life expectancy," Matthias Buchert of the Darmstadt Institute of Applied Ecology said.

So toxic are the gases released that the United States nonprofit Blacksmith Institute has named Agbogbloshie one of the [10 dirtiest places in the world](#). It is home to some 40,000 people - but the Ghanaian environmental authorities say the pollution affects more than five times that many in the surrounding area.

A study recently released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shows similar scenarios in other countries in Africa and Asia.

"We are witnessing an unprecedented amount of electronic waste rolling out over the world," UNEP director Achim Steiner said on publication of the [Waste Crime - Waste Risks report](#).



Through export, many electrical appliances are given a new lease of life

It says the world is currently generating 42 million tons of global electronic waste every year, and warns that growing demand could see that figure increase by 10 million tons annually over the next two years. Among the worst affected countries are Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, China, India, Pakistan and Ghana.

### Blessing - and curse

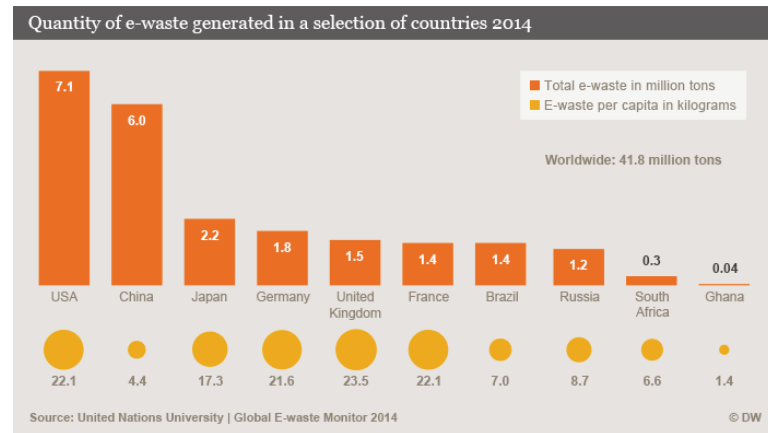
By the time appliances arrive in Agbogbloshie, they've helped line the pockets of several middlemen en route. According to the [UNEP](#), the illegal transport and scrapping of electronic appliances generates an annual turnover of some 17 billion euros (\$19 billion).

"These devices are an important source of income for hundreds of thousands of people," Matthias Buchert said, adding that there they are often repaired so they can be used again.

That is also good for lower-income consumers, many of whom can only afford reconditioned items. Where it becomes problematic, however, is when the appliances are beyond repair, and there are no disposal and recycling structures in place. The upshot is smoking heaps of rubbish, Agbogbloshie-style.

## Global imbalance

Generating 21.6 kilos of waste per capita per year, Germany is one of the worst offenders. The average Ghanaian by contrast, creates just 1.4 kilos annually.



Although the export of broken electronic goods is illegal, container ships laden with e-waste regularly pull out of German harbors. Indeed, the study says: "up to 90 percent of global electronic waste is illegally treated and disposed of." It calls on governments to enforce export bans.

"That is quite an undertaking," Buchert said. "It would require an adequate number of highly qualified personnel."

Having conducted his own research into shipping habits in the Hamburg harbor, he has seen cars, trucks and even entire shipping containers filled with e-waste destined for far-off shores. Although separating genuine trash from items that still have some life left in them is a long, drawn-out process, this is imperative in efforts to stop the problem.

## Possible solutions

On a visit to Agbogbloshie last month, German Development Minister Gerd Müller said his country shares responsibility for the environmental and health implications of e-waste. "Most electrical appliances discarded illegally and legally in Europe end up here - including those from Germany," he said.

New draft legislation would oblige those exporting appliances to prove that the goods actually work. Buchert said it would only be effective if frequent spot checks were implemented. "It is not enough to only check one in 100," he said.

Other solutions that have long been bandied about include a consumer deposit system, such as that which already exists for bottles and car batteries. Such a system would see shoppers paying an extra fee that would be held until return of the appliance.

Buchert said he's also experimenting with another approach in Egypt and Ghana: Local companies collect electronic components deemed difficult to reuse, and send them back to Germany.

Although this seems to be working so far, he says the "challenges remain colossal."



## UNEP report: Up to 90 per cent of world's e-waste is illegally traded or dumped

[Abfall](#) 18. Mai 2015



Elektrogeräte-Sammelbox (Foto: O. Kürth)

Arendal, Norway — *Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a new report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Each year, the electronic industry – one of the world's largest and fastest growing – generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tonnes already by 2017.*

A staggering 60 to 90 per cent of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's *Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector*, launched in Geneva, at

the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around US \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste ranges from US \$12.5 to US \$18.8 billion (€10.9 to 16.4 billion) annually.

### An unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste

UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner said: *“We are facing the onset of an unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste rolling out over the world. Not only does it account for a large portion of the world's non-recyclable ‘waste mountain’, but it also poses a threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains.”*

*“Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures we can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public,”* Achim Steiner added.

### Roughly one third of the food is lost or wasted

The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment. The report also points to the fact that every year, roughly one third of the food produced for human consumption globally – approximately 1.3 billion tonnes, worth over US \$1 trillion – is lost or wasted.

The global waste market – from collection to recycling – is estimated to be worth US \$410 billion a year, generating jobs and incomes. As with any large economic sector, it creates opportunities for illegal activities at various stages of the waste chain. Concentrated on making profit, operators are prone to ignore waste regulations and expose workers to toxic chemicals. On a larger scale, organized crime may engage in tax fraud and money laundering, as volumes handled go largely unregistered, allowing for substantial under and overreporting.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly.

*The full report is available at [grida.no](http://grida.no).*

Source: GRID-Arendal

## 90 Prozent des Elektromülls wird illegal entsorgt

Bis zu 90 Prozent des weltweiten Elektromülls wird laut UN illegal entsorgt. Auf den Halden arbeiten Kinder unter gefährlichen Bedingungen. Die Handys, Computer und TVs kommen auch aus Deutschland.



*Foto: dpa Auch Kinder müssen auf dieser Müllhalde aus Elektroschrott am Stadtrand von Accra arbeiten und sind dabei giftigen Dämpfen ausgesetzt*

Mit der illegalen Entsorgung von Elektroschrott vor allem in Afrika und Asien werden nach UN-Angaben weltweit immer größere Geschäfte gemacht. Auf bis zu 19 Milliarden Dollar (17 Milliarden Euro) pro Jahr schätzt [das UN-Umweltprogramm \(Unep\)](#) den Wertumfang der Verschiffung und Ausschachtung von ausgedienten Computern, Fernsehern, Handys oder anderen Elektronikprodukten unter Umgehung bestehender Vorschriften.

"Bis zu 90 Prozent des jährlichen weltweiten Elektromülls werden illegal gehandelt oder entsorgt", klagt Unep [in einem am Dienstag in Genf veröffentlichten Bericht](#). Zugleich werde der "globale Müllberg" immer größer: Spätestens bis 2017 dürfe nach Unep-Schätzungen die von der Elektronik-Industrie jährlich verursachte Müllmenge von derzeit 41 Millionen auf rund 50 Millionen Tonnen anwachsen.

"Wir sind konfrontiert mit der Entstehung eines beispiellosen Tsunamis aus Elektroschrotts", erklärte Unep-Direktor Achim Steiner zur Veröffentlichung des Berichts ["Waste Crimes, Waste Risks"](#) ("Müll-Verbrechen, Müll-Gefahren"). "Das ist nicht einfach nur ein großer Teil des nicht recycelbaren Müllbergs der Welt, sondern birgt wegen der giftigen Bestandteile auch Gefahren für die Gesundheit und die Umwelt."

## Illegale Halden in Ghana, Nigeria und Kongo

Die Hauptziele für legale wie auch illegale Exporte von Elektroschrott sind Unep zufolge Länder in Afrika und Asien. In Ghana und Nigeria werden demnach Afrikas größte Halden für illegal verbrachten Müll unterhalten, gefolgt von der Elfenbeinküste und der Demokratischen Republik Kongo. In Asien werde "E-Waste" unter anderem in China, Indien, Pakistan und Bangladesch auf oft illegale Weise entsorgt.



*Foto: dpa Entwicklungsminister Gerd Müller besucht im April am Stadtrand von Accra eine Müllhalde aus Elektroschrott*

Erst kürzlich hatte sich auch die Bundesregierung mit dem Problem der Elektroschrott-Entsorgung befasst. Bei der Besichtigung einer der weltweit größten Elektro-Müllhalden am Rande der ghanaischen Hauptstadt Accra sagte Entwicklungsminister Gerd Müller (CSU) im April: "Die meisten bei uns in Europa ausrangierten Elektronikgeräte kommen hierher – auch aus Deutschland, legal und illegal."

Bis zu 20.000 Kinder sollen auf Halden wie jener bei Accra arbeiten und aus Elektroschrott seltene Metalle und andere wiederverwertbare Bestandteile herausholen und dabei giftigen Dämpfen ausgesetzt sein. Müller rief zur Schließung etwaiger Schlupflöcher bei der Entsorgung durch die Elektronik-Industrie auf.

## Kostenlose Rückgabe von Elektroschrott gefordert

In dem Unep-Bericht heißt es, der Export giftiger Abfälle aus EU-Staaten in Entwicklungsländer sei zwar untersagt, jedoch gebe es immer wieder Betrugsfälle. So würden Tausende Tonnen an gefährlichem Elektronikschrott bei der Ausfuhr falsch deklariert und zum Beispiel Batterien als Plastik- oder Mischmetallmüll exportiert.

Die UN-Organisation appellierte an alle Staaten, die Einhaltung von Verboten zu erzwingen. Dazu seien strengere Kontrollen erforderlich. Auch Regelungen zur kostenlosen Rückgabe



von Alt-Elektronik an zur legalen Entsorgung verpflichtete Händler und Hersteller könnten helfen, Gefahren durch Elektroschrott zu reduzieren.

dpa/coh

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### Was tun mit Elektroschrott?

Die illegale Entsorgung von Elektroschrott ist eine Gefahr für Mensch und Umwelt, vor allem in Afrika und Asien. Denn dort wachsen die Müllberge – ein Problem ohne Lösung?



Brennende Fernseher und Kühlschränke oder durch giftigen Müll **verseuchte** Flüsse gehören zum Alltag vieler afrikanischer oder asiatischer Städte. Sie sind die Folge des weltweit steigenden Elektronikkonsums. Denn das, was anderswo auf der Welt **weggeworfen** wird, **landet** meist hier. Die UN **bezeichnen** die Menge des weltweiten Elektronikmülls in einer Studie ihres Umweltprogramms (UNEP) **auf** etwa 42 Millionen Tonnen jährlich: „Wir sind **konfrontiert** mit einem beispiellosen **Tsunami** aus Elektroschrott“, erklärte UNEP-Direktor Achim Steiner bei der Veröffentlichung des Berichts Waste Crimes, Waste Risks von 2015.

Der Export von kaputten elektronischen Geräten ist in vielen Ländern – auch in Deutschland – eigentlich verboten. Aber **laut** Ergebnissen der Studie werden bis zu 90 Prozent des weltweiten Elektronikmülls illegal gehandelt und entsorgt. Damit wird viel Geld verdient. Wenn man die Geräte nicht mehr reparieren und verkaufen kann, werden sie häufig einfach verbrannt, um darin enthaltene Metalle zu **schmelzen**. Das schadet der Umwelt und der Gesundheit.

Auch aus Deutschland kommen große Mengen Elektroschrott. Jeder Deutsche produziert laut der Studie etwa 21,6 Kilogramm im Jahr. Das Problem ist auch der Politik bekannt. Deshalb berät die deutsche Regierung seit März 2015 ein neues Gesetz. Wenn es **verabschiedet** wird, müssen **Exporteure** von elektronischen Geräten in Zukunft beweisen, dass die Ware auch tatsächlich funktioniert. Das ist aber nicht genug, meint Matthias Buchert vom Öko-Institut Darmstadt. Er fordert stärkere Kontrollen.

Auch über andere Lösungen wird diskutiert, zum Beispiel über eine **Pfandabgabe** für elektronische Geräte. Buchert selbst arbeitet aktuell an einem Projekt in Ghana und Ägypten. Dabei arbeiten Firmen dort mit deutschen **Recycling**firmen zusammen. Die Betriebe sammeln schwierig **wiederverwertbare** Elektronikteile und schicken sie dann zum Recycling nach Deutschland: „Das funktioniert **in Ansätzen** ganz gut, aber die **Herausforderungen** bleiben **gigantisch**“, so Buchert.

## Glossar

**Elektroschrott** – alte, kaputte elektrische Geräte oder Teile davon

**illegal** – nicht erlaubt; per Gesetz verboten

**Entsorgung, -en** (f.) – hier: das Wegbringen von Müll

**verseucht** – vergiftet

**etwas weg|werfen** – hier: etwas in den Müll tun

**landen** – hier umgangssprachlich für: irgendwo hinkommen

**etwas auf etwas beziffern** – etwas in Zahlen ausdrücken

**jemanden mit etwas konfrontieren** – hier: jemanden vor ein Problem stellen

**Tsunami, -s** (m.) – gemeint ist hier: eine große Menge von etwas, die schnell wächst

**laut** – hier: nach Aussage von

**schmelzen** – durch große Hitze flüssig werden

**etwas verabschieden** – hier: (ein Gesetz) beschließen

**Exporteur, -e/Exporteurin, -nen** – jemand, der Waren in ein anderes Land verkauft

**Pfandabgabe, -n** (f.) – die Gebühr für einen Gegenstand, die man wiederbekommt, wenn man es zurückgibt

**Recycling** (n., nur Singular) – die Technik, mit der man aus gebrauchten Gegenständen, neue Materialien herstellt

**wiederverwertbar** – so, dass man etwas mehrmals benutzen kann

**in Ansätzen** – in Anfängen; teilweise; zu einem kleinen Teil

**Herausforderung, -en** (f.) – hier: die schwierige Aufgabe

**gigantisch** – umgangssprachlich für: sehr groß

## Fragen zum Text

### 1. Was stimmt nicht? Nach Ergebnissen der Studie Waste Crimes, Waste Risks ...

- a) werden etwa 90 Prozent des Elektroschrotts der ganzen Welt illegal entsorgt.
- b) werden in Afrika jedes Jahr 42 Millionen Tonnen elektronischen Mülls produziert.
- c) wirft jeder Deutsche im Durchschnitt 21,6 Kilo Elektronikmüll pro Jahr weg.

### 2. Kaputte elektronische Geräte aus Deutschland werden ...

- a) in Afrika oder Asien oft wieder repariert und weiterverkauft.
- b) zum größten Teil in Deutschland recycelt.
- c) verbrannt, damit sie der Gesundheit nicht schaden.

### 3. Das neue Gesetz der deutschen Regierung ...

- a) verbietet den Export von Elektroschrott.
- b) bestimmt, dass Kunden in Zukunft beim Kauf eines Elektrogerätes eine Gebühr für die Entsorgung zahlen müssen.
- c) regelt, dass man bei Exporten beweisen können muss, dass die Geräte noch funktionieren.

### 4. Große Müllberge gehören zum Alltag ... in Afrika oder Asien.

- a) großer Städte
- b) großen Städten
- c) großen Städte

### 5. Sie sind die Folge des ... elektronischer Geräte auf der ganzen Welt.

- a) steigender Konsum
- b) steigenden Konsums



c) steigendem Konsum

#### Arbeitsauftrag

Die wachsende Menge von elektronischem Müll ist ein großes Problem. Die deutsche Regierung hat bereits darauf reagiert. Wie sind die Gesetze in eurem Land? Im Text werden Möglichkeiten genannt, die helfen können, das Müllproblem zu lösen. Was denkt ihr dazu? Habt ihr noch andere Ideen? Diskutiert im Kurs.

UNEP-Bericht

## Illegaler Elektronikmüll-Export ist ein Milliardenbusiness

15.05.15 | Redakteur: Franz Graser



Laptop-Gehäuse in Guiyu, China. Bis zu 90 Prozent des Elektro- und Elektronikschrotts werden illegal entsorgt oder weiterverkauft. (Bild: Baselaactionnetwork (CC BY-ND 2.0))

Bis zu 90 Prozent des weltweit anfallenden Elektronikschrotts werden illegal entsorgt oder gehandelt. Das geht aus einem Bericht des UN-Umweltprogramms (UNEP) hervor.

Laut dem Bericht entstehen jedes Jahr 41 Millionen Tonnen Elektronikschrott, unter anderem aus Produkten wie Computern und Mobiltelefonen, die nicht mehr gebraucht werden. Prognosen sagen voraus, dass sich diese Menge bereits im Jahr 2017 auf 50 Millionen Tonnen ansteigen wird.

Der Bericht des US-Umweltprogramms UNEP zeigt schonungslos auf, dass zwischen 60 und 90 Prozent des Elektronikmülls entweder illegal gehandelt oder entsorgt wird. Nach Informationen von Interpol liegt der Preis für eine Tonne Elektronikschrott bei 500 US-Dollar. Das Volumen des illegalen Handels und der illegalen Entsorgung liegt demnach zwischen 12,5 und 18,8 Milliarden Dollar.



[Elektronikschrott](#)

### Nur 15 Prozent der Edelmetalle in Altgeräten werden wiedergewonnen

18.07.12 - Um auch in Zukunft Elektro- und elektronische Geräte bauen zu können, muss das Recycling von Elektronikschrott intensiviert werden. Dadurch werden Rohstoffe geschont und Umweltrisiken minimiert. Zu diesem Ergebnis kam die erste e-Waste Academy in der ghanaischen Hauptstadt Accra. [lesen...](#)

UNEP prangert nicht nur den illegalen Handel mit Elektronikschrott an, sondern weist auch auf die daraus resultierenden Umwelt- und Gesundheitsschäden hin. Achim Steiner, der Direktor des UN-Umweltprogramms, schildert dies folgendermaßen: „Wir sind Zeugen, wie sich eine noch nie da gewesene Menge von Elektronikschrott über die Welt ausbreitet. Das ist nicht nur ein großer Teil des nicht recycelten Müllbergs der Welt, sondern wegen der darin enthaltenen Gefahrstoffe auch eine wachsende Bedrohung für die menschliche Gesundheit und die Umwelt.“

Da der Export von Elektronikschrott aus Mitgliedsstaaten der EU und OECD (Organisation für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit) in Nicht-OECD-Länder verboten ist, wird der Elektronikmüll meist falsch deklariert und in Entwicklungsländer verschoben. Bildschirmröhren und Computermonitore werden dann zum Beispiel als Metallschrott verschifft.

Die Zielländer liegen in der Regel in Afrika und Asien. Zu den wichtigsten Abnehmern in Afrika zählen Ghana und Nigeria, die Elfenbeinküste sowie die Republik Kongo. In Asien zählen China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Indien, Bangladesh und Vietnam zu den Leidtragenden der illegalen Müllexporte.

In den Zielländern werden die Geräte und ihre Komponenten meist zerlegt, oft von Kindern. Rohstoffe wie Kupfer, Gold oder seltene Erden werden recycelt, der Rest wandert auf Müllhalden.



[FBDi-Kompass](#)

### Hilfen fürs Materialhandling wie Recycling, Mülltrennung, Wiederverwertung

16.10.14 - Was hat die Distribution mit Recycling gemeinsam? Mehr als man zunächst denken mag. Denn der Importeur, oft der Distributor, übernimmt als Quasihersteller die Verantwortung – mit allen rechtlichen Konsequenzen. [lesen...](#)

Das UN-Umweltprogramm empfiehlt deshalb, das Bewusstsein für den illegalen Elektronikschrotthandel zu schärfen und die Routen der Exporteure zu überwachen. Zudem sollen die Staaten schärfer gegen organisierte Verbrecherbanden vorgehen, rät UNEP. Darüber hinaus sollen international einheitliche und rechtlich bindende Klassifikationen für den Müll eingeführt werden, so dass zum Beispiel Elektronikschrott nicht als gebrauchte Computerhardware deklarierbar ist.

Weiter empfiehlt UNEP, dass die Reeder die Kosten für den Rücktransport des Elektronikmülls tragen müssen, wenn ihnen der gesetzeswidrige Transport des Schrotts nachgewiesen wird. Nicht zuletzt sollen die Staaten ihre Gesetzgebung verschärfen und entschiedener gegen den Müllexport und damit verbundene Straftaten wie Steuerbetrug und Geldwäsche vorgehen.



[Elektroschrott](#)

### Afrika fordert Schrott-Exportstopp

11.09.13 - Mehrere afrikanische Länder haben sich darauf verständigt, schärfer gegen Exporte von Elektro- und Elektronikschrott aus Europa vorgehen zu wollen. [lesen...](#)



[Elektronik hilft 2012](#)

### Erste und dritte Welt kämpfen gegen den Elektronikschrott

25.09.12 - Ein großer Teil des Elektroschrotts aus Europa landet in Afrika. Doch die dortigen Länder sind mit dem Müll überfordert. Die Industrie- und die Entwicklungsländer müssen das Problem gemeinsam lösen. [lesen...](#)

## UmweltUN fordern Kampf gegen illegalen Elektroschrott

Dienstag, 12.05.2015, 11:10



Männer arbeiten am Stadtrand von Accra, der Hauptstadt von Ghana, auf einer Müllhalde aus Elektroschrott.

dpa/Kay Nietfeld

Tausende Kinder atmen auf Elektromüllhalden in Afrika giftige Gase ein. Kriminelle Geschäftemacher verdienen an den Abfällen Milliarden. UN-Experten fordern mehr Maßnahmen gegen illegale Müllexperte.

Mit der illegalen Entsorgung von Elektroschrott vor allem in Afrika und [Asien](#) werden nach UN-Angaben weltweit immer größere Geschäfte gemacht.

Auf bis zu 19 Milliarden Dollar (17 Milliarden Euro) pro Jahr schätzt das UN-Umweltprogramm (Unep) den Wertumfang der Verschiffung und Ausschachtung von ausgedienten Computern, Fernsehern, Handys oder anderen Elektronikprodukten unter Umgehung bestehender Vorschriften.

„Bis zu 90 Prozent des jährlichen weltweiten Elektromülls werden illegal gehandelt oder entsorgt“, klagt Unep in einem in Genf veröffentlichten Bericht. Zugleich werde der „globale Müllberg“ immer größer: Spätestens bis 2017 dürfte nach Unep-Schätzungen die von der Elektronik-Industrie jährlich verursachte Müllmenge von derzeit 41 Millionen auf rund 50 Millionen Tonnen anwachsen.

„Wir sind konfrontiert mit der Entstehung eines beispiellosen Tsunamis aus Elektroschrotts“, erklärte Unep-Direktor Achim Steiner zur Veröffentlichung des Berichts „Waste Crimes, Waste Risks“ („Müll-Verbrechen, Müll-Gefahren“). „Das ist nicht einfach nur ein großer Teil des nicht recycelbaren Müllbergs der Welt, sondern birgt wegen der giftigen Bestandteile auch Gefahren für die Gesundheit und die Umwelt.“

Die Hauptziele für legale wie auch illegale Exporte von Elektroschrott sind Unep zufolge Länder in Afrika und Asien. In Ghana und Nigeria werden demnach Afrikas größte Halden für illegal verbrachten Müll unterhalten, gefolgt von der Elfenbeinküste und der Demokratischen Republik Kongo. In Asien werde „E-Waste“ unter anderem [in China](#), Indien, Pakistan und Bangladesch auf oft illegale Weise entsorgt.

Erst kürzlich hatte sich auch die Bundesregierung mit dem Problem der Elektroschrott-Entsorgung befasst. Bei der Besichtigung einer der weltweit größten Elektro-Müllhalden am Rande der ghanaischen Hauptstadt Accra sagte Entwicklungsminister Gerd Müller (CSU) im April: „Die meisten bei uns in Europa ausrangierten Elektronikgeräte kommen hierher - auch aus Deutschland, legal und illegal.“

Bis zu 20 000 Kinder sollen auf Halden wie jener bei Accra arbeiten und aus Elektroschrott seltene Metalle und andere wiederverwertbare Bestandteile herausholen und dabei giftigen Dämpfen ausgesetzt sein. Müller rief zur Schließung etwaiger Schlupflöcher bei der Entsorgung durch die Elektronik-Industrie auf.

In dem Unep-Bericht heißt es, der Export giftiger Abfälle aus EU-Staaten in Entwicklungsländer sei zwar untersagt, jedoch gebe es immer wieder Betrugsfälle. So würden Tausende Tonnen an gefährlichem Elektronikschrott bei der Ausfuhr falsch deklariert und zum Beispiel [Batterien](#) als Plastik- oder Mischmetallmüll exportiert.

Die UN-Organisation appellierte an alle Staaten, die Einhaltung von Verboten zu erzwingen. Dazu seien strengere Kontrollen erforderlich. Auch Regelungen zur kostenlosen Rückgabe von Alt-Elektronik an zur legalen Entsorgung verpflichtete Händler und Hersteller könnten helfen, Gefahren durch Elektroschrott zu reduzieren.

dpa

## Kinder auf Elektromüllhalden in Afrika atmen giftige Gase ein

UN fordern härteres Vorgehen gegen illegale Schrott-Exporte

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"Bis zu 90 Prozent des jährlichen weltweiten Elektromülls werden illegal gehandelt oder entsorgt", klagt Unep in einem am Dienstag in Genf veröffentlichten Bericht. Zugleich werde der "globale Müllberg" größer: Spätestens bis 2017 dürfte nach Unep-Schätzungen die von der Elektronik-Industrie jährlich verursachte Müllmenge von derzeit 41 Millionen auf rund 50 Millionen Tonnen wachsen.

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Kürzlich hatte sich auch die Bundesregierung mit dem Thema befasst. Bei der Besichtigung einer der weltweit größten Müllhalden am Rande der ghanaischen Hauptstadt Accra sagte Entwicklungsminister Gerd Müller (CSU) im April: "Die meisten bei uns in Europa ausrangierten Elektronikgeräte kommen hierher, auch aus Deutschland, legal und illegal."

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## International UN fordern Kampf gegen illegalen Elektroschrott

dpa, 12.05.2015 11:10 Uhr



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## NACHRICHTEN

### UN fordern Kampf gegen illegalen Elektroschrott

dpa dpa – Di., 12. Mai 2015



dpa/Kay Nietfeld - Männer arbeiten am Stadtrand von Accra, der Hauptstadt von Ghana, auf einer Müllhalde aus Elektroschrott.  
Foto: Kay Nietfeld/Archiv

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## Un tsunami de chatarra electrónica en África

El reciclaje ilegal de chatarra electrónica es una amenaza para los seres humanos y el medio ambiente. Los más afectados son los pobladores del sur del planeta. Y las montañas de basura siguen creciendo.



Televisores que arrojan vapor, neveras que se incendian y ríos contaminados son parte del panorama rutinario en Agbogbloshie, un barrio de Accra, la gran metrópoli de Ghana. Esa zona se ha transformado en un símbolo de las consecuencias del consumo global de aparatos electrónicos. La mayoría de los jóvenes usan gomas de neumáticos o placas de materiales espumosos como combustible para las fogatas en las que funden cobre y otros metales. “Suponemos que la expectativa de vida de estas personas se reduce claramente”, afirma Matthias Buchert, del Instituto Ecológico de Darmstadt.

A causa de las emisiones tóxicas que surgen de las fundiciones rudimentarias, Agbogbloshie fue incluida en la lista de los diez sitios más contaminados del mundo que elabora el Instituto Blacksmith. Ahí viven 40.000 personas, pero las autoridades medioambientales de Ghana calculan que el fenómeno afecta a unas 250.000 pobladores en total.





Una escena de la rutina en la capital de Ghana

Según un estudio del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), el mismo panorama se repite en otras ciudades de África y Asia. “Nos enfrentamos a un tsunami de chatarra eléctrica sin precedente”, dice el director del PNUMA, Achim Steiner durante la presentación del documento.

Los países mas afectados de África son Ghana, Nigeria, Costa de Marfil y la República Democrática del Congo. En Asia resienten las consecuencias China, India, Pakistán y Bangladés.

La ONU estima que el volumen de chatarra eléctrica es de 42 millones de toneladas anuales. Cuando los artefactos llegan a estos y otros países, los intermediarios en el comercio ilegal ya han ganado grandes sumas de dinero. El PNUMA calcula que el reciclaje y desguace clandestinos dejan ganancias por unos 17 mil millones de euros en todo el mundo.



Matthias Buchert, del Instituto Ecológico de Darmstadt

### El papel de los países ricos

Alemania pertenece al grupo de los grandes productores de basura electrónica. Cada alemán produce en promedio 21,6 kilogramos de ésta, cada año. Y aunque la exportación de aparatos electrónicos defectuosos está prohibida, innumerables contenedores cargados con chatarra de este tipo salen de los puertos alemanes.

El ministro alemán de Desarrollo, Gerd Müller, reconoció durante una visita a Agbogbloshie que Alemania es corresponsable por las consecuencias humanas y ecológicas. “La mayoría de los aparatos electrónicos desechados en Europa vienen a parar aquí, tanto de manera legal como ilegal”, dijo.

Por su parte, Buchert trabaja actualmente en un proyecto que incuye a Ghana y a Egipto. Ahí, empresas locales colaboran con firmas alemanas de reciclaje, para recolectar piezas reciclables y enviarlas de nuevo a Alemania a fin de ser reutilizadas.

“En algunos aspectos, esto funciona muy bien”, dice. “Pero los retos siguen siendo gigantescos”.

También se piensa en otras soluciones alternativas como el pago de una especie de fianza por cada aparato electrónico o teléfono celular que se compre en Europa. El monto sería restituído al cliente cuando éste devuelva el producto.

*DW recomienda*



## Agência da ONU alerta contra aumento de lixo eletrônico

Aparelhos velhos exportados ilegalmente de países industrializados contaminam meio ambiente e intoxicam populações de nações em desenvolvimento. Montanha global de detritos ganha 42 milhões de toneladas a cada ano.



Televisores fumegantes, geladeiras, rios contaminados fazem parte do cotidiano das pessoas em Agbogbloshie. O bairro da metrópole Accra, em Gana, se tornou símbolo do impacto do consumo global de eletrônicos.

Os trabalhadores, a maioria jovem, usam pneus de borracha e placas de espuma de geladeiras velhas como material combustível para derreter cobre e outros metais encontrados nos aparelhos. "Podemos dizer que a expectativa de vida dessas pessoas diminuiu significativamente", diz Matthias Buchert, do Instituto de Ecologia Aplicada de Darmstadt, Alemanha.

Devido aos gases tóxicos liberados pela queima dos aparelhos, o Instituto Blacksmith, dos Estados Unidos, incluiu Agbogbloshie, de 40 mil habitantes, na lista dos 10 lugares mais

poluídos do mundo. Segundo as autoridades ganenses de proteção ambiental, 250 mil moradores das cercanias são afetados pela poluição.

### Tsunami do lixo

Um estudo do Programa de Meio Ambiente das Nações Unidas (Pnuma) comprovou situações similares em outras cidades da África e da Ásia. "Estamos diante de um tsunami de lixo eletrônico sem precedentes", compara o diretor do Pnuma, Achim Steiner, durante o lançamento do relatório *Waste crimes, waste risks* (Crimes de lixo, riscos do lixo).



Lixo eletrônico é exportado para Gana

Na África, os países mais afetados são Gana, Nigéria, Costa do Marfim e República Democrática do Congo. Na Ásia, a China, Índia, Paquistão e Bangladesh são os maiores destinos de aparelhos descartados ilegalmente.

A ONU estima que a montanha de lixo eletrônico global cresce quase 42 milhões de toneladas anualmente. Como é crescente demanda por eletrônicos, a organização teme que até 2017 esse número aumente em outros 10 milhões de toneladas.

### Bênção e maldição

Agbogbloshie é estação final de dispositivos eletrônicos. Antes que de acabar lá, eles passam por vários intermediários, que ganham um bom dinheiro. O Pnuma avalia em cerca de 17 bilhões de euros o faturamento obtido com transferência e exploração de lixo eletrônico em todo o mundo.

"Não devemos esquecer que estes dispositivos são uma importante fonte de renda para muitas centenas de milhares de pessoas", ressalta Matthias Buchert. Há muitos anos ele estuda a cadeia de abastecimento de sucata eletrônica. "Temos nesse negócio pessoas muito experientes e qualificadas, que pegam televisões, celulares e computadores para consertar e reutilizar."

Para muitos, os dispositivos recondicionados são os únicos que têm meios para adquirir. O problema surge quando os aparelhos não são mais reparáveis. "Faltam, então, estruturas básicas para eliminação e reciclagem dos dejetos", lembra Buchert. A consequência são pilhas de lixo fumegantes, como as de Agbogbloshie, em Gana.



Agbogbloshie é um dos dez lugares mais poluídos do mundo

### Muito lixo da Alemanha

A Alemanha é um dos maiores produtores de sucata eletrônica. Cada alemão produz uma média de 21,6 quilos de dejetos eletrônicos por ano – em Gana, essa quantidade é de apenas 1,4 quilo. Embora a exportação de dispositivos eletrônicos defeituosos seja proibida, cada vez mais navios carregados com lixo eletrônico deixam os portos alemães. O Pnuma calcula que "até 90% do lixo eletrônico global seja eliminado e negociado ilegalmente".

Por isso, a entidade pede que os governos imponham proibições a esse tipo de exportação. "Isso não é uma tarefa fácil e requer pessoal suficiente e bem treinado", comenta Buchert. Há alguns anos, ele estudou o embarque de dispositivos defeituosos no porto de Hamburgo.

"Carros e caminhões velhos são abarrotados de dispositivos eletrônicos. Mas também são carregados contêineres inteiros", diz, acrescentando ser muito difícil descobrir o que é lixo e o que ainda está funcionando.

### Soluções alternativas

O ministro alemão do Desenvolvimento, Gerd Müller, admitiu, durante uma visita a Agbogbloshie, que a Alemanha tem uma parcela de responsabilidade pelas consequências ambientais e de saúde: "A maioria dos aparelhos eletrônicos descartados na Europa, também da Alemanha, vem parar aqui, legal e ilegalmente."

Em março, o governo da Alemanha formulou um projeto de lei que inverte o ônus da prova. Exportadores de eletrônicos têm que provar que os produtos são realmente úteis. "Uma simples declaração de que o aparelho funciona não é mais suficiente", informa Buchert. A lei ainda precisa ser aprovada por ambas as câmaras do parlamento alemão.

As autoridades também consideram outras soluções para reduzir o lixo eletrônico. Uma delas prevê que no ato da compra se pague um depósito sobre o aparelho, a ser devolvido quando o consumidor se desfizer dele num estabelecimento autorizado. O sistema seria semelhante ao já adotado para garrafas e latas, por exemplo.

# Ghana



# Greece

ABC Greek-News



New visual guide to protect children from pesticides  
**News Date:** 19th May 2015

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) has developed a new visual guide to protect children from pesticides.

With the help of a new training guide, extension workers in Africa and elsewhere would be engaging with rural communities to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides used in farming.

Nearly 100 million boys and girls between five and 17 years old are engaged in child labour in agriculture, the ILO statistics revealed. The FAO training guide, made available to the Ghana News Agency on Monday, said many were directly exposed to toxic chemicals while working on the farm; but "children are also exposed when they help with family chores or play and through the food they eat and the water they drink".

It said children were far more sensitive to pesticides than adults and exposure could result in acute poisoning and sickness immediately after contact; but often, it also had longer-term, chronic impacts on their health and development.

The guide said limiting pesticide use and the promotion of non-toxic alternatives were important for reducing exposure, but education was equally crucial. The FAO and ILO's new visual guide dubbed; "Protect Children from Pesticides" provides an easy accessible training tool.

It helps agricultural extension workers, rural educators, labour Inspectors and producer organizations in teaching farmers and their families on how to identify and minimise risks at home and on farms; they also learn how to recognize and respond to signs of toxic exposure. It said the user-friendly guide had three main modules: how children were exposed to pesticides, what the health risks were and why children were particularly vulnerable, and what could be done to reduce those risks.

"The tool was initially developed in Mali, where it is now widely used by extension workers, farmer field schools, labour inspectors and producer s", said Rob Vos, Director of FAO's Social Protection Division.

"Its use is also expanding in Niger and other African countries. We are seeing growing interest from other regions. The guide is not only raising awareness that something must be done, but

also showing what needs to be done," he said. The effort to adapt the visual guide and promote its wider use is being supported by the Rotterdam Convention , a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibility in relation to imports of hazardous chemicals.

The FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly serve as the Secretariat for the convention. "This is a good example of how the normative work of a convention can contribute to reaching out to the most vulnerable groups and make a difference to their lives" according to Christine Fuell, FAO's Coordinator for the Rotterdam Convention.

"The colourful illustrations are built on local knowledge and refer to very concrete and real situations, such that, they also appeal to children, raising their own awareness of the risks posed by pesticides," she said. The guide indicated that: Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure for various biological and behavioural reasons.

It said "children breathe in more air than adults and so take in more dust, toxic vapours, and droplets of spray; and relative to their body weight, children need to eat and drink more than adults, and if food was contaminated, they absorb more toxins.

The surface area of a child's skin per unit of body mass is greater than that of an adult and their skins are more delicate. "All these factors can lead to greater absorption of chemicals, and children's organs are less able to detoxify pesticides because they are not yet fully developed, according to the guide.

"Young children often play on the ground, put things in their mouths and were attracted to colourful containers, all common behaviours that increase risk," the report stated.



## [New visual guide to protect children from pesticides](#)

Monday 18th May, 2015



Accra, May 18, GNA – The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) has developed a new visual guide to protect children from pesticides.

With the help of a new training guide, extension workers in Africa and elsewhere would be engaging with rural communities to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides used in farming.

Nearly 100 million boys and girls between five and 17 years old are engaged in child labour in agriculture, the ILO statistics revealed.



The FAO training guide, made available to the Ghana News Agency on Monday, said many were directly exposed to toxic chemicals while working on the farm; but “children are also exposed when they help with family chores or play and through the food they eat and the water they drink”.

It said children were far more sensitive to pesticides than adults and exposure could result in acute poisoning and sickness immediately after contact; but often, it also had longer-term, chronic impacts on their health and development.

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GNA





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# ABC Greek-News

Σάββατο, 16 Μαΐου 2015

ΟΗΕ: Σημαντικό μέρος των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων καταλήγει στα σκουπίδια

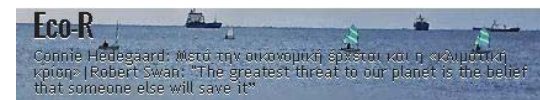


Έως και το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους, αναφέρεται σε έκθεση που δημοσιοποίησε το Πρόγραμμα για το Περιβάλλον του Οργανισμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών (UNEP).

Η αξία των ηλεκτρονικών αγαθών, όπως ηλεκτρονικές συσκευές και φορητοί υπολογιστές, που καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια φτάνει τα 16,6 δισεκατομμύρια ευρώ ετησίως, ενώ δημιουργούνται 41 εκατομμύρια τόνοι αποβλήτων. Όπως προβλέπεται στην έκθεση, έως το 2017 ο αριθμός αυτός θα φτάσει τους 50 εκατομμύρια τόνους, με κάθε τόνο να αξίζει 438 ευρώ.

Σύμφωνα με την έκθεση, η Ευρώπη και η Βόρεια Αμερική αποτελούν τους μεγαλύτερους παραγωγούς ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων, ωστόσο στον ίδιο δρόμο οδεύει και η Ασία. Η εξαγωγή επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων από το εσωτερικό της ΕΕ σε χώρες του εξωτερικού απαγορεύεται διά νόμου, ωστόσο παρανόμως συχνά αυτά μετονομάζονται σε «μεταχειρισμένα αγαθά» και αποστέλλονται σε αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες.

Αναρτήθηκε από [admin](#) vs στις [11:23 π.μ.](#)



Σημαντικό Μέρος των Ηλεκτρονικών Αποβλήτων Καταλήγει στα Σκουπίδια (ΟΗΕ)



Έως και το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους, αναφέρεται σε έκθεση που δημοσιοποίησε το Πρόγραμμα για το Περιβάλλον του Οργανισμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών (UNEP).

Σύμφωνα με το ΑΠΕ - ΜΠΕ η αξία των ηλεκτρονικών αγαθών, όπως ηλεκτρονικές συσκευές και φορητοί υπολογιστές, που καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια φτάνει τα 16,6 δισεκατομμύρια ευρώ ετησίως, ενώ δημιουργούνται 41 εκατομμύρια τόνοι αποβλήτων.

Όπως προβλέπεται στην έκθεση, έως το 2017 ο αριθμός αυτός θα φτάσει τους 50 εκατομμύρια τόνους, με κάθε τόνο να αξίζει 438 ευρώ.

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Η εξαγωγή επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων από το εσωτερικό της Ε.Ε. σε χώρες του εξωτερικού απαγορεύεται δια νόμου, ωστόσο παρανόμως συχνά αυτά μετονομάζονται σε «μεταχειρισμένα αγαθά» και αποστέλλονται σε αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες.

**energia.gr**

14/5/15



## Μέρος των e-αποβλήτων καταλήγει στα σκουπίδια

Δημοσιεύτηκε από [epirus portal](#)



Έως και το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους, αναφέρεται σε έκθεση που δημοσιοποίησε το Πρόγραμμα για το Περιβάλλον...

ηνπ Οξγαλίζκνύ Ηλωκέλωλ Δζλώλ (UNEP).

Η αμία ηωλ ει εθηνλνλθώλ αραζώλ, όπωο ει εθηνλνλθω ζπζθ επόο θαη θνξεννί ππν νγηζήό, πνπ θαηα ήγνπλ ζηα ζθ νπνίδηαθαήάλεη η 16,6 δηζθαηνκκύζηα επώ εηεζίω α, ελώ δεκηννζγνύληαη 41 εθαηνκκύζηα ήλνηα απνβι ήηωλ. Όπωο πζνβι έπεηαη ζηθλ έθζεζε, έωο ην 2017 ν αζηήζόο απηόο ζα θαήάζει ηνπο 50 εθαηνκκύζηα ήλνπο, κε θαίξε ηόλν λα αμίδει 438επζώ.

«Γηλόαζεηε κάζηπεο ζε έλαλ άλεπ πζνγνπκέλνπ όγθνπ ει εθηνλνλθώλ απνβι ήηωλ ζε όι ν ηνλ θόζκν», δήλωζε ν αλαπν εξωηήό Γεληθό Γζακκαήόο ηνπ ΟΗΔ Αρίκ Σηήλπεζ. «Γελ πζόθεηηη κόλν γηα έλα κεγάλ όγθν κε αλαθπθί ώζηηωλ απνβι ήηωλ πνπ ζπζώ ζεύεηαη, α ι ά θαη γηα ηα απμαλόκελε απει ή γηα ηε δεκόζηα πγεία θαη ηνπεζηθά ινλ, ι όγω ηωλ επηθλδύλωλ ζην ηνπώλ πνπ πεζιέρνπλ», πζόζζ εζε ν ίδηο.

Σύκθωλα κε ηελ έθζεζε, ε Δπζώπε θαη Εβόζεηα Ακεζιή απνηα νύλ ηνπο κεγά ύηεζνπο παζαγωγνύο ει εθηνλνλθώλ απνβι ήηωλ, ώζηόζν ζηνλ ίδην δζόκν νδεύει θαη ε Αζία. Η εμαγωγή επηθλδύλωλ απνβι ήηωλ από ην εζωηεζιήθ ηεο ΔΔ ζε ρώζεο ηνπ εμωηεζιήθ απαγνζεύεηαη δηά λόκνπ, ώζηόζν παζαλόκωο ζπρλά απηά κηνύλκν δνύληαη ζε «κηναρεζιήκ έλα αραζία» θαη απνζηεί ι νύηαη ζε αλαπνζζόκ ελεο ρώζεα. Έλα κείγκα κεγά εο θαη κηζιήο θι ικαθαο ι αζζεκ πνζίνπ ι ακβόλεηηώζε ζε νι όθι εζν ηνλ θόζκν. Ιδηάηεζα δεκνθ ηείο επηηνγέο απνηα νύλ ζα άζζηηεο κηναυζ έο εκπνζεκαηνθβωίωλ θαζώο θαη ε ζκνκν όγεζε απνβι ήηωλ κέζω κεγά ωλ παζάλκωλ θόκβωλ ζηε λόηηα Αζία. Ο ηε ηθω πζννζηζκόο ηωλ απνβι ήηωλ πνθίει η, θεζίωο αλάκεζα ζε ρώζεο ηεο Αζία ο θαη ηο Αθζηήό.

Τν UNEP εθηηά όηη εθαηα ι ει όηεζε ι ύζε γ ηα απηό ην πζόβι εκα έγθεηηη ζηθλ θαη ύηεζε ζπλεζαζία κηναμύ ηωλ εζλώλ θαη ζηθλ ελίζρπζε ηωλ δηελώλ θαλνλκώλ θαη ηο εθαζκνγίο απηώλ. Καηηηηάο ι ύζεο γηα ηελ θαηαηνι έκεζε ηεο παζάλκωο δηθθίεζεο απνβι ήηωλ, πηζαλόλ ζπκβαί νπλ επίζεο ζ ηε ζπζιθλώζε ηνπ πζνβι ήκαηο, αλαθέεηαη ζηθλ έθζεζε.



## Σηα ζκοσπίδια μεγάλο μέρος ηων ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων

### [ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑ](#)

01:44 - Παρασκευή, 15 Μαΐου 2015



#### Τι δείχνει έρευνα του ΟΗΕ

Χαρακτηριστικά και συνάμα απογοητευτικά είναι τα αποτελέσματα τις έκθεσης που δημοσιοποίησε το Πρόγραμμα Περιβάλλοντος του Οργανισμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών σύμφωνα με τα οποία έως και το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους.

Σύμφωνα με την έκθεση, η αξία των ηλεκτρονικών αγαθών, όπως ηλεκτρονικές συσκευές και φορητοί υπολογιστές, που καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια φτάνει τα 16,6 δισεκατομμύρια ευρώ ετησίως, ενώ κάθε χρόνο δημιουργούνται περίπου 41 εκατομμύρια τόνοι αποβλήτων, αριθμός που προβλέπεται να αυξηθεί μέσα στα επόμενα χρόνια. Έως το 2017 ο αριθμός αυτός αναμένεται να φτάσει τους 50 εκατομμύρια τόνους, με κάθε τόνο να αξίζει 438 ευρώ.

«Γινόμαστε μάρτυρες σε έναν άνευ προηγουμένου όγκου ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων σε όλο τον κόσμο», δήλωσε ο αναπληρωτής Γενικός Γραμματέας του ΟΗΕ Αχίμ Στάινερ. «Δεν πρόκειται μόνο για έναν μεγάλο όγκο μη ανακυκλώσιμων αποβλήτων που συσσωρεύεται, αλλά και για μια αυξανόμενη απειλή για τη δημόσια υγεία και το περιβάλλον, λόγω των επικίνδυνων στοιχείων που περιέχουν», πρόσθεσε ο ίδιος.

Αναμενόμενες είναι βέβαια οι ήπειροι οι οποίοι αποτελούν τους μεγαλύτερους παραγωγούς ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων, με την Ευρώπη και τη Βόρεια Αμερική να κατέχουν τις πρώτες θέσεις της

λίστας και την Ασία να ακολουθεί κατά πόδας. Παρόλο μάλιστα που η εξαγωγή επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων από το εσωτερικό της ΕΕ σε χώρες του εξωτερικού απαγορεύεται διά νόμου, δεν είναι λίγες οι φορές που παρανόμως αυτά μετονομάζονται σε «μεταχειρισμένα αγαθά» και αποστέλλονται σε αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες. Ένα μείγμα μεγάλης και μικρής κλίμακας λαθρεμπορίου λαμβάνει χώρα σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο. Ιδιαίτερα δημοφιλείς επιλογές αποτελούν οι θαλάσσιες μεταφορές εμπορευματοκιβωτίων καθώς και η δρομολόγηση αποβλήτων μέσω μεγάλων παράνομων κόμβων στη νότια Ασία. Ο τελικός προορισμός των αποβλήτων ποικίλει, κυρίως ανάμεσα σε χώρες της Ασίας και της Αφρικής.

Το UNEP εκτιμά ότι η καταλληλότερη λύση για αυτό το πρόβλημα έγκειται στην καλύτερη συνεργασία μεταξύ των εθνών και στην ενίσχυση των διεθνών κανονισμών και της εφαρμογής αυτών. Καινοτόμες λύσεις για την καταπολέμηση της παράνομης διακίνησης αποβλήτων, πιθανόν συμβάλλουν επίσης στη συρρίκνωση του προβλήματος, αναφέρεται στην έκθεση.



## Μέρος ηων e-αποβλήτων καηαλήγει ζηα ζκοσπίδια

ΑΘΗΝΑ 16/05/2015



Έως και το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους, αναφέρεται σε έκθεση που δημοσιοποίησε το **Πρόγραμμα για το Περιβάλλον του Οργανισμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών (UNEP)**.

Η αξία των ηλεκτρονικών αγαθών, όπως ηλεκτρονικές συσκευές και φορητοί υπολογιστές, που καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια φτάνει τα 16,6 δισεκατομμύρια ευρώ ετησίως, ενώ δημιουργούνται 41 εκατομμύρια τόνοι αποβλήτων. Όπως προβλέπεται στην έκθεση, έως το 2017 ο αριθμός αυτός θα φτάσει τους 50 εκατομμύρια τόνους, με κάθε τόνο να αξίζει 438 ευρώ.

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Σύμφωνα με την έκθεση, η **Ευρώπη και η Βόρεια Αμερική αποτελούν τους μεγαλύτερους παραγωγούς ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων, ωστόσο στον ίδιο δρόμο οδεύει και η Ασία**. Η εξαγωγή επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων από το εσωτερικό της ΕΕ σε χώρες του εξωτερικού απαγορεύεται διά νόμου, ωστόσο παρ'όμως συχνά αυτά μετονομάζονται σε «μεταχειρισμένα αγαθά» και αποστέλλονται σε

αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες. Ένα μείγμα μεγάλης και μικρής κλίμακας λαθρεμπορίου λαμβάνει χώρα σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο. Ιδιαίτερα δημοφιλείς επιλογές αποτελούν οι θαλάσσιες μεταφορές εμπορευματοκιβωτίων καθώς και η δρομολόγηση αποβλήτων μέσω μεγάλων παράνομων κόμβων στη νότια **Ασία**. Ο τελικός προορισμός των αποβλήτων ποικίλει, κυρίως ανάμεσα σε χώρες της **Ασίας** και της **Αφρικής**.

Το **UNEP** εκτιμά ότι η καταλληλότερη λύση για αυτό το πρόβλημα έγκειται στην καλύτερη συνεργασία μεταξύ των εθνών και στην ενίσχυση των διεθνών κανονισμών και της εφαρμογής αυτών. Καινοτόμες λύσεις για την καταπολέμηση της παράνομης διακίνησης αποβλήτων, πιθανόν συμβάλλουν επίσης στη συρρίκνωση του προβλήματος, αναφέρεται στην έκθεση.



Σημαντικό μέρος των ηλεκτρονικών  
αποβλήτων καταλήγει στα σκουπίδια



Έως θάη την 90%ώλω ει εθζήνλθώλ απνβή ήήωλ ήπ θόζκνπ είηε θαηα ήήνπλ ζήα ζθπνπίδραείηε ζπλ έγγνληηαπαζάάλκα κε ζθνόπ ηελ επαλαρξεζήκνπνείζή ήηπο, αλθθέξσηηα ζε έθζεξε πν δεκζήνπννείηε ην π Εξόζω άκκα γηαήνν Περζήβλ νλ ήηην Οζγώλ έκζνν Ηλωόέλωλ Εγλώλ (UNEP). Η αμία ηώλ ει εθζήνλθώλ αγαζάά, όπωο ει εθζήνλθώλ ζθπ Εξόζω θαη άξηειήν ππν νηήζήό, πνπ θαηαη ήήνπλ ζήα ζθπνπίδραθθάλεη ή 16,6 δηζάθαννκκόζηα επώ ηεζέζω, ελώ δεκηνηγνύληηη 41 εθαηνκκόζηα ήήνηη απνβή ήήωλ. Οκωο πέρνβι έπεσηζ ζηθθ έθζεξε, έόο ην 2017 ν αζηγόςό απθόό ζι θηάζεη ήην 50 εθαηνκκόζηα ήήπο, κε θάζε ήόλλ ηα αμίδει 438πεζέ. Σύκθωτα κε ηελ έθζεξε, ε Επζόζω θαη ε Βόζπει Ακεζήή απνηνυόλ ήηπο κεγαι ήγέηηο παζάγγωγνύ ει εθζήνλθώλ απνβή ήήωλ, ώζήόζν ζηνλ ίδην δξόκν νδούει θαι ε Αζία. Η εμωγωγή επηθλδύλωλ απνβή ήήωλ σό ην εζώμεηηθό πο ΕΕ ζε ρώεο ήηπ εμωεζεηθνύσπαγνύεσηη δηαόόκνπ, ώζ ήήνν παζαλόκωο ζη ρλά απάζα κερηνλκκόδνλ ηηη ζι: "κεηαρεζέζκ έλα αγαζά" θαη απνζ ήεί νλ ηηηη ζε...

SofokleousIn.gr

## ΟΗΕ: Το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων καυαλίζει ζηα ζκ ουπίδια

Υπολογίζεται ότι το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους, αναφέρεται σε έκθεση που δημοσιοποίησε το Πρόγραμμα για το Περιβάλλον του Οργανισμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών (UNEP).

Γεκνζίεπ ζε: 15/05/2015 - 13:09 Τει επηαία ειεθέξω ζε: 15/05/2015 - 13:09



Η αμία ηωλ ει εθηνζλνθώλ αγρζώλ, όπωσ ει εθηνζλνθω ζπζ επώ θαη θζηννί πννι νγηζνέω, ππ θαηα ήγγνλ ζηα ζβ νπνιόθαηάλε η 16,6 όηζζοαηνκζζήα επζ έρεζώ α, ελώ όεκεηνζνύλληηη 41,6 εσηηοκζζήα φληηα σνβνί ήηωλ. Όπωσ πζνβί έπεηηα ζηη έθζέεζ, ε, έω ηο 2017 ν ηζζζόζο αηηόω θα θάζάλε ηπο 50 εσηηοκζζήα φλντα, εκ θάζε πόλν λ αμδεν 438εζέη.

«Γηλόαζνε κάζεπζεο ζε έιαλ άλεπ πένεγνπκέλνι όγνπν ειεζεζνύλθωλ αηνπνί ήήωλ ζε όιν νγλ θόζζν», όηι ώς ν αλαη εζεώηηο Γελθθό Γέακκ απέώο ηνπ ΟΗΔ Αρίρ Σηόηεζε. «Γελ πζόθεηηηη κόλν γηηαέια κεγάλ ν όγνλ κε αλαθπθί ώς ηωλ αηοπνί ήήωλ ππ ζι ζζζζ ζεύεηηη, α ι α θαη γηααα απμάλόζεζε απει ηή γηαηη δεκόζζζα πγεία θαη ηηπεζεζβίαλ, ι όγω ηωλ επηθλδύλωλ ζηηηηεώλ ππ πεζέκελνλ, πζόζζζ εέε ν ίδηνλ»

Σύκθωλα κε ηελ έθζεξε , ε Δπώπε θα εΒόξεηα.Αεξηθή απηει νύλ ιηπο κελαι ύεζνπο

παξαγωννύο ει εθηνλνθλ απνβι ήηωλ, ωζηόζν ζηνλ ίδην δζόκν νδέσθ θη ε Αζία. Η εμαγωγή επηθλδπλ απνβι ήηωλ από ην εζωηεξηθό ηεο ΔΔ ζε ρώζεο ηνπ εμωηεξηθό απανξέσθ ηα ηα δηά λόκνπ, ωζηόζν π αζαλόκωο ζπ ρλά απηά κηνλνκ άδνλ ηα ζε «κηναρεξήκ έλα αραζά» θαη απνζήεί ι νλ ηα ζε αλαππζζόκ έλεο ρώζεα. Έλα κείγκα κεγάο εο θαη κηξήο θι ικαθαο ι αζέκπνζίνπ ι ακβάλεηρώζεα ζε νι όθι εζν ηνλ θόζκν. Ιδηάηεξα δεκνθ ηείο επηηνγέο απνηαι νύλ νη ζα άζζηεο κηνθνζέ έο εκπνζεπ κηνθ ηεβηώλ θαζώο θαη ε δζκνι όγεζε απνβι ήηωλ κέζω κεγάο παζάλκωλ θόκβωλ ζηε λόηηα Αζία. Ο ηε ηθθ πζννζηζκόο ηωλ απνβι ήηωλ πηθίο ηη, θεζίωο αλάκεζα ζε ρώζεο ηεο Αζίαο θαη ηο Αθζηήο.

Τν UNEP εθ ηηά όηη εθαηα ι ει όηεζε ι ύζε γ ηααηθό ην πζόβι εκα έγθνηηα ζηθ θαι ύηεζε ζπλεξαζία κηνκύ ηωλ εζλώλ θαη ζηθ ελίζρπζε ηωλ άηελώλ θαλνλζκόλ θαη ηο εθαζκνγέο απηώλ. Καηηηάεο ι ύεηο γηα ηελ θαηαην έκεζε ηεο παζάλκωο δηθνέζεο απνβι ήηωλ, πηζαλόλ ζπκβάι ι νπλ επίζεο ζηε ζπζζιθλζεο ηνπ πζνβι ήκαηο, αλαθέεηηα ζηελ έθζεζε.

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## Σημαντικό μέρος των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων καταλήγει στα σκουπίδια

Γεκνζ ηεζθε: 17 Μαίηο 2015, 10:49

Έως και ηο 90% ηων ηλεκηρονικών αποβλήτων ηος κόςμος είηε καηωλήγοςν ζηα ζκοσπίδια είηε ζσλλέγοςηαι παράνομα με ζκοπό ηην επαναηηζιμοπ οίηζή ηοςς, αναθέρεηα ζε έκθεζ η ποσ δημοζιοποίηζε ηο Πρόγραμμα για ηο Περιβάλλον ηος Οργανιζμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών (UNEP).



Η αμία ηωλ ει εθηνλνθλ αραζώλ, όπωο ει εθηνλνθθ ζπζθ επέο θαη θνξην νπνι νγηζηέο, πνπ θαηα ήγνπλ ζηα ζθ νππίδηα θάλεη η 16,6 δηζθαιηνκύζηα επώο ηεζίωο, ελώ δεκηνπζγνύλ ηα 41 εθαηοκύζηα φλνη απνβι ήηωλ. Όπωο πζνβι έπεηαη ζηθ έθζεζε, έωο ην 2017 ν αζηζκόο απηόο ζα θηάζε ηνπο 50 εθαηοκύζηα φλνπο, κε θάζε ηόλν λα αμίδει 438 επζώ.

Σύκθωλα κε ηελ έθζεζε, ε Δπζόπε θαη ε Βόξεηα Ακεξηκή απνηαι νύλ ηπο κεγά ύηεζνπ παξαγωννύο ει εθηνλνθλ απνβι ήηωλ, ωζηόζν ζηνλ ίδην δζόκν νδέσθ θη ε Αζία. Η εμαγωγή επηθλδπλ απνβι ήηωλ από ην εζωηεξηκό ηεο ΔΔ ζε ρώζεο ηνπ εμωηεξηκό απανξέσθ ηα ηα δηά λόκνπ, ωζηόζν π αζαλόκωο ζπ ρλά απηά κηνλνκ άδνλ ηα ζε «κηναρεξήκ έλα αραζά» θαη απνζήεί ι νλ ηα ζε αλαππζζόκ έλεο ρώζεα. Έλα κείγκα κεγάο εο θαη κηξήο θι ικαθαο ι αζέκπνζίνπ ι ακβάλεηρώζεα ζε νι όθι εζν ηνλ θόζκν. Ιδηάηεξα δεκνκ ηείο επηηνγέο απνηαι νύλ νη ζα άζζηεο κηνκνζέ έο εκπνζεπ κηνκ ηεβηώλ θαζώο θαη ε δζκνι όγεζε απνβι ήηωλ κέζω κεγάο παζάλκωλ θόκβωλ ζηε λόηηα Αζία. Ο ηε ηθθ πζοοζηζκόο ηωλ αποβι ήηωλ πηθίο ηη, κεζίωο αλάκεζα ζε ρώζεο ηεο Αζίαο θαη ηο Αθζηήο.

Τν UNEP εθ ηηά όηη εθαηα ι ει όηεζε ι ύζε γ ηααηθό ην πζόβι εκα έγθνηηα ζηθ θαι ύηεζε ζπλεξαζία κηνκύ ηωλ εζλώλ θαη ζηθ ελίζρπζε ηωλ άηελώλ θαλνλζκόλ θαη ηο εθαζκνγέο απηώλ. Καηηηάεο ι ύεηο γηα ηελ θαηαηο έκεζε ηεο παζάλκωο δηκνέζεο αποβι ήηωλ, πηζαλόλ ζπκβάι ι νπλ επίζεο ζηε ζπζζιθλζεο ηνπ πζοβι ήκαηο, αλαθέεηηα ζηελ έκθεζε.



# Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ

Περιβάλλον

Ημερομηνία: 15.05.2015 | 15:28

## ΟΗΕ: Το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων καταλήγει στα σκουπίδια

«Γινόμαστε μάρτυρες σε έναν άνευ προηγουμένου όγκου ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων σε όλο τον κόσμο

ΠΗΓΗ: skai.gr



Η αμία ηωλ ει εθηνλνθώλ ααζώλ, όπωο ει εθηνλνθω ζπζθ επέο θαη θνξηνί ππν νγηζήό, πνπ θαηα ήγνπλ ζηα ζθ νππίδηαθηάλεη η 16,6 δηζθαηνκκύζηα επώ εηεζίω α, ελώ δεκηνπζγνύληαη 41 εθαηνκκύζηα φλνηα απνβι ήηωλ. Όπωο πζνβι έπεηαη ζηθλ έθζεζε, έωο ην 2017 ν αξηήζόο αηηόό ζα θηάζεη ηνπο 50 εθαηνκκύζηα φλνπο, κε θάζε ηόλν λα αμίδεη 438επζώ.

«Γηλόςζε κεάζηπζο ζε έλαλ άλεπ πζνεγνπκέλνπ όγθνπ ει εθηνλνθώλ απνβι ήηωλ ζε όι ν ηνλ θόζκν», δήλ ωζε ν αλαπ εζωηήο Γεληθό Γζακκαηέοο ηνπ ΟΗΔ Αρίε Σηήλεζ. «Γελ πζόθεηαη κόλν γηα έλαλ κεγάλ ν γθν κε αλαθπι ώζηηωλ απνβι ήηωλ πνπ ζπζζω ζεύεηαη, α ι ά θαη γηα κηα απμαλόκελε απει ή γηα ηε δεκόζηα πγεία θαη ηνπεζηβάι νλ, ι όγω ηωλ εηηθλδύλωλ ζην ηεχίωλ πνπ πεζηέρνπλ», πζόζζ εζε ν ίδηοα

Σύκθωλα κε ηελ έθζεζε, ε Δπζώπε θαη Εβόζεηα Ακεζιθή απνηει νύλ ηνπο κεγάι ύηεζνπο παζαγωγνύο ει εθηνλνθώλ απνβι ήηωλ, ωζηόζν ζηνλ ίδηο δζόκν νδεύει θαη ε Αζία. Η εμαγωγή

εηηθλδύλωλ απνβι ήηωλ από ην εζωηεζιθώ ηεο ΔΔ ζε ρώζεο ηνπ εμωηεζιθώ απαγνζεύεηαη δηά λόκνπ, ωζηόζν παζαλόκωο ζπρλά απηά κεινλνκάννληαη ζε «κεηαεηεζιθέ έλα ααζά» θαη απνζηεί ι νληαη ζε αλαπυζζόκ ελεο ρώζεα.

Έλα κείγκα κεγάι εο θαηηηέζήο θι ίκαθαο ι αζζεκ πνζίνο ι ακβάλει ρώζα ζε νί θηι εζν ηνλ θόζκν. Ιδίηηεζα δεκν η είο επηηνγέο απνηει νύλ νη ζαιάζζεο κειοθνζ έο εκπνεπκαηνθηβωίωλ θαζώο θαη ε δζκνι όγεζε απνβι ήηωλ κέζω κεγάι ωλ παζάλκωλ θόκβωλ ζηε λόηηα Αζία. Ο ηειηθό πζννζηκόο ηωλ απνβι ήηωλ πνθίει, θεζίωο αλάκεζα ζε ρώζεο ηεο Αζίαο θαη ηε Αθζηήθ.

Τν UNEP εθηηθά όηη εθαηα ι ει όηεζε ι ύζε γηα απηό ην πζόβι εκα έγθεηαη ζηελ θαί ύηεζε ζπλεζαζία κειαμύ ηωλ εζλώλ θαη ζηελ ελίζρπζε ηωλ δηεζλώλ θαλνλζκώλ θαη ηεο εθαζκνγήο απηώλ. Καηλνθέο ι ύζεο γηα ηελ θαηαην έκεζε ηεο παζάλκωο δηθνύεζεο απνβι ήηωλ, πηζαλόλ ζπκβάι νπλ επίζεο ζ ηε ζπζζιθλζε ηνπ πζνβι ήκαηνο, αλαθέζεηαη ζηελ έθζεζε.

## Στα σκουπίδια το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων

Πηγή: Express.gr 14/05/15-18:57



Εως και το 90% των ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων του κόσμου είτε καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια είτε συλλέγονται παράνομα με σκοπό την επαναχρησιμοποίησή τους, αναφέρεται σε έκθεση που δημοσιοποίησε το Πρόγραμμα για το Περιβάλλον του Οργανισμού Ηνωμένων Εθνών (UNEP). Η αξία των ηλεκτρονικών αγαθών, όπως ηλεκτρονικές συσκευές και φορητοί υπολογιστές, που καταλήγουν στα σκουπίδια φτάνει τα 16,6

δισεκατομμύρια ευρώ ετησίως, ενώ δημιουργούνται 41 εκατομμύρια τόνοι αποβλήτων. Όπως προβλέπεται στην έκθεση, έως το 2017 ο αριθμός αυτός θα φτάσει τους 50 εκατομμύρια τόνους, με κάθε τόνο να αξίζει 438 ευρώ.

Σύμφωνα με την έκθεση, η Ευρώπη και η Βόρεια Αμερική αποτελούν τους μεγαλύτερους παραγωγούς ηλεκτρονικών αποβλήτων, ωστόσο στον ίδιο δρόμο οδεύει και η Ασία. Η εξαγωγή επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων από το εσωτερικό της ΕΕ σε χώρες του εξωτερικού απαγορεύεται διά νόμου, ωστόσο παρανόμως συχνά αυτά μετονομάζονται σε «μεταχειρισμένα αγαθά» και αποστέλλονται σε αναπτυσσόμενες χώρες.

# India

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**LA STAMPA** **TECNOLOGIA**



## Electronic wasteland

Sunday, 17 May 2015 - 5:20am IST | Place: Mumbai | Agency: dna | From the print edition  
India is a leading e-waste importer and also the world's fifth highest e-waste generator. Where does it all go? Moreover, given the hazardous nature of the business, what are the safeguards taken by recyclers and the humble kabadiwala? Roshni Nair tries to find out



Zakir Hussain is on the boil. "Yeh log sabko c\*\*\*\*\*e banate hai (These people make fools of everyone)," seethes the Govandi-based scrap dealer. "They buy the junk and do the same thing we do. Recycle, my foot!"

The people referred to are licensed [electronic waste](#) (e-waste) recyclers who constitute the formal sector. Scrap dealers or *kabadiwalas* like Hussain make up the informal sector, and are criticised for 'primitive' handling of e-waste.

Mumbai's *kabadiwalas* aren't alone here. Guiyu in China's Guangdong province and Agbogbloshie district in Accra, Ghana, are [e-waste](#) hubs where locals make a killing from environmentally-unfriendly e-waste management. Much of the western world's e-waste, it's believed, is illegally dumped in locations like these. According to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) just-released *Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector* report, 90 per cent of global e-waste is traded to China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana, Republic of Congo and Cote d'Ivoire.

India isn't just a leading e-waste importer. According to the UN Global e-waste Monitor 2014 report, it's also the world's fifth highest e-waste generator.

So what can the average Indian household that relies on *kabadiwalas* to dispose everything from paper to obsolete technology do? After all, more raw material means more frequent processes like acid baths. "Karkhanas (workshops) where *bhangar* (junk) is sold by *kabadiwalas* use 40-50l of hydrochloric-nitric acid solutions to extract few grams of metal from circuit boards. Once the metal is separated, the acid is dumped in sewers or water bodies," informs Gaurav Mardia, founder, E-Incarnation Recycling Pvt. Ltd.

Zakir Hussain, however, alleges most e-cyclers claim to work for the environment, but do the opposite. A case in point is CRT or dabba TVs and monitors. "Most recyclers don't buy them as they have no resale value, or they sell them to the very bhangarwalas they crib about," he stresses.

### Battery down

Many think e-waste is limited to large appliances, gadgets or obsolete tech. But what about peripherals like batteries and earphones?

"Batteries aren't bought by scrap dealers, so they're binned and end up in landfills," says Debartha Banerjee, co-founder of urban waste management start-up Sampurn(e)arth Environment Solutions. "It's a serious hazard."

Prof Sadhan Kumar Ghosh, head of Jadavpur University's Mechanical Engineering Department and president of the International Society of Waste Management, Air and Water (ISWMAW), agrees: "Indians usually don't throw 'prized material' at dump sites. But mobile, uninterruptible power supply (UPS), pencil and AA batteries are commonly out in the trash." Such batteries have cadmium, lead and other carcinogenic metals that leak into soil and water and cause health problems.



### Poor economies of scale

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's much vaunted scheme to clean India, allocated Rs.376 crore for solid waste management (SWM), but didn't formulate any guidelines for it, leave alone for e-waste. It's a downer for India's 100-odd licensed e-cyclers, most of who have poor supply chain and logistics networks. Chances of a recycler sending a vehicle to collect one laptop or smartphone are zero. So people will naturally call a *kabadiwala* who's around the corner and offer more money than recyclers.

"E-waste recyclers should use the *kabadiwalas*' network to increase reach," feels Satish Sinha, associate director of environmental NGO Toxics Link. "Few places in the world have such a thriving informal sector where people come to your doorstep to collect waste. Why not train them to be part of the formal sector's supply chain?"

Mardia claims he'd approached scrap dealers to be part of his network, only to be stonewalled. "Consumers themselves want to give their e-waste to the highest bidder. e-cyclers can't pay as much as *kabadiwalas* due to various overheads. What's needed is a shift in mentality and implementation at the municipal level to manage e-waste effectively."

### What you can do

What happens to old appliances or gadgets you exchange for their discounted, newer counterparts? They go to the informal sector since most old-for-new offers are run by dealers, not electronics producers, says Sinha. Toxics Link's campaign to push for extended producer responsibility (EPR) bore fruit with the E-Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011. According to the rules, brands/producers have to collect, process and [recycle](#) their discarded products. But the problem, as with our e-waste and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) regulations, is that it's not effectively implemented.

"Even then, I'd ask people find out if a brand has a take back programme. If not, give e-waste to authorised recyclers. Many women and children in the informal sector dismantle e-waste without masks and gloves, in rooms that aren't ventilated. It's hazardous and shouldn't be encouraged."

Banerjee and Mardia suggest that societies install bins for all forms of e-waste, including batteries, which can be collected on a monthly basis by recycling companies.

As for the long term, Ghosh hopes laws such as the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 will be updated. "Segregation for dry and wet garbage itself is not implemented, leave alone e-waste. Unless this and EPR is taken seriously, hazardous e-waste disposal will thrive."



## UN environment chief warns of 'tsunami' of e-waste at a conference

Source : IBNS

Last Updated: Tue, May 05, 2015 09:50 hrs



The head of the United Nations body tasked with setting the global environmental agenda on Monday stressed the need to limit the use of dangerous chemicals and to find a solution to the masses of electronic waste building up around the world, as a Conference of Parties to three major Conventions on the subject began in Geneva on Monday.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told journalists that the tsunami of e-waste rolling out over the world not only accounted for a large portion of the world's non-recyclable waste mountain but also needed dealing with because many elements found in electronic equipment are potentially hazardous to people and the environment. Never mind that it is also an economic stupidity because we are throwing away an enormous amount of raw materials that are essentially re-useable, said Steiner. He added, Whether it is gold, silver or some of the rare earths that you have heard about perhaps in recent years, it is still an incredible amount. Steiner said that the amount of some such materials that are available above ground in unused electronics now exceeds the amount still in the ground and he looked to the potential of the Basel Convention to help access urban

mines by working to better inform people of how to dispose of their e-waste. As well as the Basel Convention, for which the Geneva meeting is the 12th Conference of Parties, the eleven-day 2015 Triple COPs: Setting the Scene for Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste, Worldwide will also cover the Seventh Conference of Parties to both the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions. Over 1,500 delegates are expected to take part in the talks, which aim to improve three international conventions contributing to global controls on hazardous chemicals and waste. The Executive Director said the three Conventions were not about stopping the use of chemicals but about providing a clear platform from which to inform policy-makers of science that can inform decisions to help protect citizens from toxicity and about signalling to the market that alternatives are needed. He pointed out how materials used in production of various items are becoming ever more present in peoples daily lives, and he said people were becoming increasingly a repository for the chemical footprint of the 21st century, often in ways that damage health. Annually, one million people die from occupational poisoning, Steiner said, referring to the effects of the use of chemicals on peoples bodies. He added, This is something that is, in this day and age, not only unnecessary its really intolerable. And this is why the sound management of chemicals is something that has brought Governments, civil society but also the private sector and the chemical industry together. The Executive Secretary of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Rolph Payet, echoed Steiners concerns about the number of people dying from occupational poisoning and described the wide reach of chemicals, with DDT found in polar bear and fat because of its transport in water and in the air. While the number of those dying from occupational poisoning was notable, he also pointed to the silent crisis, whereby the accumulation of chemicals in peoples bodies was possibly slowly killing them. Clayton Campanhola, the Executive Secretary of Rotterdam Convention and a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said the agency was particularly focused on the prevention of use and safe disposal of obsolete pesticides. About 500,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides scattered around the developing world posed serious risks to people and environment, he said. Credit: ITU



## India, a victim of e-waste crime



The Indian subcontinent has turned into an major destination for European waste.

### "Exporting e-waste to Asia worked out 10 times cheaper than processing it in within these countries."

Much of the 40 million tonnes of electronic waste produced around the world — old smartphones, TVs, laptops and obsolete kitchen appliances — finds its way illegally to Asia and Africa every year, says a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Close to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste — worth nearly \$19 billion — is illegally traded or dumped each year, to destinations half way across the world. While the European Union the U.S. and Japan are the primary origins of e-waste shipments, China, India, Malaysia and Pakistan are the main destinations, says the report. In Africa, Ghana and Nigeria are the biggest recipients of e-waste.

## Destination India

Illegal trade is driven by the relatively low costs of shipment and the high costs of treatment in the developed countries. Quoting an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study, the UNEP report says that exporting e-waste to Asia worked out 10 times cheaper than processing it in within these countries.

The Indian subcontinent has turned into an important destination for European waste. This goes beyond e-waste to include household waste, metals, textiles and tires — which are exported to India and Pakistan, says the report “Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges in the Waste Sector.”

“There is a significant trade in compressors to Pakistan. These should be depolluted prior to export, but waste operators seeking to avoid expense often omit this step,” the report notes.

### ‘Toxic time bomb’

The vast majority of illegal e-waste ends up in landfills, incinerators, and in ill-equipped recycling facilities. “The waste is dumped in areas where local residents and workers disassemble the units and collect whatever is of value... What is not reusable is simply dumped as waste, creating immense problems and leading to what has been described as a ‘toxic time bomb’.”

While Europe and North America are by far the largest producers of e-waste, Asia’s cities are fast catching up as consumers of electronic goods and as generators of e-waste. In China, for instance, 73.9 million computers, 0.25 billion mobile phones, and 56.6 million televisions were sold in 2011, the report says. Forecasts say that in just two years, the total quantum of e-waste generated around the world will be 50 million tonnes.

## नवभारत टाइम्स

## फिटनेस फंडा

# ई-वेस्ट का 90% कारोबार अवैध तरीके से

May 15, 2015, 03.00AM IST

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प्रमुख संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दुनिया में 90 प्रतिशत ई-वेस्ट का कारोबार और निपटान अवैध तरीके से हो रहा है। इसमें भारत समेत एशिया के देश काफी आगे हैं। अभी दुनिया में हर साल करीब चार करोड़ 10 लाख टन ई-वेस्ट पैदा हो रहा है और 2017 तक इसके 5 करोड़ टन पहुंचने के आसार हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (UNEP) की एक रिपोर्ट बताती है कि सबसे ज्यादा ई-वेस्ट स्मार्टफोन्स और कंप्यूटरों के कारण पैदा हो रहा है। भारत समेत ज्यादातर देशों में ई-वेस्ट के निपटारे के लिए ठोस नीति नहीं है। ई-वेस्ट का मौजूदा कारोबार करीब 19 अरब डॉलर का है।

रिपोर्ट कहती है कि वैसे तो यूरोपीय यूनियन और कई अन्य विकसित देशों से ई-वेस्ट के निर्यात पर बैन है, लेकिन फिर भी कई विकसित देश सेकंड हैंड सामान के नाम पर विकासशील देशों को ई-वेस्ट बेच रहे हैं। इसमें खराब बैटरियाँ, कैथोड-ने ट्यूब्स और कंप्यूटर के मॉनिटर शामिल हैं। इन सामान को प्लास्टिक या मिक्स्ड मेटल स्क्रेप या मेटल स्क्रेप के नाम से विकासशील देशों को भेजा जाता है। नतीजा यह कि भारत, पाकिस्तान, चीन, वियतनाम और नाइजीरिया जैसे कई देश ई-वेस्ट का बाजार बनते जा रहे हैं और इन देशों में इस कचरे के निपटारे के ठोस इंतजाम नहीं हैं। साथ ही, इन देशों में जो ई-वेस्ट पैदा हो रहा है, वह अलग है।

यूएनईपी का कहना है कि ई-वेस्ट, सीवेज, केमिकल्स और अन्य कचरे के कारण पर्यावरण पर गंभीर असर पड़ रहा है। ई-वेस्ट में गोल्ड, कॉपर और अन्य कीमती धातुओं के होने के कारण इनका अवैध तरीके से कारोबार हो रहा है। यूएनईपी ने सभी देशों से कहा है कि वे ई-वेस्ट के निपटारे के लिए जल्द ठोस कानून बनाएं।

मोबाइल ऐप [डाउनलोड करें](#) और रहें हर खबर से अपडेट।

हर ताज़ा अपडेट पाने के लिए [NBT के फ़ेसबुक पेज को लाइक करें।](#)

## India reluctant to join global ban on toxic chemical

[Jayashree Nandi](#), TNN | May 29, 2015, 04.53 PM IST

NEW DELHI: The fate of a toxic chemical is yet to be decided in India, despite 90 nations voting for a global ban on its usage. Pentachlorophenol (PCP), a persistent organic pollutant (POP) which is mainly used as a wood preservative in India has been banned completely at the Conference of Parties (COP) 7 of the Stockholm convention held earlier this month in Geneva. Exposure to PCP is even linked to certain types of cancers.

But according to the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), a global network of 700 organisations and advocacy groups "the historic vote came at the combined meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions - which usually make decisions by consensus - after India repeatedly blocked action."

India has long banned its use in agriculture and leather industry precisely because of its toxicity. But experts who attended the meeting said there has to be a complete ban for two reasons—POPs invariably enter the food chain and the environment because they are persistent in nature. The other reason is unless there is a complete ban it's difficult to ensure that people are not using the chemical for other purposes.

"During the meeting, India surprisingly rejected the findings of the Stockholm Convention's own scientific expert committee in which they participated. Ninety-four countries voted in favour of global prohibition of pentachlorophenol; two opposed; and eight countries abstained," IPEN stated.

But India was also being rushed in to voting for a ban by member nations even without having an opportunity to register the issues it had with the expert committee's report. "Yes we opposed the ban. There are two reasons for it. One is that we had pointed several scientific infirmities in the report. We had suggested that they go back, review it and bring it to the next meeting. But EU along with the African nations made a majority and voted us out. The other reason is we need alternatives. We wanted to take the industry on board to come up with proper alternatives which can be as effective in humid regions," Shashi Shekhar, special secretary, ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MoEFCC) told TOI. He said that as of now Pentachlorophenol's use is permitted only for wood but they are not sure if it's being used elsewhere too.

"This is quite unfortunate that for the first time in history Stockholm Convention banned a chemical based on voting rather than on consensus. Though India has banned the use of Pentachlorophenol in

pesticides and leather, it could have provided more evidence as per the convention's obligations to get exemptions for its use. The use of PCP needs to be strictly controlled to minimize the exposure to the environment and human health. Canada, a party to the convention was one of the biggest users of PCP and had sought exemption for its use but it also has very strict regulations in place to minimize the exposure to the human health," said Piyush Mohapatra of Toxics Link who also attended the meeting.

In India about 1,800 tonnes per year of Na-PCP, a salt of PCP is being produced in the state of Maharashtra and West Bengal, India is the leading exporter of Na-PCB globally. In Sri Lanka all uses of PCP has been prohibited since 1994. In Thailand, PCP has been banned for agricultural use since 1995, public health uses since 2000 and industrial use since 2001. In 1997, China restricted the production and use of Na-PCP but is using it as a wood preservative like India but it accepted the ban this time. EU and others have also long prohibited its use.



## Dijual Ilegal, Nilai Sampah Elektronik Capai Rp 250 Triliun

Hani Nur Fajrina, CNN Indonesia  
Rabu, 13/05/2015 16:31 WIB



Ilustrasi (dmitrydesign/Thinkstock)

**Jakarta, CNN Indonesia** -- Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa (PBB) merilis laporan data bahwa sekitar 90 persen 'sampah' barang elektronik seperti komputer, televisi, hingga ponsel pintar secara ilegal diperdagangkan tiap tahun.

Selain mencemari lingkungan, barang elektronik rongsokan yang sekiranya sudah menjadi buangan atau sampah nyatanya menciptakan bisnis kriminal yang sangat menguntungkan. Mirisnya, aktivitas ilegal ini mayoritas terjadi di kawasan Asia dan Afrika.

Laporan tersebut menunjukkan ada sekitar 41,8 juta metrik ton sampah elektronik atau e-waste di tahun 2014. Angka tersebut disinyalir bakal menukik 50 persen pada 2018 mendatang.

Yang mengejutkan adalah, sekitar 60 sampai 90 persen sampah elektronik diperdagangkan

atau dibuang secara ilegal. Secara estimasi, bisnis tersebut menghasilkan US\$ 19 miliar per tahun atau setara Rp 250 triliun.

Oknum-oknum tak bertanggung jawab itu banyak yang menggunakan sampah daur ulang seperti plastik, kertas, atau logam untuk melindungi bahan berbahaya dari sampah elektronik tersebut. Namun, ada juga yang dengan sengaja menamainya sebagai barang tak berbahaya demi mengelabui aturan hukum.

Mengutip situs *The Guardian*, negara seperti Ghana, Nigeria, Tiongkok, Pakistan, India, dan Vietnam kini menjadi pusat sampah elektronik ilegal. Semuanya menyalurkan pembuangan legal global yang bernilai US\$ 410 miliar per tahun atau sekitar Rp 5.405 triliun.

"Kami menyaksikan jumlah pembuangan barang elektronik di seluruh dunia yang sulit dipercaya. Tak hanya menyumbang porsi besar dari gunung sampah non-daur ulang, tapi juga meningkatkan ancaman bagi kesehatan manusia karena lingkungan semakin tercemar dari elemen yang terkandung di barang tersebut," ujar salah satu petinggi PBB yang juga direktur eksekutif United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner.

Fenomena ini, menurut pihak PBB dan UNEP, bisa menjadi aspek pendorong terhadap kesadaran badan penegak hukum untuk lebih menguatkan perundang-undangan nasional.

(eno/eno)



**Illegally Traded and Dumped E-Waste Worth up to \$19 Billion Annually Poses Risks to Health, Deprives Countries of Resources, Says UNEP report**

Source: [UNEP News](#)

Up to 90% of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a [report](#) released today by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry - one of the world's largest and fastest growing - generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tonnes already by 2017

A staggering 60-90% of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's "Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector", launched today in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around US \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste ranges from US \$12.5 to US \$18.8 billion annually.

UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner said: "We are witnessing an unprecedented amount of electronic waste rolling out over the world. Not only does it account for a large portion of the world's non-recycled »waste mountain«, but it also poses a growing threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains."

"Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures we can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public," he added.

Innovative solutions to combat illegal and unsustainable handling of e-waste are emerging. Recovering valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products, for example, can reduce the amount of e-waste produced, diminishing pressure on the environment, creating jobs and generating income.

The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit

pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment. The report also points to the fact that every year, roughly one third of the food produced for human consumption globally - approximately 1.3 billion tonnes, worth over US \$1 trillion - is lost or wasted.

The global waste market - from collection to recycling - is estimated to be worth US \$410 billion a year, generating jobs and incomes. As with any large economic sector, it creates opportunities for illegal activities at various stages of the waste chain. Concentrated on making profit, operators are prone to ignore waste regulations and expose workers to toxic chemicals. On a larger scale, organized crime may engage in tax fraud and money laundering, as volumes handled go largely unregistered, allowing for substantial under and overreporting.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly.

Export of hazardous waste from European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member States to non-OECD countries is banned; therefore it is not subject to notification or licensing. Instead, thousands of tonnes of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries, including waste batteries falsely described as plastic or mixed metal scrap, and cathode ray tubes and computer monitors declared as metal scrap. Both small and large-scale smuggling techniques can be observed all over the world, from organized truck transport across Europe and North America to the use of major smuggling hubs in South Asia, including widespread container transport by sea.

Africa and Asia are key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes for dumping, and sometimes for recycling. Ghana and Nigeria are among the largest recipients in West Africa, although high volumes of e-waste are also transported to Cote d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. In Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam appear to bear the brunt of illegal e-waste shipments.

Inconsistency in regulations between exporting and importing countries - including what is classified as hazardous or contaminated waste - poses a challenge to effectively combatting illegal waste trafficking.

Technical guidelines on the criteria used to classify equipment as waste or non-waste are currently negotiated at the international level. Binding agreements on classification of waste through the conventions will be vital to preventing the dumping of waste in developing countries.

Insufficient control over waste removal is another loophole exploited by criminals, who collect payments for the safe disposal of waste, which they later dump or recycle unsafely.

Another source of income from illegal waste handling comes from recycling certain components, such as rare earth metals, copper and gold. The discarded electronics are recycled in conditions that are

hazardous to health, and typically lead to subsequent dumping of the majority of the waste. Promoting safe recycling is vital to a better waste management.

## LA STAMPA TECNOLOGIA

### Onu: più di 40 milioni di tonnellate di rifiuti elettronici l'anno

L'e-waste generato dall'industria tecnologica potrebbe raggiungere i 50 milioni di tonnellate già entro il 2018



GINEVRA

Nel 2014, l'industria elettronica - una delle più grandi e in più rapida crescita al mondo - ha generato circa 41,8 milioni di tonnellate di rifiuti elettronici (e-waste) provenienti da beni di consumo quali computer e smartphone, ma solo una piccola parte - tra il 10 e il 40% secondo le stime - è riciclato e gestito in modo corretto, afferma un rapporto pubblicato a Ginevra dal [Programma delle Nazioni Unite per l'ambiente](#) (Unep).

Le previsioni dicono che la montagna di e-waste potrebbe raggiungere le 50 milioni di tonnellate già entro il 2018. «Stiamo assistendo all'arrivo di una quantità senza precedenti di rifiuti elettronici che alimenta una buona parte della montagna di rifiuti non riciclati e pone una crescente minaccia alla salute umana e all'ambiente, a causa di componenti pericolosi in esso contenuti», ha detto il direttore esecutivo dell'Unep Achim Steiner.

Il rapporto - lanciato in occasione della Conferenza delle Parti delle tre convenzioni principali affrontare la questione dei rifiuti globale, (Convenzioni di Basilea, Rotterdam e Stoccolma) - ricorda che l'Interpol stima il prezzo di una tonnellata di rifiuti elettronici a circa 500 dollari.

Per l'Unep, una gestione corretta dei rifiuti è vincente tramite il riciclaggio dei preziosi e rari materiali contenuti e la riduzione dei rischi per la salute.

# Japan

livedoor NEWS

## 世界の電子廃棄物、90%が違法処理されている

世界の「電子・電気機器廃棄物」のうち、最大で90%が違法に取引・処理されているという。解決のためには国際協力が必要なほか、ゴミ処理のテクノロジーが進歩することも求められている。



写真拡大

[「世界の電子廃棄物、90%が違法処理されている」の写真・リンク付きの記事はこちら](#)

国連環境計画（UNEP）が5月12日付けで発表した[報告書](#)によると、世界の「電子・電気機器廃棄物」（E-waste）のうち、最大で90%が不法投棄あるいは不正取引されているという。

不正に投棄・取引される電子機器やノートパソコンなどの物品は、毎年190億ドル相当にのぼる。国際刑事警察機構（ICPO）の見積もりでは、廃棄物1トンの価値が約500ドルになるという。

現在の廃棄物の量は最大で4,100万トンとみられているが、2017年までに、その数字は5,000万トンに増えると予測されている。

「このような廃棄物は、世界のゴミ山の大部分を占めているだけでなく、有害物質を含んでいるため、人間の健康と環境をますます脅かしています」と、UNEP事務局長のアヒム・シュタイナーは語る。

電

子・電気機器廃棄物の世界最大の「生産国」はヨーロッパと北アメリカだが、アジアの各都市も急速にその存在感を増しつつある。欧州連合（EU）内から非EU加盟国に対して有害廃棄物を輸出することは禁止されているが、廃棄物を「中古品」と偽って輸送するのは、回収業者を装った犯罪者たちがよく使う手だ。

有害廃棄物の最終目的地は、アフリカとアジアのさまざまな国。アフリカの場合、世界一巨大な電子・電気廃棄物の投棄場とされる「[アグボグブロシー](#)」（文末に動画）があるガーナが有名だ。

（関連記事）[電子廃棄物が数kmにわたって集積する中国の村：動画](#)

ゴミ問題の主な原因のひとつは、「有害廃棄物」の定義をめぐる、「輸出国」と「輸入国」間の規制の矛盾である。

それを解決するための鍵は、国際協力体制の改善と国家規制の強化にあるとUNEPは考えている。廃棄物の違法な処理に対抗しうる革新的な解決策の出現、例えば製品の内部から金属やそのほかの有価物を適正な方法で回収することなども、廃棄物の削減につながるかもしれない。



# Kenya



## E-waste becoming a major environment, health concern



An attendant charges mobile phones at a kiosk. Most of these phones eventually end up as electronic waste. Photo Elkana Jacob



A garbage of the electronic collected by Machakos University College.



Kenya is staring at an electronic waste crisis due to the disposal of high number of devices after a life-span of between two to three years.

The Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) estimates that in the next five years, the country will be struggling with several thousands tonnes of dead cell phones in addition to broken computers, printers, refrigerators, analogue television sets and useless transmitters.

According to a Kenya status report, the country generated 3,000 metric tonnes of e-waste in 2007. Kenya has no specific national policy on e-waste but the ICT sector policy recognises the problem and places some requirements on CAK and ICT licencees.

At the heart of the problem is the lack of infrastructure and resources to manage end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment and treatment facilities.

This, and the lack of e-waste legislation, have resulted in excessive waste stocks being held by consumers, who are not aware of their impact on health and environment.

Environment Cabinet Secretary Judi Wakhungu says electronic waste will continue to pile up as Kenyans continue to import new and used equipment. "East African Community (EAC) should find a solution to e-waste recycling as facilities cannot be set up in each country right from the start due to capacity constraints and financial challenges," she said in Nairobi recently while opening a workshop on sustainable e-waste management in East Africa.

"We have developed draft e-waste guidelines to streamline procedures of handling and disposal of e-waste generated by various sectors. This is in addition to a draft e-waste regulations expected to be gazetted in the next two months," she said.

Prof Wakhungu says the regulations will facilitate trans-boundary movement of e-waste to create economies of scale and facilitate investment in the recycling sector.

The National Environment Management Authority (Nema) has so far licensed two recycling centres and one facility to handle old fluorescent bulbs in Kenya. According to the State of Environment Report (2011) released by Unep, global e-waste generation was estimated at about 40 million tonnes yearly.

Kenyan annual e-waste generation includes 11,400 tonnes of old refrigerators, 2,800 tonnes of TVs, 2,500 tonnes of personal computers, 500 tonnes of printers and 150 of mobile phones.

Prof Wakhungu said the informal sector in most of Sub-Saharan Africa collects e-waste and recycles it using crude methods.

This releases to the environment toxic chemicals such as lead, barium, mercury and cadmium to the environment. "This endangers the lives of both the general public and the workers involved in the recycling process. E-waste, when burnt, causes air pollution through release of toxic emissions, some which are known carcinogens. Poor disposal blocks water channels, contaminates land and compromises scenic beauty," Prof Wakhungu says. "Recycling makes

business sense because end of life electrical and electronic equipment contain valuable resources and precious metals such as gold, silver, copper, steel, aluminium, and plastics."

Wakhungu says successful treatment facilities will provide environmental and economic benefits. "The recycling industry requires huge volumes of e-waste to ensure sustainability of the treatment process. There is therefore need for a regional cooperation to avail a solution in the East African Region through harmonisation of environmental standards and removal of barriers to avail adequate quantities and enable successful implementation," she says.

The regulations provide a system for identification, collection, sorting, recycling and disposal of e-waste.

The regulations also encourage private sector investment in e-waste.

In the proposals, producers, who include all importers of new and used electrical and electronic equipment as well as local manufacturers, bear the financial costs for collection and recycling plans.

Exports will be permitted after confirmation by environmental authorities that the receiving facilities adhere to environmental laws.

Some private initiatives have already started. Masinde Muliro University, Safaricom, Samsung and Startimes have started take-back initiatives.

East Africa communications organisation executive secretary Hodge Semakula says due to ICTs explosion in Africa, there's an unprecedented importation of high volumes of second hand devices like computers, mobile phones and TVs, many of which are either obsolete or nearly dead. "Opportunities created by ICTs have given rise to new forms of ICT enabled services like e-education, e-health, e-government and e-banking, which have improved delivery of services to the public," he says.

Semakula says unfortunately, many countries have continued to be dumping ground for analogue TV sets and still continue to import them.

CAK boss Francis Wangusi welcomes the proposals, saying there will be a dramatic rise in the number of mobile connections including handsets, tablets and machine-to-machine devices, to 11 billion by 2020.

## HEALTH EFFECTS

Discarded products like mobile phones, old radios, TV sets, refrigerators, fluorescent bulbs contains many of the following dangerous chemicals:

**Mercury:** It now exists in every light-saving bulb. Exposure – even small amounts – is a threat to the development of fetuses and young children. Mercury may also poison the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.

**Arsenic:** May possibly contribute to cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes.

**Cadmium:** Leads to bone pain and severely weakened, fragile bones.

**Chromium:** Can cause skin irritation and rashes and is potentially carcinogenic.

**Copper:** Can irritate the throat and lungs and affect the liver, kidneys and other body systems.

**Lead poisoning:** Can cause impairment of cognitive and verbal activity. Eventually, lead exposure can cause paralysis, coma and death.

# Madagascar

**L'Express**  
QUOTIDIEN D'INFORMATION ET D'ANALYSE  
DE MADAGASCAR

# Mexico

**almomento**<sup>MR</sup>  
NOTICIAS

CONVENTION DE BALE – Haro sur l'importation des déchets dangereux  
4.04.2015 | 8:54

Réactif face à l'importation et tentative d'importation des déchets dangereux à Madagascar, Jean Claude Salama, point focal de la Convention de Bâle et chef de service de la valorisation des déchets a martelé hier que Madagascar était signataire de cette convention et jouissait de tous les droits relatifs à cette convention.

Aussi cette convention stipule-t-elle et reconnait-elle pleinement que tout État possède le droit souverain d'interdire l'entrée ou l'élimination de déchets dangereux et d'autres déchets d'origine étrangère sur son territoire. Les mouvements transfrontières de ces déchets de l'État vers tout autre État ne devraient être ainsi autorisés que lorsqu'ils sont réalisés dans des conditions ne présentant aucun danger pour la santé humaine et l'environnement et conformément aux dispositions de la Convention.

« Les dommages que les déchets dangereux et d'autres déchets ainsi que les mouvements transfrontières de ces déchets risquent d'impacter sur la santé humaine et à l'environnement », a indiqué cette Convention. Afin de limiter les dégâts, la Grande île s'est aussi dotée d'un décret n°754-2012 fixant la procédure de gestion des produits en fin de vie, sources de déchets et des déchets dangereux nuisibles à l'environnement dans le cadre de la mise œuvre de la convention de Bâle.

Vonjy Radasimalala

ALERTAN SOBRE SU IMPACTO EN LA SALUD

## *Los desechos electrónicos se han convertido en un “tsunami” que afecta la salud: ONU*

- Se intenta concienciar a las diversas industrias el desarrollo de productos alternativos no tóxicos



RedacciónAM 4 may 2015 - 15:32 CET

GINEBRA, 4 de mayo (**Al Momento Noticias**) - La Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) advirtió que los desechos electrónicos se están convirtiendo en un “tsunami mundial” y que éste traerá graves efectos sobre la salud humana y la naturaleza. El informe fue presentado por el responsable de la ONU para el Medio Ambiente, Achim Steiner, tras inaugurar una conferencia bienal sobre el manejo de químicos y residuos peligrosos.



Delegados de 180 países se reúnen durante dos semanas en Ginebra para tomar decisiones relacionadas con la aplicación de tres convenciones internacionales, cuyo fin es regular el movimiento transfronterizo de desechos tóxicos, el comercio de químicos peligrosos y la eliminación de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

Además, se analiza la forma de gestionar los desechos de aparatos electrodomésticos y electrónicos, cuyas cantidades son las que más rápido crecen, este tema es uno de los

puntos centrales de la discusión.

Esto se debe a que dichos aparatos tienen cantidades de sustancias que pueden perjudicar la salud de las personas y el medio ambiente y a que la recuperación de sus elementos reciclables es muy escasa.

"Estamos frente a una estupidez económica porque tiramos gran cantidad de materias primas que se pueden volver a utilizar", comentó Steiner, quien también recordó que entre microondas, televisores, ordenadores fijos, portátiles y teléfonos móviles, estos últimos contienen un mineral que podría reciclarse sin gran dificultad, y que además gracias a ello se podrían crear empleos "verdes".

Rolph Payet, secretario ejecutivo de las tres convenciones (de Basilea, de Rotterdam y de Estocolmo), detalló que al término de la conferencia se espera adoptar un documento con directrices sobre la gestión adecuada de dichos desechos electrónicos.

Durante 2014, se arrojaron 41.8 millones de toneladas de productos eléctricos y electrónicos, la mayor parte aparatos de cocina, para el lavado de ropa y correspondientes al cuarto de baño, una cantidad que Payet comparó con la carga de "1.15 millones de camiones de 18 ruedas".

Ante ese panorama, los especialistas buscarán acuerdos para tener una gestión coordinada y coherente de basura con contaminantes orgánicos persistentes, es decir, que no se degradan en la naturaleza, y que contaminan el suelo y el agua, y mediante dicha vía de contacto entran en la cadena alimentaria y al organismo de personas y animales.

Por otro lado, Steiner explicó que tales sustancias en su mayoría utilizadas en la agricultura, en fertilizantes, pesticidas e insecticidas, pueden tener un grave impacto en el sistema endocrino. "Vivimos en una época en la que los químicos están en todos lados y cada vez más dentro de nosotros", alertó.

El representante de la ONU informó que el riesgo que suponen esos químicos son evidentes en cifra de un millón de muertes ocupacionales, provocadas por su manejo en distintas actividades y concentradas en la actividad agrícola.

Ante ello, se determinó que habrá una revisión en los próximos días, donde no se pretende prohibir en todos los casos el uso de las sustancias nocivas, pero sí garantizar que se utilicen de tal modo que se reduzca su impacto negativo y que los países pobres no terminen siendo su destino final.

De igual manera, se intenta transmitir a las industrias el mensaje de que es necesario desarrollar productos alternativos a aquellos que está ampliamente demostrado que son tóxicos.

"Al menos 100 mil sustancias químicas existen actualmente, cuyo impacto para la salud y el medio ambiente nunca ha sido evaluado, pese a que éstas son utilizadas en todo tipo de industrias y que además, forman parte de nuestra vida física y económica", agregó el representante de la ONU.

AMN.MX/ff/bhr

# Netherlands

## De Telegraaf

# Nigeria

## New Telegraph

Sanctity of Truth

 **TheGuardian**  
Conscience. Motivated by Truth.

# De Telegraaf

di 12 mei 2015, 12:58

## Elektronica-afval is lucratieve zwarte handel

NEW YORK -

Ongeveer 60 tot 90 procent van het wereldwijde elektronica-afval wordt illegaal verhandeld en verwerkt. Over twee jaar gaat het al om vijftig miljoen ton per jaar. Het is lucratieve handel, waarvan de waarde jaarlijks circa 17 miljard euro bedraagt. Dat schrijft het United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), de VN-organisatie voor Milieuzaken, in een rapport dat dinsdag in Genève is geopenbaard.



Foto: ANP XTRA

UNEP maakt zich zorgen omdat de verwerking van de berg afval van computers, televisies, telefoons en andere elektronica vooral in Azië en Afrika plaatsvindt. Landen als Ghana, Nigeria, Ivoorkust, China, India, Pakistan en Bangladesh nemen het leeuwendeel van de illegale verwerking voor hun rekening. Daar komt bij dat deze „tsunami aan elektroafval”, zoals de milieuorganisatie het noemt, dikwijls door kinderen wordt verwerkt.

Het gaat niet alleen om een substantieel deel van niet-recyclebaar afval in de wereld, maar ook om materiaal dat giftige bestanddelen bevat. Dat betekent immers een gevaar voor de gezondheid van de mens en het milieu. De landen van de Europese Unie kennen officieel een verbod van de export van giftig afval naar ontwikkelingslanden. UNEP constateert echter dat dat verbod telkens weer wordt omzeild. Duizenden tonnen afval worden met valse papieren toch uitgevoerd. Zo staan bijvoorbeeld giftige batterijen op de benodigde documenten als plastic vermeld.

De milieuorganisatie roept in haar rapport op tot naleving van de geldende verboden en in dat verband strengere controles uit te voeren.

# New Telegraph

Sanctity of Truth

Nigeria, others receive \$19bn e-wastes



A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has revealed that approximately \$19 billion worth of e-wastes are being dumped in Nigeria, Ghana and some Asian countries. It noted that Ghana and Nigeria topped the list as the largest recipients in West Africa.

The study noted that large piles of electronic waste were falsely declared as plastic or mixed metal scrap. It listed the illegally exported items to include hazardous waste batteries, Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) and computer monitors.

The report explained that inconsistency in regulations between importing and exporting countries and lack of clarity in classification of hazardous and nonhazardous waste were the key drivers behind increased illegal e-waste trade.



The study, which identified the two countries as the fastest growing ewaste hubs, revealed that large volumes of e-waste were also dumped in Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of Congo, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam. It estimated the price per ton of e-waste at around \$500, noting that the total value of illegally dumped or traded e-waste was approximately \$19 billion.

The report noted that each year, the electronic industry – one of the world's largest and fastest growing – generated up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones.

Forecasts say that the figure may reach 50 million tonnes by 2017. A staggering 60-90 per cent of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's "Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector," launched in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) has estimated the price of a tonne of e-waste at around \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste, ranges from \$12.5 to \$18.8 billion annually. UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner, confirmed the development, saying: "We are witnessing an unprecedented amount of electronic waste rolling out over the world.

Not only does it account for a large portion of the world's nonrecycled waste mountain, but it also poses a growing threat to human health and the environment due to the hazardous elements it contains.

"Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures, we can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public," he added.



## Nigeria, others named as global illegal waste traffic destinations

By Chinedum Uwaegbulam on May 18, 2015



E-waste, recently

WITH global waste market sector – from collection to recycling – is estimated to be US\$410 billion a year, excluding a very large informal sector, Nigeria has been named in a new flagship report as one of the main traffic destinations for illegal waste.

A staggering 60-90 per cent of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's "Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector", launched last week in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes, such as electrical and electronic equipment, include Africa and Asia. In West Africa, a significant recipient is Ghana and Nigeria, but high volumes also go to, but not limited to, Cote D'Ivoire, and the Republic of the Congo. South Asia and Southeast Asia also appear to be major regional destinations, including, but not limited to, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.

Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a report released today by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry – one of the world's largest and fastest growing – generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tonnes already by 2017.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around US \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste ranges from US \$12.5 to US \$18.8 billion annually.

According to the report, the key driver for illegal waste shipments to destination countries is the profit generated from payments for safe disposal of waste that in reality is either dumped or unsafely recycled. "It may, however, also include an additional profit from recycling certain components. While the latter appears to be positive, in practice it develops environments that are hazardous to health, and typically leads to subsequent dumping of majority of the waste."

UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner revealed in the report that "as with any large economic sector, however, there are opportunities for illegal activities at various stages of the waste chain. In the rush for profits, operators may ignore waste regulations and expose people to toxic chemicals. On a larger scale, organized crime may engage in tax fraud and money laundering.

About 41.8 million metric tonnes of e-waste was generated in 2014 and partly handled informally, including illegally. This could amount to as much as USD 18.8 billion annually.

"Without sustainable management, monitoring and good governance of e-waste, illegal activities may only increase, undermining attempts to protect health and the environment, as well as to generate legitimate employment. The evolution of crime, even transnational organized crime, in the waste sector is a significant threat. Whether the crime is associated with direct dumping or unsafe waste management, it is creating multi-faceted consequences that must be addressed," he said.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly.

Export of hazardous waste from European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member States to non-OECD countries is banned; therefore it is not subject to notification or licensing. Instead, thousands of tonnes of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries, including waste batteries falsely described as plastic or mixed metal scrap, and cathode ray tubes and computer monitors declared as metal scrap. Both small and large-scale smuggling techniques can be observed all over the world, from organized truck transport across Europe and North America to the use of major smuggling hubs in South Asia, including widespread container transport by sea.

The report noted that inconsistency in regulations between exporting and importing countries – including what is classified as hazardous or contaminated waste – poses a challenge to effectively combatting illegal waste trafficking.

Technical guidelines on the criteria used to classify equipment as waste or non-waste are currently negotiated at the international level. Binding agreements on classification of waste through the conventions will be vital to preventing the dumping of waste in developing countries.

According to the report, insufficient control over waste removal is another loophole exploited by criminals, who collect payments for the safe disposal of waste, which they later dump or recycle unsafely.

Another source of income from illegal waste handling comes from recycling certain components, such as rare earth metals, copper and gold. The discarded electronics are recycled in conditions that are hazardous to health, and typically lead to subsequent dumping of the majority of the waste. Promoting safe recycling is vital to a better waste management.

It finally recommended that countries should strengthen awareness, monitoring and information by mapping of scale, routes and state of hazardous waste, and possible involvement of organized crime.

- Strengthen awareness in the enforcement chain, and of prosecutors, of the risks of fraud, tax fraud and money laundering through the waste sector.
- Strengthen national legislation and enforcement capacities.
- Promote prevention measures and synergies, such as facilitate the proper return of illegal waste shipments and at cost to shipper.
- Proceed with a technical assessment of quantities and qualities of abandoned containers, particularly in Asia, and of dumping of hazardous waste worldwide.
- Further improve binding agreements on classification of waste.

# Pakistan

KashmirWatch

# Paraguay

LA NACION

KashmirWatch

Date: 5 May 2015

## UN warns of swelling tsunami of e-wastes

Hameed Shaheen

ISLAMABAD – For the first time the United Nations has formally warned of the dangerous of growing e-waste dumps, calling upon nations to 'limit the use of harmful chemicals and to find a solution to the masses of electronic waste' building up around the world. The caution came in a Conference of Parties to three major Conventions on the subject beginning in Geneva today.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told journalists that the "tsunami of e-waste rolling out over the world" not only accounted for a large portion of the world's non-recyclable "waste mountain" but also needed dealing with because many elements found in electronic equipment are potentially hazardous to people and the environment, UN web news said.

"Never mind that it is also an economic stupidity because we are throwing away an enormous amount of raw materials that are essentially re-useable," said Mr. Steiner. "Whether it is gold, silver or some of the rare earths that you have heard about perhaps in recent years, it is still an incredible amount."

Mr. Steiner said that the amount of some such materials that are available above ground in unused electronics now exceeds the amount still in the ground and he looked to the potential of the Basel Convention to help access 'urban mines' by working to better inform people of how to dispose of their e-waste.

As well as the Basel Convention, for which the Geneva meeting is the 12th Conference of Parties, the eleven-day '2015 Triple COPs: Setting the Scene for Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste, Worldwide' will also cover the Seventh Conference of Parties to both the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions. Over 1,500 delegates are expected to take part in the talks, which aim to improve three international conventions contributing to global controls on hazardous chemicals and waste.

The Executive Director said the three Conventions were not about stopping the use of chemicals but about providing a clear platform from which to inform policy-makers of science that can inform decisions to help protect citizens from toxicity and about signalling to the market that alternatives are needed.

He pointed out how materials used in production of various items are becoming ever more present in people's daily lives, and he said people were becoming "increasingly a repository for the chemical footprint of the 21st century," often in ways that damage health.

"Annually, one million people die from occupational poisoning," Mr. Steiner said, referring to the effects of the use of chemicals on people's bodies. "This is something that is, in this day and age, not only unnecessary it's really intolerable. And this is why the sound management of chemicals is something that has brought Governments, civil society but also the private sector and the chemical industry together."

The Executive Secretary of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Rolph Payet, echoed Mr. Steiner's concerns about the number of people dying from occupational poisoning and described the wide reach of chemicals, with DDT found in polar bear and fat because of its transport in water and in the air. While the number of those dying from occupational poisoning was notable, he also pointed to the "silent crisis," whereby the accumulation of chemicals in people's bodies was possibly slowly killing them.

Clayton Campanhola, the Executive Secretary of Rotterdam Convention and a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said the agency was particularly focused on the prevention of use and safe disposal of obsolete pesticides. About 500,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides scattered around the developing world posed serious risks to people and environment, he said.



## Según ONU, la basura electrónica es “un tsunami sin precedentes”

Según un informe, en el 2014 se movieron 41 millones de toneladas de desperdicios de este tipo.



La ONU lanzó un llamado de advertencia, especialmente a los países que exportan residuos electrónicos de Europa.

“Estamos frente a la aparición de un tsunami sin precedentes por el problema de los residuos electrónicos en todo el mundo”, ha descrito Achim Steiner, subsecretario general de la ONU y responsable del programa ambiental de las Naciones Unidas (UN Environment Programme – Unep), tras analizar un informe oficial que ofrece datos demoledores.

Según el mismo, la basura electrónica costó a la economía global 52.000 millones de dólares en el 2014 donde se movieron 41 millones de toneladas. Para el 2017, se estima que la cifra supere las 50 millones de toneladas.

La exportación de residuos peligrosos de la UE y la Organización para la Cooperación Económica y el Desarrollo (OCDE) está prohibida. Sin embargo, miles de toneladas de basura electrónica se declaran falsamente como productos de segunda mano y son exportados desde los países desarrollados, incluidos los residuos de pilas falsamente descritos como plástico o chatarra mixta, y tubos y monitores de ordenador de rayos catódicos erróneamente declarada como chatarra de metal.

Países africanos y asiáticos, como Ghana, Nigeria, China, Pakistán, India y Vietnam, se están convirtiendo en centros de basura electrónica ilegal sin pasar por los programas de reciclado. El 90 por ciento del mercado de residuos es ilegal según la ONU. Unep advierte del impacto económico y para el entorno de los crecientes volúmenes de desechos electrónicos, residuos urbanos, residuos de alimentos, productos químicos desechados y pesticidas falsificados.

Los países también están perdiendo una cantidad significativa de recursos, como los metales de tierras raras, cobre y oro. Steiner pide coherencia legislativa, medidas de prevención más robustas y un refuerzo de la normativa que prive a los delincuentes de la millonada que ganan con la basura electrónica poniendo en riesgo la salud y el medioambiente.

Los residuos de PCs y smartphones son señalados como los principales culpables. La obsolescencia tecnológica de la que hablábamos en días pasados es directamente responsable aunque podría compensarse con un tratamiento adecuado de los residuos. Según la ONU, éste es inexistente comparado con lo que se mueve de forma ilegal.

# Qatar

**GULF  TIMES**





## Growing concerns over dumping of electronic waste

It is alarming that up to 90% of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly \$19bn, is illegally traded or dumped each year, as indicated by a recent report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry - one of the world's largest and fastest growing – generates up to 41mn tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50mn tonnes already by 2017.

A staggering 60-90% of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP report, launched in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around \$500, leading to the nearly \$19bn figure. As pointed out by UN under-secretary-general and executive director of UNEP Achim Steiner, the unprecedented amount of electronic waste rolling out over the world not only accounts for a large portion of the world's non-recycled 'waste mountain,' but also poses a growing threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains.

The illegal trade and dumping of e-waste could be brought to an end only through enhanced international co-operation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention, as he suggested.

This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy and reducing health risks to the public.

Innovative solutions to combat illegal and unsustainable handling of e-waste are emerging. Recovering valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products, for example, can reduce the amount of e-waste produced.

The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly. Africa and Asia are key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes for dumping, and sometimes for recycling. Ghana and Nigeria are among the largest recipients in West Africa, although high volumes of e-waste are also transported to Cote d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. In Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam appear to bear the brunt of illegal e-waste shipments.

As reiterated by the UNEP, inconsistency in regulations between exporting and importing countries – including what is classified as hazardous or contaminated waste – poses a challenge to effectively

combating illegal waste trafficking.

Technical guidelines on the criteria used to classify equipment as waste or non-waste are currently being negotiated internationally. Binding agreements on classification of waste through the conventions will be vital to prevent the dumping of waste in developing countries.

# Saudi Arabia

الاقتصادية

1

2

وكالة الأنباء السعودية  
Saudi Press Agency

# Singapore

Eco-Business

# South Africa

africa green media

BIZCOMMUNITY.com  
Daily industry news

CAPE TIMES

Africa Newswire

1

2

iOLscitech

## الاقتصادية

اهعم لماعتلا متي مل اعل ا يف ةي نورتكلا ا تاي افنلا نم % 90  
ب شكل غي رق ل ون ي

الاعلي مبييت لقاال



ضاي رلا نم «ةي داصتقالا»

ق ال ب ن امج الام مال مت حذل لبني ةي ون يب ( ان جميع الاجهزة ال كفترون ية ل ممل ف ي ل غل م  
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ت صلق يمتدال ي 5.81 مليار دولار سنهي ا.

ق ال ل ب ن امج يه قري ر صدف ي جنيف ان مظم ل نفلي ات، ل تيت حتوي على مواد خطرة  
ي نتهيب هال مطافف يه لدانفل هي قية واسي هي ة، حيثي تمل ل تخلص من هال او اعادت دي رة، م  
ل عمل ول بنية. ق ال ل دي رل تنفيذي ل ب ن امج لي ون يب "ك يم شتلي نر: ل حزن واجي مدد صرحه ا  
ك مية غير مسبقة من ل نفلي ات الي كفترون ية ل متدالي ف ي جميع ل حاء ل عل م".

وف قال لتقري ربي تمت جميع ملي صلا ل 14 طن ا مملي سميب ل نفلي ات ال كفترون ية ل عل م،  
ل ل 09 % من هال عبرق نوات غير شرعية. ي تمل ل تعامل مع ملي صلا ل

ت شيرت قري رات الام مال مت حذل ل ان جمل ل نفلي ات ب ملي و ف عل ل 05 مليون طرف يال عامين  
ل مقبلين.

ت عد غل ان يجي هي ا من ل وجهات ل هي يسي ل نفلي ات ل تكلنل و ج ا ل فقل قف يه ل قري،  
ت ل ي م ا ك و ت ي فوار ول كفن غيوب راقل يل.



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لک دول مٹ مر اعمالک لتتاحل دی لک یوم شمتلی نر اشیمل لبیئة لک متحدة الام مل بین امچ لک تنفیذیل مې راق ال  
ان :جنیف مې نف ی لک ضارة لک نفلي ات مېب لک تخلص لک خاصه لک ثلاث لک دل یة الک فک یاتف ی الاطراف  
حجم ان ایا مې کي اردول 500 مې حوگ ی الی کترونیة لک نفلي ات طن اعرت قدر ( الی تب ول ) لک دل یة لک شرطه  
علی م خاطر مېت تضمن مېب مالک تجارة مې شرجع لکھیل ممال دولار ملیار 19 لک یی صرل لک قطن یة غیری لک تجارة ذه  
"الین ان صرحه  
لک نفلي ات مٹ لک الیمل لتخلص لک وعی وکی ادة لک تشری عی والک اق لک دل یی لک تعاون شمتلی نر وطلا ب  
من ولک حد لک ر امی القی تصناف ی عناصر د ا انتخدام إعادة لک عی ودي مابب امانت دي رة کداعی الی کترونیة  
لک بی یئل لک موریو حیل لک ص حیه لک م خاطر  
// لک تهی //  
12:55

امت نتهی لک عی د مٹ لک شح انتف ی لک صین وحن جکون جوب کستان ولک مندوب نج بی شرف ی آسی  
فب یننام.

ق ال لی ون یب"لک یی نبغی علی لک حکومت ایت عززق ولک ینها وٹ نفذ لک قول یی ف ی مېی تعلق  
ب لک تجارة غیری لک مشروعلک لنفلي ات، لک تیی مکن ایت شتمل علی لک مېی ده لک منظمه.

لک یی نبغی علی صناعه الی کترونیات وشرکات إدارة لک نفلي ات ضمان عدم واضاف لک ه علاوة علی ذ  
لک تدهالک خامات الی کترونیف ی الی دی لک خطا.

The vast majority of illegal e-waste ends up in landfills, incinerators, and in ill-equipped recycling facilities. “The waste is dumped in areas where local residents and workers disassemble the units and collect whatever is of value... What is not reusable is simply dumped as waste, creating immense problems and leading to what has been described as a ‘toxic time bomb’.”

While Europe and North America are by far the largest producers of e-waste, Asia's cities are fast catching up as consumers of electronic goods and as generators of e-waste. In China, for instance, 73.9 million computers, 0.25 billion mobile phones, and 56.6 million televisions were sold in 2011, the report says. Forecasts say that in just two years, the total quantum of e-waste generated around the world will be 50 million tonnes.



### **Inconsistency in Cross-border regulations challenge to effective control of illegal waste trafficking**

May 12, 2015



**Geneva, 12 May 2015** – Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a report released today by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry – one of the world's largest and fastest growing – generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tonnes already by 2017.

A staggering 60-90 per cent of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's "Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector", launched today in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.



The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around US \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste ranges from US \$12.5 to US \$18.8 billion annually.

UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner said: “We are facing the onset of an unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste rolling out over the world. Not only does it account for a large portion of the world’s non-recyclable »waste mountain«, but it also poses a threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains.”

“Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures we can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public,” he added.

Innovative solutions to combat illegal and unsustainable handling of e-waste are emerging. Recovering valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products, for example, can reduce the amount of e-waste produced, diminishing pressure on the environment, creating jobs and generating income.

The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment. The report also points to the fact that every year, roughly one third of the food produced for human consumption globally — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes, worth over US \$1 trillion— is lost or wasted.

The global waste market – from collection to recycling – is estimated to be worth US \$410 billion a year, generating jobs and incomes. As with any large economic sector, it creates opportunities for illegal activities at various stages of the waste chain. Concentrated on making profit, operators are prone to ignore waste regulations and expose workers to toxic chemicals. On a larger scale, organized crime may engage in tax fraud and money laundering, as volumes handled go largely unregistered, allowing for substantial under and overreporting.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia’s cities are catching-up quickly.

Export of hazardous waste from European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member States to non-OECD countries is banned; therefore it is not subject to notification or licensing. Instead, thousands of tonnes of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries, including waste batteries falsely described as plastic or mixed metal scrap, and cathode ray tubes and computer monitors declared as metal scrap. Both small and large-scale smuggling techniques can be observed all over the world, from organized truck transport across Europe and North America to the use of major smuggling hubs in South Asia, including widespread container transport by sea.

Africa and Asia are key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes for dumping, and sometimes for recycling. Ghana and Nigeria are among the largest recipients in West Africa, although high volumes of e-waste are also transported to Cote d’Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. In Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam appear to bear the brunt of illegal e-waste shipments.

Inconsistency in regulations between exporting and importing countries – including what is classified as hazardous or contaminated waste – poses a challenge to effectively combatting illegal waste trafficking.

Technical guidelines on the criteria used to classify equipment as waste or non-waste are currently negotiated at the international level. Binding agreements on classification of waste through the conventions will be vital to preventing the dumping of waste in developing countries.

Insufficient control over waste removal is another loophole exploited by criminals, who collect payments for the safe disposal of waste, which they later dump or recycle unsafely.

Another source of income from illegal waste handling comes from recycling certain components, such as rare earth metals, copper and gold. The discarded electronics are recycled in conditions that are hazardous to health, and typically lead to subsequent dumping of the majority of the waste. Promoting safe recycling is vital to a better waste management.

## Recommendations

Countries are encouraged to:

1. Strengthen awareness, monitoring and information by mapping of scale, routes and state of hazardous waste, and possible involvement of organized crime.
2. Strengthen awareness in the enforcement chain, and of prosecutors, of the risks of fraud, tax fraud and money laundering through the waste sector.
3. Strengthen national legislation and enforcement capacities.
4. Promote prevention measures and synergies, such as facilitate the proper return of illegal waste shipments and at cost to shipper.
5. Proceed with a technical assessment of quantities and qualities of abandoned containers, particularly in Asia, and of dumping of hazardous waste worldwide.
6. Further improve binding agreements on classification of waste.

The report is available at: <http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/waste-crime>

# Africa Newswire

## **New visual guide to protect children from pesticides**

Posted by [WebDesk](#) on May 13, 2015 at 1:05 pm



*A worker spraying pesticides on a local farm in Betroka Region, Southern Madagascar.*

**13 May 2015, Rome** - With the help of [a new training guide](#) developed by FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO), extension workers in Africa and elsewhere are engaging with rural communities to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides used in farming.

Nearly 100 million boys and girls between 5 and 17 years old are engaged in child labour in agriculture, according to ILO statistics. Many are directly exposed to toxic chemicals while working on the farm. But children are also exposed when they help with family chores or play, and through the food they eat and the water they drink.

Children are far more sensitive to pesticides than adults. Exposure can result in acute poisoning and sickness immediately after contact. But often, it also has longer-term, chronic impacts on their health and development.

Limiting pesticide use and promotion of non-toxic alternatives are important for reducing exposure, but education is equally crucial.

[Protect children from pesticides!](#) FAO and ILO's new visual guide, provides an easy accessible training tool. It helps agricultural extension workers, rural educators, labour inspectors, and producer organizations in teaching farmers and their families how to identify and minimize risks at home and on the farm. They also learn how to recognize and respond to signs of toxic exposure.

The user-friendly guide has three main modules: how children are exposed to pesticides, what the health risks are and why children are particularly vulnerable, and what can be done to reduce those risks.

### **Growing interest**

"The tool was initially developed in Mali, where it is now widely used by extension workers, farmer field schools, labour inspectors, and producer organizations", said Rob Vos, Director of FAO's Social Protection Division. "Its use is also expanding in Niger and other African countries. We are seeing growing interest from other regions. The guide is not only raising awareness that something must be done, but also showing what needs to be done."

Not all situations are the same. The guide is not only available in several languages (currently in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and a Russian version will be available soon), but also adapted to different regional contexts, including Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia Pacific. The graphics and illustrations are adapted accordingly as well.

### **Support from the Rotterdam Convention**

The effort to adapt the visual guide and promote its wider use is being supported by [the Rotterdam Convention](#), a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibility in relation to imports of hazardous chemicals. FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly serve as the Secretariat for the convention.

"This is a good example of how the normative work of a convention can contribute to reaching out to the most vulnerable groups and make a difference to their lives" according to Christine Fuell, FAO's Coordinator for the Rotterdam Convention. "The colourful illustrations are built on local knowledge and refer to very concrete and real situations, such that they also appeal to children, raising their own awareness of the risks posed by pesticides."

### **Why children are at greater risk**

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure for various biological and behavioural reasons.

They breathe in more air than adults and so take in more dust, toxic vapours, and droplets of spray. Relative to their body weight, children need to eat and drink more than adults, and if food is contaminated, they absorb more toxins. The surface area of a child's skin per unit of body mass is greater than that of an adult, and their skins are more delicate. All these factors can lead to greater absorption of chemicals, and children's organs are less able to detoxify pesticides because they are not yet fully developed, according to the guide.

Young children often play on the ground, put things in their mouths and are attracted to colourful containers, all common behaviours that increase risk.

# Africa Newswire

## **West Africa key destination for illegal electronic waste**

Posted by [WebDesk](#) on May 24, 2015 at 4:37 am | [Short URL](#)

24 May 2015



Ghana and Nigeria are among the key destinations in Africa for large-scale shipments of electronic waste. Photo: UNEP (file)

Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year.

That's according to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)).

Ghana and Nigeria are among the key destinations in Africa for large-scale shipments of obsolete computers and other hardware.

Cathrine Hasselberg has been speaking with Christian Nellemann from GRID, a centre in Norway working with the UN on the issue.

She began by asking him about some of the problems associated with the dumping of so-called E-waste.

Duration: 3'52" [Listen](#)

## E-waste poses threat to human health and environment

15 May 2015 06:46

According to a recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), up to 90% of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly \$19bn, is illegally traded or dumped each year.



© pn photo – [za.fotolia.com](http://za.fotolia.com)

The electronic industry generates up to 41 million tons of e-waste per year from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tons already by 2017. A staggering 60-90% of this waste is illegally traded or dumped.

The International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a ton of e-waste at around \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste ranges from \$12.5 to \$18.8bn annually.

"We are witnessing an unprecedented amount of electronic waste rolling out over the world. Not only does it account for a large portion of the world's non-recycled 'waste mountain', but it also poses a growing threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains," said Achim Steiner, executive director of UNEP.

### Win-win situation

"Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures we

can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public," he added.

Innovative solutions to combat illegal and unsustainable handling of e-waste are emerging. Recovering valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products, for example, can reduce the amount of e-waste produced, diminishing pressure on the environment, creating jobs and generating income.

The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment. The report also points to the fact that every year, roughly one third of the food produced for human consumption globally - approximately 1.3 billion tons, worth over \$1 trillion - is lost or wasted.

### Illegal activities

The global waste market - from collection to recycling - is estimated to be worth \$410bn a year, generating jobs and incomes. As with any large economic sector, it creates opportunities for illegal activities at various stages of the waste chain. Concentrated on making profit, operators are prone to ignore waste regulations and expose workers to toxic chemicals. On a larger scale, organised crime may engage in tax fraud and money laundering, as volumes handled go largely unregistered, allowing for substantial under- and overreporting.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly.

Export of hazardous waste from European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member states to non-OECD countries is banned; therefore it is not subject to notification or licensing. Instead, thousands of tons of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries, including waste batteries falsely described as plastic or mixed metal scrap, and cathode ray tubes and computer monitors declared as metal scrap.

Africa and Asia are key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes for dumping, and sometimes for recycling. Ghana and Nigeria are among the largest recipients in West Africa, although high volumes of e-waste are also transported to Cote d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. In Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam appear to bear the brunt of illegal e-waste shipments.

# CAPE TIMES

## UN warns on volume of hazardous waste

May 19 2015 at 02:31pm

By Tony Carnie



RISKY BUSINESS: Rahman Dauda (centre) is one of hundreds of unemployed people who scratch out old computer monitors, televisions and other e-waste in the Agbogbloshie dump site in Accra, Ghana. Photo: Kevin McVane

DURBAN: The UN's top environmental watchdog has warned about a growing tide of electronic waste that threatens to poison people and the environment worldwide.

Launching a new report titled "Waste Crimes", UN Environment Programme (Unep) chief Achim Steiner said environmental crimes in many parts of the world were still viewed as "victimless crimes", with perpetrators receiving relatively small fines.

However, a growing mountain of hazardous electronic waste posed serious risks to people and the environment at a time when as much as 90 percent of global e-waste from some parts of the world was being dumped or traded illegally.

"We are facing an unprecedented amount of electronic waste round the world," said Steiner.

"Not only does it account for a large proportion of the world's non-recyclable waste mountain, but it also poses a growing threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains."

The Unep report noted that 25 tons of cellphones could yield up to 10kg of gold and it was estimated the global waste market was now worth US \$410 billion (R4 861bn) a year.

"Concentrating on making profit, operators are prone to ignore waste regulations and expose workers to toxic chemicals."

Africa and Asia had been targeted for large-scale shipments of hazardous waste – for dumping or recycling – despite EU measures to ban such exports. As a result, thousands of tons of e-waste were falsely declared as second-hand goods when they were exported to developing countries. Waste batteries were described as plastic or mixed-metal scrap, while TV cathode ray tubes and computer monitors were listed as metal scrap.

The report also gave examples of hazardous substances in cellphones, including arsenic, chromium, manganese, fluorine, lead or potassium hydroxide. In several developing countries, recycling workers were exposed to poisoning as they physically dismantled televisions, cellphones and other e-waste using chisels, hammers, screwdrivers or bare hands.

Components from printed circuit boards were often removed by heating them over coal-fired grills. Metals were stripped in open-pit acid baths to recover gold and other metals, while plastics were often chipped or melted without proper ventilation.

At the end of this informal recycling process, the residue was dumped in fields or next to river banks.

Examples highlighted in the Unep report included the dumping of truckloads of chemicals including mercaptans and phenols in several poor suburbs of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in August 2006. The chemical waste was shipped by a European company aboard the vessel Probo Koala.





### Third World: dumping ground for e-waste

May 18 2015 at 06:00pm

By Tony Carnie



File photo: The Unep report noted that 25 tons of mobile phones could yield up to 10kg of gold and it was estimated the global waste market was now worth nearly US \$410 billion a year. Picture: Cara Viereckl

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At the end of this informal recycling process, the residue was dumped in fields or next to river banks.

Several case analyses had revealed legal players were also deeply involved in illegal or fraudulent waste recycling and dumping. Examples highlighted in the Unep report included the dumping of truckloads of chemicals including mercaptans and phenols in several poor suburbs of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, in August 2006. The chemical waste was shipped by a European company aboard the vessel Probo Koala.

The dumping came to light when residents awoke to a suffocating stench.

### The Mercury

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## 전자쓰레기 9할은 불법 처리중

등록일 2015.05.18 13:05:45 | 조회수 313 | 추천수 1

수원되었습니다

관련상품 [슈피겐 Apple iPad 스킨가드 레더 딥블랙 SGP06517 \(SGP SKIN GUARD™ LEATHER COLLECTION\)](#) 최저가 15,300 원



전 세계에서 나오는 전자장비 폐기물 중 무려 90%가 불법 처리되고 있다고 한다. 유럽환경계획 UNEP(United Nations Environment Programme)가 발표한 보고서에 따르면 전 세계에 있는 e-폐기물, 그러니까 전기나 전자 장비로 인한 폐기물인 전자 쓰레기 중 90%가 불법 투기나 부정 거래를 통해 처리된다는 것.

불법 투기나 거래가 되는 전자 쓰레기는 매년 190억 달러에 이른다. 국제형사경찰기구인 인터폴은 폐기물 1톤당 가치가 500달러라고 밝히고 있다. 현재 폐기물 전체 양은 4,100만 톤으로 예상되지만 2017년까지 5,000만 톤까지 증가할 것으로 전망된다.

전자 쓰레기는 유해물질을 포함하고 있어 인체는 물론 환경을 위협하는 요소다. 전자 쓰레기가 가장 많이 쏟아지는 곳은 유럽과 북아메리카지만 아시아도 급속하게 존재감을

높이고 있다. EU는 비회원국에 유해 폐기물을 수출하는 걸 금지하고 있지만 이런 폐기물을 중고품으로 속여 수출하는 일도 흔하다고 한다.

이런 전자 쓰레기의 최종 목적지는 아프리카와 아시아 등지다. 아프리카의 경우에는 세계에서 가장 거대한 전자 쓰레기 투기장으로 유명한 아그보그로시(Agbogbloshie)가 위치한 가나가 유명하다.

전자 쓰레기 문제가 발생하는 원인 가운데 하나는 유해 폐기물의 정의를 놓고 수출국과 수입국 사이에 서로 다른 규제가 존재하는 게 한 몫 한다. 이를 해결하려면 국제 협력 체제와 규제를 강화하는 것이다. 또 폐기물에 들어간 금속 등을 효과적으로 회수할 수 있는 솔루션을 찾는 것도 폐기물 감소로 이어질 수 있다고 말한다. 관련 내용은 [이곳](#)에서 확인할 수 있다.



<저작권자(c) 테크홀릭(<http://www.techholic.co.kr/>). 무단전재-재배포금지>

## 전자쓰레기 9할은 불법 처리중

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전자 쓰레기 문제가 발생하는 원인 가운데 하나는 유해 폐기물의 정의를 놓고 수출국과 수입국

사이에 서로 다른 규제가 존재하는 게 한 몫 한다. 이를 해결하려면 국제 협력 체제와 규제를 강화하는 것이다. 또 폐기물에 들어간 금속 등을 효과적으로 회수할 수 있는 솔루션을 찾는 것도 폐기물 감소로 이어질 수 있다고 말한다.

전자신문인터넷 테크홀릭팀

Yonhapnews

## "전자제품 폐기물 90% 개도국으로 불법거래·무단투기"

충고시간 | 2015/05/12 20:03



"전자제품 폐기물 90% 개도국으로 불법거래·무단투기" 연합뉴스DB (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

UNEP 보고서...폐기물 분류 국제협약 제정 촉구

(제네바=연합뉴스) 류현성 특파원 = 유엔환경계획(UNEP)은 12일(현지시간) 매년 4천100만t의 전 세계 전자제품 폐기물의 90% 이상이 선진국에서 개도국으로 불법 거래되거나 마구 버려지고 있어 국제적 차원의 대책이 마련돼야 한다고 촉구했다.

UNEP는 이날 발표한 '폐기물 범죄, 폐기물 위험, 폐기물 분야에서의 격차와 도전'이라는 보고서를 통해 세계에서 가장 빠르게 성장하는 전자산업은 컴퓨터나 스마트폰 등을 통해 엄청난 전자 폐기물을 쏟아내고 있으며 오는 2017년이면 전자 폐기물이 5천만t을 넘어설 전망이라며 이같이 말했다.

야킴 슈타이너 UNEP 사무총장은 "세계적으로 전례 없는 전자제품 폐기물 쓰나미에 직면하고 있다"면서 "전자제품 폐기물은 재활용되지 않고 쓰레기 산을 만드는 것은 물론 위험물질이 포함된 부품으로 인간의 건강과 환경을 위협하고 있다"고 말했다.

그는 또 "전자제품 폐기물의 불법 거래와 무단 투기를 끝낼 수 있도록 국제협력을 통해 각국의 규제와 법규를 강화하고 국경을 뛰어넘는 대책도 마련돼야 한다"면서 "이를



통해 희귀하고 비싼 부품들이 안전하게 재활용되고 인류 건강과 환경에 대한 위협도 줄일 수 있다"고 덧붙였다.

보고서는 특히 유럽연합(EU)과 경제협력개발기구(OECD) 회원국이 비 OECD 회원국에 위험한 폐기물을 수출하는 것이 금지됐지만, 예를 들어 컴퓨터 모니터를 고철로 허위 신고하는 방식으로 수천t의 전자제품 폐기물이 아프리카와 아시아 등의 개도국으로 수출되고 있다면서 서아프리카에서는 가나와 나이지리아가 가장 큰 전자 폐기물 수입국이라고 밝혔다.

아시아에서는 중국, 홍콩, 파키스탄, 인도, 방글라데시, 베트남 등이 불법 전자제품 폐기물의 주요 수입국인 것으로 보인다고 이 보고서는 설명했다.

국제형사경찰기구(인터폴)는 전자제품 폐기물의 1t당 가격을 500달러로 추정하면서, 불법 거래되거나 무단 투기 되는 전자제품 폐기물의 가치가 매년 125억 달러(약 13조6천억 원)에서 188억 달러(약 20조6천억 원)가 될 것으로 추정하고 있다.

이 보고서는 따라서 개도국을 대상으로 한 선진국의 폐기물 불법 수출 행위를 방지하려면 폐기물 분류에 대한 국제협약이 필수적이라면서 아울러 범죄자들이 안전한 폐기물 처리에 대한 규제 미비를 이용해 마치 제대로 폐기물을 처리한 것처럼 돈을 받고 나서 이를 마구 버리는 것도 문제라고 지적했다.

특히 구리나 금과 같은 귀금속과 희귀금속들을 회수하려고 인체에 해로운 작업환경에서 전자제품을 해체한 다음 대부분 폐기물을 마구 버리고 있어 안전한 폐기물 재활용에 대한 대책도 마련돼야 한다고 이 보고서는 강조했다.

이 보고서는 회수에서 재활용에 이르기까지 전 세계 폐기물 시장의 규모가 연간 약 4천100만 달러에 달한다면서 전자제품에 포함된 귀금속과 희귀금속을 의무적으로 회수하도록 하면 상당량의 전자 폐기물을 없애고 환경에 대한 압박을 줄이는 것과 동시에 일자리를 창출하고 소득을 발생시킬 수 있다고 제안했다.

rhew@yna.co.kr



## Así se protege a los niños de los plaguicidas

Casi 100 millones de niños y niñas entre 5 y 17 años están sometidos al trabajo infantil en la agricultura

NATURAL

Día 25/05/2015 - 13.02h



ARCHIVO ABC

[Los niños son mucho más sensibles a los plaguicidas que los adultos](#)

Casi **100 millones de niños** y niñas entre 5 y 17 años están sometidos al **trabajo infantil en la agricultura**, según las estadísticas de la [Organización Internacional del Trabajo \(OIT\)](#) de las Naciones Unidas. Muchos se exponen de manera directa a productos químicos tóxicos cuando realizan labores agrícolas. Pero también están expuestos cuando ayudan con las tareas de la familia o juegan en los campos, y a través de los alimentos que consumen y el agua que beben.



Los niños son mucho más sensibles a los plaguicidas que los adultos. La exposición puede llevar al envenenamiento agudo y a **enfermar de inmediato después del contacto**. Pero a menudo tiene también consecuencias a más largo plazo -y que pueden hacerse crónicas- para su salud y desarrollo.

Los niños **respiran más aire** que los adultos y, por lo tanto, aspiran más polvo, vapores tóxicos, y gotas de la pulverización. En relación con su peso corporal, los niños **tienen que comer y beber más** que los adultos y si los alimentos están contaminados, absorben más toxinas. El área de la superficie de la **piel** de un niño por unidad de masa corporal es mayor que la de un adulto, y la piel es más delicada. Todos estos factores pueden llevar a una mayor absorción de productos químicos, y los **órganos** de los niños son menos capaces de eliminar los plaguicidas debido a que aún no están por completo desarrollados, advierte el manual.

Los niños pequeños suelen jugar en el suelo, **se meten objetos en la boca** y se sienten atraídos por los contenedores de colores, todos ellos son comportamientos típicos que aumentan el riesgo de una intoxicación.

**Limitar el uso de plaguicidas** y promover alternativas no tóxicas es importante para reducir la exposición, pero la **educación** es igualmente crucial.

#### *Creciente interés*

La [Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura \(FAO\)](#) y la OIT han editado la guía «¡Proteja a los niños de los plaguicidas!» para brindar una herramienta fácil y accesible para que los agentes agrícolas de extensión, educadores rurales, inspectores laborales y las organizaciones de productores enseñen a los campesinos y sus familias a identificar y minimizar los riesgos en el hogar y en la granja. También aprenden a reconocer y **responder a los signos de exposición a sustancias tóxicas**.

«La herramienta fue desarrollada en **Mali**, donde ahora es muy utilizada», explica Rob Vos, director de la División de Protección Social de la FAO. «Su uso también se está expandiendo en **Níger** y otros países africanos. Estamos viendo un creciente interés de otras regiones. La guía no sólo está concienciando de que hay que hacer algo, sino que también muestra lo que hay que hacer».

No todas las situaciones son iguales. La guía está ya disponible en varios idiomas (en inglés, francés, portugués y español y próximamente habrá una versión en ruso), y se adapta a diferentes contextos regionales, incluyendo **Europa oriental**, el Cáucaso y **Asia Central**, **América Latina** y el Caribe y **Asia-Pacífico**.

#### **Apoyo de la Convención de Rotterdam**

El esfuerzo para adaptar la guía ilustrada «¡Proteja a los niños de los plaguicidas!» y fomentar su uso más amplio está siendo apoyado el Convenio de Rotterdam, un tratado multilateral que promueve la responsabilidad compartida en relación con la **importación de productos químicos peligrosos**. La Secretaría de la convención es ejercida por la FAO y el [Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente](#) (PNUMA).

## EL MUNDO.COM

Electronic waste generates severe health effects

### Desechos electrónicos generan graves efectos en la salud

12 de Mayo de 2015

Actualmente existen en el mundo más de 100.000 sustancias químicas en los objetos electrónicos que perjudican la salud y al medio ambiente.



[Foto: Cortesía](#)

Colombia generó 5,3 millones de toneladas de basura electrónica en el año en 2014.

**Redacción tecnología – EFE**

Los desechos electrónicos se están convirtiendo en un “tsunami mundial” de graves efectos sobre la salud humana y la naturaleza, dijo el responsable de la ONU para el medio ambiente, Achim Steiner.

Delegados de 180 países se reunieron desde la semana pasada en Ginebra para adoptar decisiones relacionadas con la aplicación de tres convenciones internacionales que regulan el movimiento transfronterizo de desechos tóxicos, el comercio de químicos peligrosos y la eliminación de contaminantes orgánicos persistentes.

En esta conferencia, la forma de gestionar los desechos de aparatos electrodomésticos y electrónicos, cuyas cantidades son las que más rápido crecen, fue uno de los temas centrales de discusión.

Debido a sus cantidades colosales, ya que contienen sustancias que pueden perjudicar la salud de las personas y el medio ambiente pues la recuperación de sus elementos reciclables es muy escasa.

“Estamos frente a una estupidez económica porque tiramos gran cantidad de materias primas que se pueden volver a utilizar”, comentó Steiner, quien recordó que entre microondas, televisores, ordenadores fijos, portátiles y teléfonos móviles, estos últimos contienen minerales que podrían reciclarse sin gran dificultad y crear empleos “verdes”.

El secretario ejecutivo de las tres convenciones (de Basilea, de Rotterdam y de Estocolmo), Rolph Payet, explicó que después de la conferencia se espera adoptar un documento con directrices sobre la gestión adecuada de desechos electrónicos.

En 2014 se arrojaron 41,8 millones de toneladas de productos eléctricos y electrónicos, principalmente dedicados a la cocina, al cuarto de baño y al lavado de ropa, una cantidad que Payet comparó con la carga de “1,15 millones de camiones de 18 ruedas”.

A lo largo de la reunión también se buscaron acuerdos para tener una gestión coordinada y coherente de basura que contiene contaminantes orgánicos persistentes, es decir que no se degradan en la naturaleza, contaminan el suelo y el agua y, por esta vía, entran en la cadena alimentaria y al organismo de personas y animales.

Steiner explicó que tales sustancias -muchas de las cuales son utilizadas en la agricultura, en fertilizantes, pesticidas e insecticidas- pueden tener un grave impacto en el sistema endocrino. “Vivimos en una época en la que los químicos están en todos lados y cada vez más dentro de nosotros”, alertó.

El representante de la ONU comentó que el riesgo que suponen esos químicos queda en evidencia con la cifra de un millón de muertes ocupacionales, provocadas por su manejo en distintas actividades y concentradas en la actividad agrícola.

El objetivo de las convenciones no es prohibir en todos los casos el uso de las sustancias nocivas, pero sí garantizar que se utilicen de tal modo que se reduzca su impacto negativo y que los países pobres no terminen siendo su destino final.

Asimismo, se intenta transmitir a la industria el mensaje de que se necesita desarrollar productos alternativos a aquellos que está ampliamente demostrado que son tóxicos.

Actualmente, existen al menos 100.000 sustancias químicas cuyo impacto para la salud o el medio ambiente -en la gran mayoría de casos- nunca ha sido evaluado, a pesar de lo cual son ampliamente utilizadas en todo tipo de industrias y “forman parte de nuestra vida física y económica”, recalcó Steiner.

## La ONU denuncia el comercio ilegal y el vertido de residuos electrónicos

**Un estudio publicado por el PNUMA indica que hasta el 90% de los desechos de ordenadores y teléfonos móviles está mal gestionado**

[Natural](#) | 13/05/2015 - 10:06h | Última actualización: 13/05/2015 - 10:26h



Ginebra / Barcelona (Redacción).- Cerca del 90 por ciento de los **desechos o residuos electrónicos** generados en todo el mundo acaban en redes de **comercio ilegal** o abandonados de forma inadecuada en **vertederos** o el medio natural, según el informe [Waste Crime-Waste Risks](#) publicado el 12 de mayo por el [Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente](#) (PNUMA) en el marco de la reunión en Ginebra (Suiza) de tres convenios internacionales sobre la gestión de residuos.

La industria electrónica de consumo -una de las mayores del mundo y de mayor crecimiento- genera cada año unos 41 millones de toneladas de residuos, en aparatos usados como ordenadores o teléfonos inteligentes. La tendencia indica que esta cifra podría llegar a 50 millones de toneladas de residuos en 2017.

El nuevo estudio elaborado por GRID Arendal, centro asociado del PNUMA, indica que, dependiendo de los países afectados, entre el 60% y el 90% de los residuos generados en este sector se comercializan ilegalmente o se vierten de forma inadecuada.

La Organización Internacional de Policía Criminal (INTERPOL) estima que el precio de una tonelada de desechos electrónicos puede alcanzar los 450 euros. A partir de esta cifra se apunta la posibilidad de que el mercado ilegal de este tipo de residuos alcance cada año una cifra cercana a los 17.000 millones de euros.

En la presentación del nuevo estudio, el director ejecutivo del PNUMA, Achim Steiner, ha indicado que, "estamos siendo testigos de una cantidad sin precedentes de los residuos electrónicos que se generan en el mundo, y sólo una pequeña parte de ellos se recicla". "Esta gran montaña de residuos representa una amenaza creciente para la salud humana y el medio ambiente, debido a los elementos peligrosos que contiene", ha destacado Steiner. El director ejecutivo del PNUMA considera que para hacer frente a este problema son imprescindibles una mayor cooperación internacional, fuertes regulaciones legales y la implicación de las autoridades locales.

### Causas del problema a escala mundial

El informe presentado en Ginebra destaca que, "concentrados en la obtención de beneficios, los operadores son propensos a ignorar las regulaciones de residuos y exponer a los trabajadores a sustancias químicas tóxicas". "En una escala mayor, la delincuencia organizada puede estar utilizando los residuos electrónicos en el fraude fiscal y el blanqueo de dinero, ya que los volúmenes manejados no están registrados", indica el PNUMA.

La exportación de residuos peligrosos de la Unión Europea (UE) y la Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE) los Estados miembros a los países no miembros de la OCDE está prohibida; por lo tanto, no está sujeto a la notificación o la concesión de licencias. En lugar de ello, miles de toneladas de basura electrónica se declaran falsamente como productos de segunda mano y exportados desde países desarrollados a países en desarrollo, incluidos los residuos de pilas falsamente descritos como plástico o chatarra mixta, y los tubos fluorescentes y monitores de ordenador declarados como chatarra. Ambas técnicas de contrabando -a pequeña y gran escala- pueden ser observadas en todo el mundo, desde el transporte de camiones organizada en toda Europa y América del Norte para el uso de los principales centros de contrabando en el sur de Asia, incluido el transporte de contenedores por mar generalizado, según detalla el nuevo informe.

África y Asia son destinos clave para los envíos a gran escala de desechos peligrosos para su vertido y reciclaje en condiciones de escasa seguridad. Ghana y Nigeria están entre los mayores receptores de África occidental, a pesar de que grandes volúmenes de desechos electrónicos también son transportados a Costa de Marfil y la República del Congo. En Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistán, India, Bangladesh y Vietnam parecen soportar el peso de los envíos de desechos electrónicos ilegales, según los datos del PNUMA.

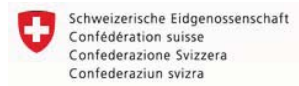
# Switzerland



LE TEMPS

1

2



Growing concerns over dumping of electronic waste

**Gulf Times** - 25 May, 2015

It is alarming that up to 90% of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly \$ 19bn, is illegally traded or dumped each year, as indicated by a recent report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry - one of the world's largest and fastest growing - generates up to 41mn tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50mn tonnes already by 2017.

A staggering 60-90% of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP report, launched in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around \$ 500, leading to the nearly \$ 19bn figure. As pointed out by UN under-secretary-general and executive director of UNEP Achim Steiner, the unprecedented amount of electronic waste rolling out over the world not only accounts for a large portion of the world's non-recycled 'waste mountain,' but also poses a growing threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains.

The illegal trade and dumping of e-waste could be brought to an end only through enhanced international co-operation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention, as he suggested.

This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy and reducing health risks to the public.

Innovative solutions to combat illegal and unsustainable handling of e-waste are emerging.

Recovering valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products, for example, can reduce the amount of e-waste produced.

The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment.

Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly. Africa and Asia are key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes for dumping, and sometimes for recycling. Ghana and Nigeria are among the largest recipients in West Africa, although high volumes of e-waste are also transported to Cote d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. In Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam appear to bear the brunt of illegal e-waste shipments.

As reiterated by the UNEP, inconsistency in regulations between exporting and importing countries - including what is classified as hazardous or contaminated waste - poses a challenge to effectively combating illegal waste trafficking.

Technical guidelines on the criteria used to classify equipment as waste or non-waste are currently being negotiated internationally. Binding agreements on classification of waste through the conventions will be vital to prevent the dumping of waste in developing countries.



## Countries move forward on important issues for sustainable management of chemicals and waste

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions – 16 May 2015



## Fin de la conférence sur les produits chimiques

Quatre produits chimiques, dont un insecticide, ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam à l'issue d'une conférence qui s'est achevée à Genève.

Une faute?

Trois substances qui posent de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement - les naphthalènes polychlorés, l'hexachlorobutadiène, le pentachlorophénol ainsi que ses sels et esters - ont été ajoutés à la convention de Stockholm, qui régit les polluants organiques persistants.

Le méthamidophos a quant à lui été ajouté à la Convention de Rotterdam, consacrée au commerce de produits chimiques dangereux, ont indiqué les organisateurs de cette conférence dans un communiqué qui a réuni pendant deux semaines à Genève quelque 1200 personnes venues de 171 pays et qui s'est terminée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi.

Le méthamidophos est un insecticide extrêmement toxique qui peut avoir de graves effets sur la santé humaine, en particulier au niveau du système nerveux, immunitaire et reproductif, ont-ils précisé.

### Déchets électroniques

Des directives techniques concernant les déchets électroniques ont également été adoptées dans la Convention de Bâle, qui porte sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux.

Ces directives doivent permettre de comprendre comment identifier les déchets électroniques et équipements usagés qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le recyclage des équipements électriques et électroniques.

Selon des données récentes du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques, sont échangés ou déversés illégalement, pour des



montants évalués entre 12,5 et 18,8 milliards de dollars (11,4,9 à 17,1 milliards de francs) par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.

#### Désaccords sur le paraquat

Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le paraquat et l'amiant chrysotile, qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente réunion en 2013. L'amiant chrysotile, également appelé l'amiant blanc, est un matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, mais qui est associé notamment à certains cancers.

Le paraquat est quant à lui un produit chimique utilisé dans la production d'herbicide. La mort peut survenir dans les 30 jours après l'ingestion du produit. Il est interdit dans l'Union européenne et en Suisse notamment.

Bien que de nombreux participants aient exprimé leur déception, Rolph Payet, le secrétaire exécutif des trois conventions, a mis en lumière la portée des étapes franchies durant cette réunion.

(ats)

**24 heures**

## Gouvernements invités à recycler une montagne de déchets

**Conférence à Genève** Plus de 1500 délégués et experts de 180 pays sont réunis jusqu'au 15 mai à Genève dans le cadre de la réunion des trois Conventions de Stockholm, Rotterdam et Bâle.



Image: ARCHIVES / PHOTO D'ILLUSTRATION

Une conférence de deux semaines s'est ouverte ce lundi 4 mai à Genève sur les substances et les déchets dangereux.

Les gouvernements doivent discuter de l'interdiction de nouveaux produits chimiques et du recyclage des déchets électroniques, un problème de plus en plus aigu.

Plus de 1500 délégués et experts de 180 pays sont réunis jusqu'au 15 mai dans le cadre de la réunion des trois Conventions de Stockholm, Rotterdam et Bâle.

«Nous sommes confrontés à une montagne de déchets électroniques non recyclables», a affirmé à la presse le directeur exécutif du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) Achim Steiner, à l'ouverture de la conférence.

«C'est une catastrophe humanitaire silencieuse touchant des millions de personnes», a averti le secrétaire exécutif des trois Conventions Rolph Payet. L'an dernier, les gens ont jeté 41,8 millions de tonnes de produits électroniques et électriques, du four à micro-ondes aux machines à laver en passant par les téléphones portables et ordinateurs, a-t-il indiqué.

#### Responsabilité du consommateur

«C'est l'équivalent d'une file ininterrompue de camions de 23'000 kilomètres de long, plus que la distance entre Genève et le pôle sud», a relevé le responsable. Mais l'an dernier, seulement un sixième des déchets électroniques a été recyclé, a-t-il affirmé.

Rolph Payet a insisté sur la responsabilité du consommateur: «Quand vous jetez votre ancien portable pour en acheter un nouveau à peine différent, il faudrait y réfléchir», a-t-il dit. En même temps, les entreprises de télécoms ont un rôle essentiel à jouer. La conférence devrait discuter de principes directeurs en la matière.

#### Nouvelles substances interdites

Les gouvernements vont plancher sur l'interdiction de trois nouvelles substances toxiques s'ajoutant aux 23 déjà prohibées dans le cadre de la convention de Stockholm. La Suisse a indiqué qu'elle soutient l'inscription de ces trois nouvelles substances dans la liste des produits à éliminer.

Il s'agit des chloronaphthalènes et de l'hexachlorobutadiène aux propriétés insecticides et fongicides, ainsi que du pentachlorophénol utilisé comme solvant ou comme biocide dans des produits phytosanitaires.

Dans le cadre de la convention de Rotterdam, la Suisse soutiendra également les recommandations du groupe technique sur cinq nouveaux produits à soumettre à la procédure du consentement préalable. Il s'agit de l'amiante chrysotile, dit amiante blanc, du paraquat ainsi que de trois substances utilisées dans les produits phytosanitaires.

#### Normes internationales

Enfin, dans le domaine des déchets dangereux (Convention de Bâle), la Suisse milite, par le biais d'une initiative commune avec l'Indonésie, pour que ces substances n'aboutissent que dans les pays aptes à gérer leur élimination. Il faudrait élaborer des normes internationales pour les installations de traitement des déchets dangereux dans le monde entier.

La délégation suisse s'engagera en outre pour qu'un budget suffisant soit octroyé au secrétariat commun des trois Conventions qui se trouve à Genève. Elle espère que le secrétariat de la Convention de Minamata sur le mercure, qui vise à réduire les rejets de ce métal dans l'environnement, rejoindra de manière permanente les trois autres à Genève. (ats/Newsnet)



## Congrès sur les déchets dangereux à Genève



Container de produits toxiques (Image prétexte-archives).

Photo: KEYSTONE

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Trois substances qui posent de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement - les naphthalènes polychlorés, l'hexachlorobutadiène, le pentachlorophénol ainsi que ses sels et esters - ont été ajoutés à la convention de Stockholm. Celle-ci régit les polluants organiques persistants.

Le méthamidophos a quant à lui été ajouté à la Convention de Rotterdam, consacrée au commerce de produits chimiques dangereux, ont indiqué les organisateurs de cette conférence dans un communiqué qui a réuni pendant deux semaines à Genève quelque 1200 personnes venues de 171 pays et qui s'est terminée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi.

Le méthamidophos est un insecticide extrêmement toxique qui peut avoir de graves effets sur la santé humaine, en particulier au niveau du système nerveux, immunitaire et reproductif, ont-ils précisé.

### Déchets électroniques

Des directives techniques concernant les déchets électroniques ont également été adoptées dans la Convention de Bâle, qui porte sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux.

Ces directives doivent permettre de comprendre comment identifier les déchets électroniques et équipements usagés qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le recyclage des équipements électriques et électroniques.

Selon des données récentes du Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques, sont échangés ou déversés illégalement, pour des montants évalués entre 12,5 et 18,8 milliards de dollars (11,4 à 17,1 milliards de francs) par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.

### Désaccords sur le paraquat

Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le paraquat et l'amiante chrysotile, qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente réunion en 2013. L'amiante chrysotile, également appelé l'amiante blanc, est un matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, mais qui est associé notamment à certains cancers.

Le paraquat est quant à lui un produit chimique utilisé dans la production d'herbicide. La mort peut survenir dans les 30 jours après l'ingestion du produit. Il est interdit dans l'Union européenne et en Suisse notamment.

Bien que de nombreux participants aient exprimé leur déception, Rolph Payet, le secrétaire exécutif des trois conventions, a mis en lumière la portée des étapes franchies durant cette réunion.



12.05.2015, 15:55 - Monde

Actualisé le 12.05.15, 15:56

## Jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques sont traités illégalement



Des milliers de tonnes de déchets électroniques font l'objet de fausses déclarations et sont exportées vers les pays en développement.

Crédit: KEYSTONE archives

**Près de 90% des 41 tonnes de déchets générées par l'industrie électronique sont traitées illégalement dans le monde. Et cela rapporte des milliards de dollars.**

L'industrie électronique génère 41 millions de tonnes de déchets par an, selon une étude du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) publiée mardi. Près de 90% de ces déchets ne sont pas traités légalement dans le monde, pour une valeur de 19 milliards de dollars.

La montagne de déchets créée par les ordinateurs et les smartphones pourrait atteindre 50 millions de tonnes déjà en 2017, prévient l'agence de l'ONU à l'occasion de la conférence des États parties aux Conventions de Bâle, Stockholm et Rotterdam qui se tient jusqu'à vendredi à Genève.

Selon une évaluation d'Interpol, le prix d'une tonne de déchets électroniques est d'environ 500 dollars. Sur cette base, le PNUE estime que si de 60 à 90% de ces déchets ne sont pas commercialisés légalement, leur valeur atteint entre 12,5 milliards et 18,8 milliards de dollars annuellement.

### "Début d'un tsunami sans précédent"

"Nous sommes confrontés au début d'un tsunami sans précédent de déchets électroniques envahissant le monde entier. Ils représentent une menace directe à la santé humaine et à l'environnement en raison des éléments dangereux qu'ils contiennent", a averti le directeur exécutif du PNUE Achim Steiner.

L'agence de l'ONU plaide pour le renforcement de la coopération internationale, des législations nationales plus strictes, des mesures de prévention, une plus grande sensibilisation de la population. Tout le monde y a intérêt, le recyclage de matériaux coûteux étant avantageux économiquement et réduisant en même temps les risques sanitaires.

Le PNUE souligne que le marché mondial des déchets (tous confondus), de la collecte au recyclage, est une activité économique importante évaluée à 410 milliards de dollars par an, créant des emplois et des revenus. A différents stades de la chaîne, les opérateurs cherchent à faire des profits et passent outre aux réglementations en exposant les travailleurs aux produits toxiques dangereux.

### Faussees déclarations

Des milliers de tonnes de déchets électroniques font l'objet de fausses déclarations et sont exportées vers les pays en développement, malgré l'interdiction d'exportation des déchets dangereux en vigueur dans les pays de l'OCDE. Batteries usagées, tubes cathodiques, écrans d'ordinateurs passent les frontières comme ferraille.

Ces déchets aboutissent en particulier au Ghana et au Nigéria, en Côte d'Ivoire et au Congo. En Asie, la Chine, Hong Kong, le Pakistan, l'Inde, le Bangladesh et le Vietnam sont les destinations les plus fréquentes des déchets électroniques.

Les Etats discutent actuellement des critères utilisés pour classer des équipements comme déchets ou non-déchets. Pour le PNUE, des accords contraignants sur la classification des déchets est cruciale pour prévenir le déversement des déchets dans les pays en développement.

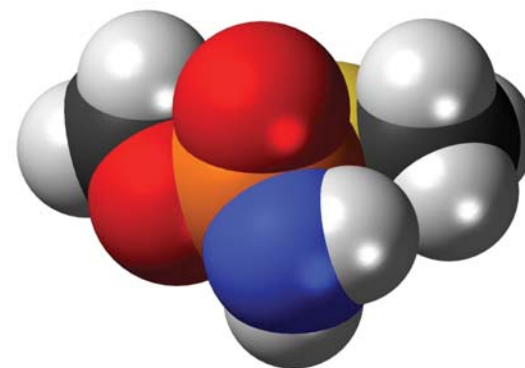
Source: ATS

# LE TEMPS

SCIENCES & ENVIRONNEMENT

CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONALES samedi 16 mai 2015

## Quatre produits chimiques ajoutés à la liste des dangers graves à Genève ATS



Molécule de méthamidophos (Jynto [CC0], via Wikimedia Commons)

Quatre produits chimiques ont été ajoutés aux conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam à l'issue d'une conférence sur les produits chimiques et les déchets dangereux qui s'est achevée à Genève. Les experts ne sont toutefois pas parvenus à un consensus sur l'amiante blanc et du paraquat.

Trois substances qui posent de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement - les naphthalènes polychlorés, l'hexachlorobutadiène, le pentachlorophénol ainsi que ses sels et esters - ont été ajoutés à la convention de Stockholm, qui régit les polluants organiques persistants.

Le méthamidophos a quant à lui été ajouté à la Convention de Rotterdam, consacrée au commerce de produits chimiques dangereux, ont indiqué les organisateurs de cette conférence dans un communiqué qui a réuni pendant deux semaines à Genève quelque 1200 personnes venues de 171 pays et qui s'est terminée dans la nuit de vendredi à samedi.

Le méthamidophos est un insecticide extrêmement toxique qui peut avoir de graves effets sur la santé humaine, en particulier au niveau du système nerveux, immunitaire et reproductif, ont-ils précisé.

Des directives techniques concernant les déchets électroniques ont également été adoptées dans la Convention de Bâle, qui porte sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontaliers de déchets dangereux.

Ces directives doivent permettre de comprendre comment identifier les déchets électroniques et équipements usagés qui transitent d'un pays à l'autre, l'objectif étant de contrôler leur trafic illégal. Elles marquent une première étape importante pour encourager le recyclage des équipements électriques et électroniques.

Selon des données récentes du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (UNEP), jusqu'à 90% des déchets électroniques, sont échangés ou déversés illégalement, pour des montants évalués entre 12,5 et 18,8 milliards de dollars (11,4,9 à 17,1 milliards de francs) par an, posant de graves dangers pour la santé humaine et l'environnement, en particulier dans les pays d'Afrique.

Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le paraquat et l'amiante chrysotile, qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente réunion en 2013. L'amiante chrysotile, également appelé l'amiante blanc, est un matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, mais qui est associé notamment à certains cancers.

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ENVIRONNEMENT vendredi 01 mai 2015

## Mieux contrôler les produits toxiques

Pascaline Minet



**Une importante réunion consacrée aux produits chimiques et déchets dangereux se tient à Genève dès le 4 mai. Amiante, mercure et autres herbicides seront au cœur des discussions.**

Le déraillement de train survenu le 25 avril à Daillens, dans le canton de Vaud, n'a pas seulement entraîné des perturbations du trafic ferroviaire, mais aussi une importante pollution, avec le déversement de quelque 25 tonnes d'acide sulfurique et d'autres substances toxiques. Cet événement rappelle les risques inhérents à l'utilisation et au transport de produits chimiques. Des risques qui peuvent être maîtrisés en Suisse, mais qui le sont beaucoup moins dans les pays en développement, peu équipés pour y faire face.

Afin de limiter le danger de ces substances pour les êtres humains comme pour l'environnement, plusieurs accords internationaux ont été conclus: il s'agit des [Conventions de Bâle, Stockholm et Rotterdam](#). Les parties prenantes de ces conventions se retrouveront du 4 au 15 mai prochain à Genève, où est situé leur secrétariat commun. Plusieurs dossiers importants seront sur la table des négociations.

Quel est le rôle respectif des trois conventions?

La Convention de Stockholm recense des produits toxiques qui s'accumulent dans les organismes vivants, par exemple les dioxines. Les produits qui y figurent doivent être soit éliminés, soit soumis à des restrictions de production. La Convention de Rotterdam s'intéresse à d'autres types de substances dangereuses, dont de nombreux pesticides. Elle n'interdit pas leur fabrication ou leur commerce mais stipule que les pays importateurs doivent être informés de leur dangerosité et qu'ils ont le droit d'en refuser l'importation. La Convention de



Bâle, enfin, entend contrôler les mouvements transfrontaliers des déchets dangereux et assurer leur élimination. 81 pays ont déjà souscrit aux objectifs du «Ban Amendment», qui interdit l'exportation de déchets dangereux hors de l'OCDE.

Quelles substances pourraient être mieux réglementées?

Lors de la réunion de Genève, les pays membres des conventions pourront décider de durcir la réglementation de certains produits chimiques, en se basant sur les recommandations d'experts. Parmi les substances qui font l'objet des plus âpres discussions figure l'amiante chrysotile, ou amiante blanc. Ce type d'amiante est déjà interdit dans de nombreux pays en raison de son effet cancérigène, mais n'est toujours pas inscrit sur la liste des substances dangereuses de la Convention de Rotterdam. «Certaines personnes font valoir qu'il existe toujours un débat scientifique autour de la dangerosité de ce produit. De plus, ce type d'amiante bon marché reste largement utilisé pour la construction dans certains pays en développement», explique Rolph Payet, secrétaire exécutif des Conventions de Bâle, Rotterdam et Stockholm. «Nous ferons tout notre possible pour que cette substance soit enfin inscrite à la Convention de Rotterdam, car le fait qu'elle n'y figure pas nuit à la crédibilité du processus. Mais la décision de réglementer une telle substance doit se faire par consensus et certains pays s'y opposent en raison d'intérêts commerciaux», indique Luca Arnold, le chef de la délégation suisse pour les réunions des conventions.

Autre produit qui pourrait se retrouver sur la liste des substances réglementées par la Convention de Rotterdam, le paraquat est un pesticide hautement toxique pour les agriculteurs qui le manipulent. Interdit en Suisse et en Europe, il continue cependant d'être exporté dans de nombreux pays par Syngenta. Lors de la dernière Conférence des parties, l'Inde et le Guatemala ont bloqué son entrée dans le processus de Rotterdam. «Certains pays importateurs voient d'un mauvais œil la réglementation de ce pesticide efficace. Mais il existe aussi des pressions de l'industrie, qui ne fournit pas les efforts nécessaires pour identifier des produits alternatifs», estime Rolph Payet.

Enfin, diverses substances utilisées comme fongicide, pesticide ou solvants vont être proposées pour inscription dans la Convention de Stockholm, en vue de leur élimination. Des études indiquent que cette convention, qui est entrée en vigueur en 2001, a déjà commencé à porter ses fruits. Les polluants organiques persistants se retrouvent en moins grande quantité dans l'atmosphère et dans l'environnement arctique, où ils ont tendance à s'accumuler.

Comment faire respecter les engagements des Etats?

Ce sera un des grands enjeux de la prochaine réunion de Genève. Actuellement, seule la Convention de Bâle sur les déchets comprend un processus de contrôle. «Ce mécanisme vise principalement à favoriser le respect des obligations en fournissant un soutien aux Etats. Il ne prévoit pas de sanctions à proprement parler, bien qu'il puisse aboutir à la mise en garde d'un pays, ce qui est mauvais en termes d'image», considère Rolph Payet. Différents pays dont la Suisse aimeraient doter les autres conventions d'un mécanisme analogue.

Qu'est-il prévu pour les déchets électroniques?

Ce type de déchets est au centre des préoccupations en raison de son importance croissante. Dans le cadre de la Convention de Bâle, la Suisse a lancé et dirige une initiative qui vise à

limiter les exportations de téléphones usagés d'Europe et d'Amérique du Nord et leur transformation en Asie et en Afrique dans des conditions dangereuses pour l'environnement et les populations locales. «Une des difficultés est de déterminer à partir de quand un équipement électronique devient un déchet», souligne Rolph Payet. De nouvelles lignes directrices visant à optimiser le cycle de vie de ces produits, de leur production à leur élimination, pourraient être adoptées à Genève.

Le commerce du mercure est-il encadré?

L'année dernière, une pollution de grande ampleur au mercure était découverte en Valais. De quoi susciter des inquiétudes, cette substance étant hautement toxique pour l'être humain. La plus grande catastrophe liée au mercure a eu lieu au Japon dans les années 1960, lorsque des milliers de personnes sont décédées dans la région de Minamata après avoir ingéré de grandes quantités de poissons contaminés. En hommage à ces victimes et pour prévenir ce type de tragédie, 139 pays ont adopté en 2013 une [Convention dite «de Minamata»](#), qui vise à encadrer l'usage, les rejets et le commerce du mercure. Sa ratification par la Suisse est en cours.

«Des synergies entre cette convention et celles qui existent déjà semblent logiques puisqu'elles relèvent du même domaine de compétence», fait valoir Rolph Payet. Les activités de la Convention de Minamata pourraient être dirigées depuis Genève. Une idée soutenue par la Suisse, qui souhaite faire de Genève un centre de compétence mondial en gestion des substances chimiques.



16.05.2015 17:32 - Politique

## La conférence sur les produits chimiques a pris fin à Genève

Mis en ligne le 16.05.2015 à 17:32



La conférence sur les produits chimiques a pris fin à Genève

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ATS

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Les États membres de ces trois conventions n'ont en revanche pas réussi à trouver un accord sur le paraquat et l'amiante chrysotile, qui avaient déjà fait l'objet de débats lors d'une précédente réunion en 2013. L'amiante chrysotile, également appelé l'amiante blanc, est un matériau résistant au feu utilisé dans la construction, mais qui est associé notamment à certains cancers.

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## Conférence sur les substances et les déchets dangereux à Genève: mandat adopté

**Berne, 22.04.2015 - Les Parties aux trois conventions internationales qui gèrent les substances chimiques et les déchets dangereux se réuniront à Genève du 4 au 15 mai 2015. Lors de cette conférence, plusieurs nouvelles substances devraient être soumises à la législation internationale. Le Conseil fédéral a adopté aujourd'hui le mandat de la délégation suisse.**

L'utilisation de certains produits chimiques peut comporter des risques pour la santé et l'environnement. Pour réduire cet impact négatif sur l'environnement, trois conventions règlent les substances chimiques et les déchets dangereux: la Convention de Stockholm POP, la Convention de Rotterdam PIC et la Convention de Bâle sur les déchets dangereux (voir Fiche). Genève abrite le siège de ces trois conventions. La Suisse est ainsi devenue le centre de compétences de la politique environnementale dans le domaine des produits chimiques et des déchets dangereux. La nouvelle Convention sur le mercure pourrait être intégrée prochainement à ce centre.

A Genève, les Etats examineront le processus de rapprochement des trois conventions, les questions de budget et de respect des dispositions. Suivant le mandat approuvé aujourd'hui par le Conseil fédéral, la délégation suisse s'engagera pour qu'un budget suffisant soit octroyé au secrétariat commun afin qu'il puisse remplir ses tâches et exploiter toutes les possibilités de synergies avec d'autres conventions. Elle continuera à œuvrer pour que les conventions de Stockholm et de Rotterdam introduisent un mécanisme pour régler les cas de non-respect des dispositions sur le modèle de la Convention de Bâle. Elle s'engagera également pour qu'une approche commune soit développée pour le soutien technique et financier apporté à la mise en œuvre des trois conventions.

### Nouvelles substances soumises à la réglementation internationale

La Suisse approuvera par ailleurs l'inclusion de trois nouvelles substances dans l'Annexe A de la Convention de Stockholm (élimination): les chloronaphthalènes et l'hexachlorobutadiène aux propriétés insecticide et fongicide, ainsi que le pentachlorophénol utilisé comme solvant ou comme biocide dans des produits phytosanitaires.

Dans le cadre de la convention de Rotterdam, la Suisse soutiendra les recommandations du groupe technique sur les nouveaux produits à soumettre à la procédure du consentement préalable. Il s'agit de l'amiante chrysotile, dit amiante blanc, du paraquat ainsi que de trois substances utilisées dans les produits phytosanitaires.

Dans le domaine des déchets dangereux (Convention de Bâle), la Suisse et l'Indonésie militent par le biais d'une initiative commune pour que ces déchets n'aboutissent que dans les pays aptes à gérer leur élimination. Il s'agit notamment d'élaborer des standards internationaux permettant la labellisation d'installations de traitement des déchets dangereux dans le monde entier. La Suisse va également approuver plusieurs lignes directrices pour la gestion des déchets, notamment celle sur le mouvement transfrontière des appareils électriques et électroniques.



## Les Nations Unies s'inquiètent du "tsunami de déchets électroniques"



Un village près de Beijing, en Chine, est devenu l'un des principaux centres de recyclage d'e-déchets.  
[Kim Kyung-Hoon - REUTERS]

L'industrie électronique génère 41 millions de tonnes de déchets par an, selon une étude du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) publiée mardi.

La montagne de déchets créée par les ordinateurs et les smartphones pourrait atteindre 50 millions de tonnes en 2017, soit l'équivalent de huit pyramides égyptiennes, a prévenu vendredi le PNUE.

"Nous sommes confrontés au début d'un tsunami sans précédent de déchets électroniques. Ils représentent une menace directe à la santé humaine et à l'environnement en raison des éléments dangereux qu'ils contiennent", avertit le PNUE.

### Traitement illégal

Des milliers de tonnes de détritrus sont envoyés vers les pays en développement, malgré l'interdiction d'exportation des déchets dangereux en vigueur dans les pays de l'OCDE. Batteries usagées, tubes cathodiques, écrans d'ordinateurs passent les frontières comme ferraille.

Ces déchets finissent brûlés et démantelés sur des décharges au Ghana et au Nigéria, en Côte d'Ivoire et au Congo. En Asie, la Chine, Hong Kong, le Pakistan, l'Inde, le Bangladesh et le Vietnam sont les destinations les plus fréquentes.

>> [Regarder l'enquête sur Temps Présent](#)



Temps Présent - Publié le 20 septembre 2012

ats/sp

## «Les pesticides nuisent à la sécurité alimentaire»

**Alimentation** L'Organisation de l'ONU pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) milite pour une réglementation plus stricte.



Plantation de sorgho au Darfour, Soudan. «Quelque 3 milliards de tonnes de pesticides sont utilisées chaque année dans le monde.» Image: ONU/Fred Noy

[Par Alain Jourdan](#) 11.05.2015

Christine Fuell, coordinatrice du Secrétariat de la Convention de Rotterdam auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) participe à la conférence qui se tient à Genève jusqu'au 15 mai. Pour elle, les produits utilisés dans la course au rendement représentent une menace.

### Pourquoi la FAO participe-t-elle à la Conférence des parties aux Conventions de Bâle, Rotterdam et Stockholm qui se tient à Genève?

Le Secrétariat de la Convention de Rotterdam est géré conjointement par le Programme de l'ONU pour l'environnement (PNUE) et l'Organisation de l'ONU pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO). L'une des questions principales de la conférence sera l'examen de produits chimiques afin de les inscrire à l'annexe III de la Convention de Rotterdam, en particulier les pesticides méthamidophos et trichlorfon et deux formulations de pesticides très dangereux, à savoir le fenthion et le dichlorure de paraquat. En outre, nous allons essayer une nouvelle fois d'inscrire l'amiante chrysotile. Un accord unanime des parties sur l'inclusion à la Convention de ces cinq produits chimiques serait une grande réussite.

### Mais les produits chimiques ne permettent-ils pas aussi d'augmenter les rendements pour répondre à la croissance de la population?

On estime que la terre comptera environ 9 milliards de personnes d'ici à 2050 et qu'il faudra augmenter la production alimentaire de 60%. Il est nécessaire d'intensifier les cultures mais nous devons nous assurer que cela se fasse d'une manière durable et en protégeant les ressources naturelles. Quelque 3 milliards de tonnes de pesticides sont utilisées chaque année dans le monde entier, mais malgré cela, les parasites, insectes, mauvaises herbes et autres agents pathogènes des plantes détruisent environ 40% des cultures. Ces pertes ont une incidence négative sur la sécurité alimentaire de millions de personnes. Les pesticides considérés comme dangereux en vertu de la convention pourraient aussi avoir un impact négatif sur leur santé et l'environnement dans lequel elles vivent.

### La FAO est-elle associée à des programmes de recherche avec l'industrie agroalimentaire?

La FAO n'est pas directement associée à des programmes de recherche avec l'industrie agroalimentaire. L'organisation bénéficie cependant de connaissances et compétences très pointues dans le domaine des pesticides, à son siège à Rome mais aussi à travers son réseau décentralisé qui couvre plus de 180 pays. Nous collaborons aussi avec les agents nationaux de protection des végétaux et dix-huit autres réseaux à travers le monde. Nous obtenons ainsi des informations utiles sur les besoins immédiats des pays afin que nous puissions offrir une assistance technique rapide et efficace. En matière de solutions alternatives, le Secrétariat de la Convention de Rotterdam a, par exemple, collaboré récemment avec une ONG afin de trouver des solutions pour faire croître le café sans endosulfan, un insecticide qui est l'un des pesticides les plus toxiques responsable de nombreux cas d'empoisonnement mortel dans le monde.

(TDG)

(Créé: 11.05.2015, 09h55)



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## UN conferences must move 'from science to action'

Issues 'cannot keep being postponed', says head of Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions

6 May 2015 / Multinational bodies

The UN's Conventions on chemicals and waste must move "from science to action", with parties accepting the scientific recommendations prepared for them, a top UN official has said.

Addressing the Triple Conference of Parties to the UN Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, which kicked off on 4 May in Geneva, Rolph Payet, executive director of the three Conventions, said: "We cannot keep postponing issues which are of national and global importance. We cannot afford to wait more than two years to address issues agreed to by our three main subsidiary bodies – the Open-ended Working Group [Basel], the Chemical Review Committee [Rotterdam] and the POPs Review Committee [Stockholm]."

Given, said Mr Payet, that the global market for chemicals is worth \$4.1tn per year, "it is inconceivable that we can claim to have limited ability and resources to address the major chemicals and waste-related environmental issues."

Following an initial joint session of the Conference of Parties (COP) for all three Conventions, the two-week meeting will tackle individually the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs); then the Basel Convention on transboundary movements of hazardous waste; followed by the Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for international trade in hazardous chemicals - before finishing with a joint session, when budget and other decisions will be made on 15 May ([GBB April 2015](#)).

Decisions on the table include:

- banning polychlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD) and pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters, by adding them to Annex A of the Stockholm Convention; and
- listing five substances, including chrysotile asbestos and paraquat dichloride formulations, which weren't previously, under the Rotterdam Convention. [Several parties at the meeting said if progress could not be made on asbestos and paraquat, an alternative method for listing chemicals should be considered.]

Another issue highlighted, during opening comments, was the increasing amount of e-waste around the globe, with Achim Steiner, executive director of the UN Environment Programme

(Unep), describing the fastest growing waste stream on the planet as a “tsunami”. In 2014, an estimated 42m tonnes of electrical and electronic products were discarded.

Proposed technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used equipment, which will be discussed by the Basel Convention session, aim to provide a clearer distinction between waste and non-waste under the Convention.

Other technical guidelines, proposed under the Basel Convention, cover wastes containing mercury, which are banned under the UN Minamata Convention, and POPs banned under the Stockholm Convention, such as perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, polybrominated biphenyls and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD).

Meanwhile, the opening sessions saw several parties call for the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions to follow Basel and adopt a compliance mechanism. Procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance, and for the treatment of parties found to be in non-compliance, will be discussed during the Stockholm and Rotterdam COPs.

Noting that the Stockholm and Rotterdam texts – adopted many years ago - clearly state that “compliance procedures shall be adopted as soon as possible”, Mr Payet said he was confident there would be progress on the issue because the “triggers” to alert instances of non-compliance among the parties have been proposed; financing to support countries with implementation is in place; and the consequences of non-compliance have been put forward.

Unep’s Mr Steiner said the three Conventions were not about stopping the use of chemicals, but about providing a clear platform from which to advise policy makers of science that can inform decisions. These include actions to protect people from toxic substances and signalling to the market that alternatives are needed.

It was “intolerable”, he said, that one million people die each year from occupational poisoning, related to exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Parties, said Mr Steiner, should consider how the “synergies” that work to optimise the activities of the three Conventions could be taken further and how best practice on chemicals and waste issues could influence other relevant policy making, budgetary and enforcement mechanisms. He also wants to see better engagement with the chemicals industry.

**Emma Chynoweth in Geneva**



## Chemicals, electronics sectors react to UN convention decisions

19 May 2015 / Multinational bodies

In response to outcomes of the recent meeting of the Basel Convention ([CW 18 May 2015](#)), the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) says it strongly supports the actions that parties took to distinguish legitimate shipments of used electronics for appropriate servicing, from improper shipments of electronic wastes.

Rick Goss, ITI senior vice president for environment and sustainability, says: “Global governments have now sent a clear signal that they will not tolerate transport of obsolete and broken products to countries that lack proper management capacity.” At the same time, he adds, participants of the meeting defined strict conditions for proper and environmentally sound servicing operations that are not considered to be waste processing, and that only the most responsible companies can satisfy.

“By adopting the technical guidelines on an interim basis, the Basel parties are indicating that the approach approved, last week, will require further research and review. The guidelines need to be tested in practice, and this may generate new data to allow governments to refine the approach. This will also help inform government perspectives on the several open items that are captured in Annex V of the guidelines,” he says.

Meanwhile, Michelle López Orfei of the American Chemistry Council says the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) to reject some of the listing recommendations made by its scientific advisory body, the POP Review Committee, “is a clear indication that the quality of information included in the substance review could be improved”. She says that moving forward, “the POPRC should ensure the quality of scientific data is robust and that it includes a review of all relevant studies, utilising an appropriate weight-of-evidence framework.”

The ACC does not have a specific position on the chemicals proposed for listing, at the meeting. It wants to see the inclusion of substances to the Stockholm Convention that are “based on the best scientific information available, and clearly meet the criteria of the Annexes.”

Ralf Maecker, of chemical manufacturer Momentive, who attended the COP as an industry representative, also refuted comments from environmental NGOs, regarding the influence of the private sector. He suggested that NGOs increasingly “drive the show” and added: “The fact that

there have been strong disagreements, specially from developing countries, proved that the processes are too political.”



## Routes to sound chemical management

Global Business Briefing, May 2015 / Multinational bodies

2015 is an important year for those working at an international level to improve chemical safety. Earlier this month, the triple conference of parties (triple COPs) of the UN's most advanced, legally-binding chemicals conventions – the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) – met in Geneva. In September, the fourth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4), which oversees the voluntary Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (Saicm), will convene, also in Geneva.

It is important both meetings agree on specific actions: not only to meet their own objectives, but also to deliver progress that can be fed into the UN's "post-2015 development agenda" and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

During opening remarks at the BRS triple COPs, Rolph Payet, executive director of the three conventions said: "We cannot keep postponing issues, which are of national and global importance." He was joined by Achim Steiner, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, who said: "Unsound management of chemicals is incurring multi-billion dollar costs worldwide – most of which are not borne by manufacturers or others along the supply chain, but instead by social welfare systems or individuals, with a significant impact on the economy and development as well."

Mr Steiner noted the "vast body of science" that has been accumulated on chemicals and waste management – on issues such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), electronics-waste and mercury. He said this knowledge should help countries to tackle these issues.

But just how effective are the BRS Conventions? And how do they sit along-side and interact with Saicm?

Speaking to *Chemical Watch*, David Azoulay, environmental health programme director for the Center for International Environmental Law (Ciel) described international sound chemicals management efforts in three words: "Not yet there."

He added: "The pace of international law is slow, the procedures are complex and consensus has to be achieved between many countries that are looking to protect their sovereignty. But there is a general sense that things are moving forward."

Part of the problem, he added, is that the chemicals and hazardous waste cluster has been a low priority for global society, leaders and the UN, yet it is still politically sensitive. In addition, the workload is high and funding is low.

Positives, he said, are the inclusion of chemicals and wastes in a number of the SDGs proposed for adoption this year, and the BRS synergies process – which aims to improve implementation.

Mr Azoulay contends that there has been an element of ensuring that international treaties “don’t hurt”. As an example, he noted that the initial dozen POPs were for the most part not used any more. He would like to see more consideration given to health and environmental costs, and for a long-term view to be taken.

Greg Skelton, senior director for regulatory and technical affairs at the American Chemistry Council, said: “Global conventions bring governments together to negotiate action and responses to substances of global concern ... tackling the most hazardous substances that are difficult to manage, and have characteristics, such as trans-boundary movement, that require action at the global as well as national level. There are a limited number of such substances, which must meet the scientific criteria in the Stockholm Convention. It is onerous, and that is the way it should be.”

The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) is an active observer of the BRS Conventions; and all associations joining ICCA have to commit to supporting the conventions.

Michelle Orfei, director of global affairs at the ACC, said: “We support the conventions, but we have some concerns about the Stockholm Convention in particular, which we think has moved away from scientific arguments and become politicised.” Specifically, she said ICCA is concerned about the alternatives assessments done for both perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), which was added to Annex B in 2009, and endosulfan, which was added to Annex A in 2011.

Ms Orfei said that the process has overwhelmingly focused on the exploration of potential POPs candidates, rather than on an effort to identify genuine alternatives to listed substances.

Industry agrees that any alternative should not be a POP, but the process should not exclusively focus on whether potential alternatives exhibit POP or POP-like characteristics. It wants there to be a collection of a full range of relevant information, otherwise, the alternatives assessment process becomes “a back channel” for listing substances. “We want to see the integrity of process remembered. If we do, we will have a good result for everyone that is reliable. This is a key issue for us,” she said.

Another contention for ICCA is the weight-of-evidence approach that is required to determine risk.

Mr Skelton noted that some governments have also voiced concern about the lack of scientific rigour behind more recent POP Review Committee recommendations.

#### **Legally-binding vs voluntary**

Contrasting the legally-binding approaches to that of the voluntary Saicm, Mr Skelton said: “[Saicm] has helped to develop cooperation between stakeholders, this has helped [everyone] to understand the issues and ... encourage the sound management of chemicals.”

Saicm, which was adopted in 2006, aims to minimise the impact of hazardous chemicals on human health and the environment by 2020. When ICCM4 meets in September, it will consider an Overall Orientation and Guidance (Oog) document that describes activities to be taken before the 2020 deadline.

Mr Skelton said: “The Oog can be a vehicle for improving efficiency and prioritising scarce resources. If you look at resources, for example, by 2020 we can make the most progress by helping countries that lack basic capacity to manage chemicals safely to put the right apparatus in place.” He added that industry’s Global Product Strategy and Responsible Care Global Charter align with this idea and ICCA is working with the UN Environment Programme and other stakeholders to achieve this.

Mr Azoulay said: “Under Saicm it is easier to raise issues and the stakes are lower. We can raise an issue, not get consensus, but you can get traction and you can use that to get a dynamic. Also, the scope of Saicm is large. Under the Stockholm Convention, you have to fulfil strict legal criteria to raise an issue and there is a higher risk of public failure if your issue is not adopted.”

Matthias Kern, senior programme officer in the Technical Assistance Branch of the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions, said: “It is likely that voluntary multi-stakeholder approaches like Saicm would potentially produce faster results in cases where there is no disagreement.”

“In unclear or controversial cases, the stakeholders would have to agree on criteria for banning the chemicals, with a similarly structured, transparent and time-consuming process, to reach mutual agreement on the outcome if they do not want to risk, that in the end, only a small group of countries and/or stakeholders feel bound to the recommendation and implement the banning of the chemical,” he added.

Looking to the future and how global issues, for example those relating to specific EDCs and nanomaterials, should be tackled – either via legally-binding or voluntary approaches – needs further thought, says Joe DiGangi, senior science and technical adviser of the International POPs Elimination Network (Ipen): “Especially after the experience of negotiating the mercury treaty, which illustrated the twin difficulties of low political will and financial limitations.”

Ipen strongly advocated having a clause in the Minamata Convention on Mercury that would allow the addition of substances, based on some agreed upon criteria. These efforts were not successful and a single-substance treaty resulted.

One advantage of mandatory conventions is that they get higher political priority, he said. It is also important to recognise that global chemicals agreements often play different roles in developed and developing countries, he said. Developed countries have the resources and infrastructure to establish comprehensive regulatory policies on chemicals, and the drivers for doing so are often internal to the country. In contrast, he added, global policies on chemicals are

much more significant to establishing national policies and authorities in developing and transition countries, that lack adequate infrastructure and resources.

He noted that Saicm was always intended to trigger national regulatory approaches – and both classes of substances – EDCs and nano – should be regulated.

The difficulty comes with infrastructure and resource problems in developing and transition countries. The conventions cannot cover it all, it is clear that Saicm, which promotes intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder cooperation on chemical safety, is needed too, said Mr DiGangi. But he said, as yet, the potential of Saicm has not been fully realised, “but this needs to happen both in terms of funding and political priority”.

Some additional aspects, he said, need to be addressed for both EDCs and nano globally. First, based on peer-reviewed literature, the Unep/WHO State of the Science report, and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) evaluations, it is clear that all currently listed 26 substances in the Stockholm Convention are also EDCs. This means at least some EDCs are being addressed globally – most with the goal of elimination. This obviously does not cover all EDCs and many harmful, currently used substances need to be addressed, he added. “However, governments need some experience to begin addressing these substances.”

For nanomaterials, there are some aspects that could be appropriate to address globally, said Mr DiGangi. For example, he said, adapting GHS criteria to the specificities of nanomaterials and establishing a global inventory of nanomaterials on the market.

ACC’s Mr Skelton noted that “we are a long way away from a global treaty [on EDCs or nanomaterials]. The US Environmental Protection Agency is the only authority in the world that is currently screening substances for endocrine disrupting properties. We are a long way from fully understanding the science. That is what Saicm is doing, sharing information and providing a mechanism for all governments and stakeholders to understand the issues.”

#### **2015 to 2020 and beyond**

Mr Azoulay said: “2020 is coming soon and important decisions [about the future] will have to be made. We need to start thinking about it.” He sees 2016/2017 as the right time to consider the post 2020 agenda, otherwise: “The big questions might derail what can be delivered this year and in the next four.”

The convergence towards 2020 could lead to an interesting discussion, “Could we come up with something ambitious and different for the following 25 years?” he asked. He noted that the early 1990s was a good time for international law, but these last few years it has not been so positive. “Hopefully we are at the end of this period, and we can become more ambitious as we understand the impact of chemicals and their mismanagement,” he said.

“Science brings us impetus to be ambitious, and we are also trying to push the use of new and different approaches, for example, the human rights-based approach. This has been useful in the

climate change debate. It is still early days for the chemicals and wastes cluster, but we think it can have real influence in the future on how things are dealt with.”

Mr Skelton added that there appears to be a “ground swell” of support to extend Saicm beyond 2020. There is also a lot of support for the synergies process, which aims to improve the efficiency and effect of BRS, and which is assessing the benefits of embracing Saicm and the Minamata Convention.

Ms Orfei added: “We see synergies continuing to develop and that is a good thing so long as the legal texts are respected.”

Mr Azoulay said the synergies process provides a better logic for implementation, but it can be used to slow progress. For example, he said there has been a huge discussion on acceptance of observers as different conventions have different rules. “We have seen an attempt to use the most restrictive rules,” he added.

Mr DiGangi said: “The real test of the benefits of the BRS synergies process, is how it impacts national implementation of the conventions. To my knowledge, there has not been a study of this question.”

He added: “The BRS Conventions are essential components of chemical safety policy and extremely important for establishing political priority and infrastructure in developing and transition countries. Do we want more action? Of course. Reporting has been woefully underwhelming and many countries have expressed the need for help in making reports. Ultimately, the conventions need be measured against their objectives – and this is why effectiveness evaluation is so critical for all of them.

#### **BOX: Listing on Stockholm**

Matthias Kern, senior programme officer in the Technical Assistance Branch of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, described the process:

There is a strict process to be followed to list a chemical under the Stockholm Convention which is quite time consuming. Article 8 of the convention covers the reviewing process of new chemicals and the Annexes D, E and F specify the information required for the review. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) is the subsidiary body to the Convention that was established for reviewing chemicals proposed for listing. The five-step process is as follows:

- any Party may submit a proposal to the secretariat for listing a chemical in any of the Annexes to the Convention. The secretariat verifies that the proposal contains information specified in Annex D and forwards it to the POPRC for consideration;
- the POPRC examines the proposal and applies the screening criteria specified in Annex D;
- if the committee is satisfied that the criteria are fulfilled, it invites parties and observers to submit information specified in Annex E, and develops a risk profile. Based on the risk



profile, the POPRC makes a decision on whether the chemical is likely, as a result of its long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects that warrant global action;

- if the POPRC decides to proceed with a listing proposal, it invites parties and observers to submit socio-economic information specified in Annex F, and develops a risk management evaluation. On the basis of the risk profile and risk management evaluation, the POPRC recommends whether the chemical should be considered by the Conference of the Parties for listing in Annexes A to ban, B to restrict and/or C for unintentional sources; and
- the Conference of the Parties, taking POPRC's recommendations into account, finally decides whether to list the chemical, and specify its related control measures. The COP should take a precautionary approach in reaching its decision, taking account of scientific uncertainty.

Considering that the POPRC meets once a year, it takes about four years to go through steps 1-4. Then the proposal to list a chemical is sent to the Conference of the Parties, which meets only every second year. Therefore, it can take five to six years to list a chemical under the Stockholm Convention. When there are delays in getting all the information requested by the procedure, or parties ask for additional information about a chemical, the process can be even longer.

**BOX: Why do highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) and environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs) fall under Saicm rather than BRS?**

“Not all highly hazardous pesticides are POPs and I doubt that all EPPP fit convention criteria. For this reason, these classes are addressed in Saicm,” said Ipen's Joe DiGangi. He added that this illustrates the vital importance of having a global chemical safety mechanism that can respond to current and future chemical safety issues. “This is especially important for developing and transition countries that can benefit directly from global approaches.”

Mark Davis, senior programme officer for pesticides management at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), added: “HHPs go beyond what any of the individual conventions addresses. For example, not all World Health Organization Class 1 pesticides are listed on any of the BRS Conventions. Several other pesticides cause health or environmental problems that are not listed in the conventions.”

In addition, he said, a national regulator can recognise a pesticide as an HHP if it causes severe irreversible effects to health or the environment under their conditions of use, which may be unique. Deciding whether a pesticide should be classed as an HHP for regulatory purposes is in the hands of national regulators, who can take advice from any source they trust, and make their own, hopefully well-informed decisions.

Importantly, he noted, for chemicals to be listed in any of the conventions takes years, and the decision is not only technical and scientific, but is also influenced by politics and economics.

*The next in this series of articles will look at how the international conventions are implemented and compliance mechanisms.*

To comment on this article, click here: [Chemical Watch Forum](#)

**Emma Chynoweth, Managing editor**



## Three substances banned under POPs convention

Difficult negotiations lead to series of 'fixes'

18 May 2015 / Multinational bodies

The two-week long Triple Conference of Parties (Triple COPs) to the UN Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions appeared to have failed in its objective of “translating science into action” as it closed in the early hours of 16 May ([CW 6 May 2015](#)).

Many of the decisions up for adoption – which were supported by the vast majority of parties – were blocked by a handful of countries, or in some cases just one. Meanwhile environmental NGOs say many of the decisions adopted include provisions that weaken the recommendations and proposals tabled at the meeting.

Parties to the **Stockholm Convention** on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) failed to agree a compliance mechanism. However, decisions included:

- polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs) will be added to the list of banned substances (Annex A), but, at Russia's suggestion, with an exemption for some PCNs used as intermediates. Environmental groups are concerned by the exemption as it is for highly-hazardous polyfluorinated substances. Little PCN is made these days, with its main uses in wire insulation coatings, wood preservatives, and rubber and plastic additives;
- the solvent hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd), which is mainly used to make rubber compounds, will also be added to Annex A. However, at the request of several parties, the conference did not follow the POP Review Committee's recommendation to also include it in Annex C, which tackles unintentional sources. NGOs say that because the substance is not made any more, addition to Annex C is critical to controlling releases; and
- after discussions in several plenary sessions, the parties agreed to add the biocide and pesticide pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters to Annex A. The decision was repeatedly blocked by India, which questioned the science behind the POP Review Committee's recommendation to list the substance – much to the exasperation of the EU and Australian delegations. In the end, at Switzerland's suggestion, it was decided to take the unprecedented step of voting on the proposal (previously all decisions had been adopted by consensus). The first vote in the history of the convention saw 90 countries back a global ban on PCP, two oppose it and eight abstain.

The parties to the **Rotterdam Convention** on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade agreed to add the pesticide methamidophos to the list of substances subject to the Pic procedure (Annex III).

Other substances recommended by the convention's scientific advisory body, the Chemical Review Committee, for inclusion in Annex III included insecticides trichlorfon and fenthion, as well as certain formulations of paraquat, and chrysotile asbestos. However, the parties could not reach consensus on listing the substances, and decided instead to establish an inter-sessional working group on the issue.

Although several parties stressed that addition to Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention does not constitute a ban, but instead triggers the need for countries to notify and consent to trade the substances, others insisted they would not support their inclusion in Annex III: for example, despite a compromise sought on fenthion, Sudan “categorically” rejected its inclusion.

The inability to get chrysotile asbestos, and certain formulations of paraquat, listed (decisions deferred in 2013), raised questions on the activities of industry at the meeting. Ecuador, for example, said it was “intolerable” that the private sector had exerted “some pressure” on delegates, and the EU delegation said it appreciated Ecuador's comments. Some NGOs told *Chemical Watch* they were concerned by the apparent influence of industry on parties to the conventions, notably in the asbestos and pesticide sectors.

The decision to list chrysotile asbestos was blocked by India, which tried to block four decisions in total.

The parties also failed to adopt a compliance mechanism, because India blocked such a move. Unlike the Stockholm Convention, the treaty lacks a voting mechanism when consensus cannot be reached.

Seven technical guidelines for the management of different wastes were adopted under the **Basel Convention** on the transboundary waste shipments. These covered:

- mercury and mercury compounds;
- general POPs;
- perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF);
- polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins, polychlorinated dibenzofurans, hexachlorobenzene, polychlorinated biphenyls or pentachlorobenzene;
- polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs), including hexabromobiphenyl (HBB);
- hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether; and
- hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD).

NGOs were particularly concerned about the waste disposal threshold levels included in the general POPs guidelines. The International POPs Elimination Network (Ipen) said the waste

content limit 1,000ppm for the brominated flame retardants HBCD, pentaBDE, and octaBDE – substances widely used in building insulation, upholstery and electronics – were “dangerous” and much higher than the 50ppm limit for PCBs and other substances already listed in the treaty.

Consequently, it said, recycled products used by EU consumers and then exported to developing countries as waste, will “transfer the toxic burden from richer countries to poor countries where the capacity to deal with contaminated waste is limited”.

Parties also adopted technical guidelines on electronics waste (e-waste), including the transboundary movement of e-waste and used electronic and electrical products on an “interim basis” after India repeatedly objected to their legal basis.

The guidelines are designed to help countries identify e-waste and used equipment moving between countries, with the aim of controlling illegal traffic, as well as supporting genuine recovery, repair, recycling and reuse of non-hazardous electronic components and equipment. Under the interim agreement, the content of the guidelines will be reviewed by the Treaty's Open-Ended Working Group in a year's time.

The progress on the technical guidelines, especially those on e-waste, along with agreement on the substance listings, were highlighted as successes of the Triple-COPs by the BRS secretariat, along with advances made in strengthening the synergies and implementation arrangements for the three conventions.

One source close to the meeting said the votes on PCP and pushing through adoption of the e-waste guidelines could have positive implications, especially for the next COPs in two years' time. He said “a small revolution took place on Friday night and that might push the processes in a more positive direction for future implementation, listings, and so on. Some parties basically said 'enough!' and forced through the view of the vast majority, the view which stood for science and for health and for environment.”

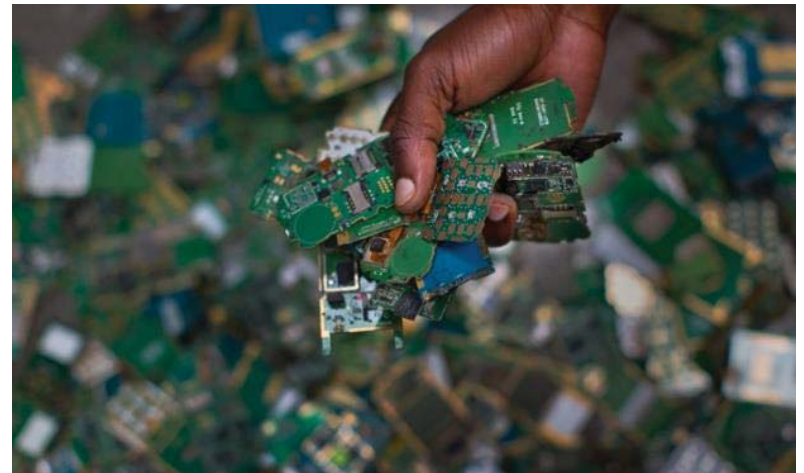
*Industry reactions to the developments can be found [here](#).*

**Emma Chynoweth in Geneva**



## Up to 90% of world's electronic waste is illegally dumped, says UN

PCs and smartphones adding to 'e-waste mountain' that could reach 50m tonnes by 2017, much of it dumped and traded in developing countries, [reports BusinessGreen](#)



*Mobile phone circuit boards are part of what the UN Environment Programme calls an 'unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste'. Photograph: Ben Curtis/AP*  
Will Nichols for BusinessGreen, part of the Guardian Environment Network

Tuesday 12 May 2015 12.32 BST Last modified on Tuesday 12 May 2015 17.16 BST

Up to 90% of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly \$19bn (£12bn), is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to the UN Environment Programme (Unep).

Computers and smart phones are among the ditched items contributing to this 41m tonne e-waste mountain, which could top 50m tonnes by 2017, Unep says in a new report launched today in Geneva.

It follows last month's UN University report, which outlined how 42m tonnes of electronic waste were thrown out in 2014 [at a cost of \\$52bn to the global economy](#).

Exporting hazardous waste from EU and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member States to non-OECD countries is banned.

However, Unep says thousands of tonnes of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries, including waste batteries falsely described as plastic or mixed metal scrap, and cathode ray tubes and computer monitors misleadingly declared as metal scrap.

African and Asian countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, China, Pakistan, India, and Vietnam are turning into illegal e-waste hubs, bypassing the legitimate global waste and recycling market that is thought to be worth \$410bn a year.

Unep warns the growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides are all having significant environment and economic impacts.

Countries are also losing out on significant amounts of resources, such as rare earth metals, copper and gold, while the conditions in which the products are dumped can be extremely hazardous to health.

Unep wants countries to strengthen national legislation and enforcement of e-waste legislation as well as working to increase the recovery of valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products.

"We are facing the onset of an unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste rolling out over the world," said Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of Unep.

"Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures we can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public."



## Conference to Address Threats of E-waste, Toxic Chemicals

VoA - News Monday 4th May, 2015



GENEVA - Over the next two weeks, 1,500 representatives from 180 countries will seek ways to reduce risks from hazardous chemicals and waste through the sustainable management of these potentially life-threatening substances.

Participants of the conference, which opened Monday in Geneva, also will seek ways to strengthen three international Conventions that together form the basis for addressing these global environmental problems.

The Basel Convention is the most comprehensive international environmental agreement on hazardous and other waste. The Rotterdam Convention deals primarily with the safe international trade of industrial chemicals and pesticides. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain in the environment for long periods.

Every two years, parties to these Conventions gather to examine new threats and agree on new guidelines and measures for better protecting people from existing and evolving hazardous substances.

One of the big issues confronting this year's conference is, what the executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, Achim Steiner, calls a tsunami of e-waste unfolding and rolling out over the world. He says electronic waste is now a very significant part of the world's economic footprint.

He warns that failure to recycle the mountains of electronic waste from cell phones, laptops, microwaves and numerous other products is potentially hazardous to humans and the environment.

"This is under the Basel Convention one of the focal issues of how to deal with electronic waste, which is now a very significant part of our, first of all economic footprint, but more important of our non-recycled waste mountain and because of the content in a great deal of these electronic pieces of equipment, also potentially hazardous to people and the environment," says Steiner.

In 2001, the Stockholm Convention listed 12 of the most toxic persistent organic pollutants. These so-called Dirty Dozen POPs traveled widely throughout the world and accumulated in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, with harmful impacts on human health and the environment.

Since then, 11 more chemicals have been added to the Convention's list of toxic substances. Participants at the Geneva meeting are expected to list three more highly toxic POPs to the Stockholm Convention.

The World Health Organization reports three million people are poisoned by pesticides every year and that 20,000 of them die, most in developing countries. The Rotterdam Convention has an important role to play in informing people about the dangers of pesticides and how to get rid of those that are obsolete because of the dangers they pose to humans.

The meeting will debate the need to phase out the use of DDT, which continues to be used in many developing countries to control malaria. DDT causes a wide range of serious health problems in humans, including breast and other cancers.

Participants at the meeting are expected to signal to the market that alternatives to DDT and other harmful pesticides are urgently needed.

# United States of America

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## Russia, India Block Proposal to Restrict Asbestos Exports

May 20, 2015

[Tim Povtak](#)



For the fifth consecutive time, a handful of countries blocked a United Nations proposal that effectively would have restricted the exportation of dangerous [chrysotile asbestos](#).

Russia, India, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Cuba and Kyrgyzstan stopped the proposal to put the toxic mineral on the Rotterdam Convention Hazardous Substances list, which would have tightened shipping regulations and likely reduced the spread of asbestos.

Although an overwhelming majority of countries represented last week in Geneva, Switzerland, backed the U.N. proposal, there was no unanimous consensus, which the Rotterdam Convention requires to pass a vote.

"This is disappointing. People will suffer because of this," [Oladele Ogunseitan](#), Ph.D., Department of Population Health & Disease Prevention chair at University of California-Irvine, told Asbestos.com. "We all know asbestos is like a ticking time bomb. The more people who are exposed to it now, the more people will be sick and die from it later."

[Asbestos causes mesothelioma](#), a rare and almost always terminal cancer that affects the lining that surrounds the lungs, heart and abdominal cavity.

The Rotterdam Convention listing does not prohibit trade, but it requires that exporters ensure that destination countries are fully informed of the risks, acknowledging it with a Prior Informed Consent before shipping. It allows developing countries the right to refuse the shipment at any point.

### Building Industry Still Covets Chrysotile Asbestos

Chrysotile is the most common type of commercial asbestos, but the only one not already on the hazardous substance list. Although more than 50 countries have banned its use — the U.S. and Canada have only restricted it — several developing countries import substantial amounts of chrysotile asbestos, despite its [well-known toxicity](#).

The mineral is used as an inexpensive [building material](#), coveted for its heat resistance, strength and versatility. [Asbestos exposure](#), though, also can lead to a variety of serious, long-term health problems, including mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis.

[Russia is the world's most prolific producer of asbestos today](#). It shipped 618,037 metric tons of the toxic mineral in 2013, more than the next four leading countries combined, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Less than 100,000 tons are used within its borders, while the vast majority is exported to countries like India, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Mexico.

Kazakhstan also is a major producer of chrysotile asbestos. Kyrgyzstan, another former member of the Soviet Union, is a major consumer of the product. Zimbabwe, once a major producer, has cut production significantly in recent years because of pressure from surrounding African countries.

### Frustration over Asbestos Production Continues to Build

The U.N. added insecticide methamidophos to the Dangerous Substances list last week, but failed to add Paraquat, a pesticide linked strongly to Parkinson's disease.

Although the U.N. once again failed to add asbestos to the list, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and International Labor Organization (ILO) were among those groups pushing hard for its inclusion, despite considerable lobbying from various advocacy groups.

"Asbestos stakeholders blocked progress on protecting humanity from the deadly asbestos hazard — for the fifth time," Laurie Kazan-Allen, coordinator for the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat, told Asbestos.com. "Their actions and behavior were shameful. They constitute as much of an attack on the viability of the Rotterdam Convention, as they do on the vulnerable populations the world over."

The Rotterdam Convention meeting is held every two years, and experts believe the motion to add asbestos to the hazardous substances list will again be raised in 2017.

"More people will suffer from this. It's not unlike what we went through with tobacco and lung cancer. Every time we delay, there will be more casualties," Ogunseitán said. "Until it comes up again, we will have our work cut out for us."

Ogunseitán last month wrote an [insightful article](#) for Bulletin of the World Health Organization. It details the struggle to translate scientific evidence regarding asbestos into global disease prevention policy.

Even though there is overwhelming evidence, there are major, short-term economic issues at stake.

"What happened was not totally surprising," Ogunseitán said. "Until we can show these countries that in the long run, whatever economic benefits they are protecting now, will dissipate later in terms of health-care costs."

There also are the issues regarding conflicting scientific research, often funded by asbestos companies who have an obvious conflict of interest, and the reluctance by some to use safer, alternative materials that may be more costly.

"It is possible to eradicate mesothelioma," Ogunseitán wrote. "But we must work harder to bridge the gaps between scientific knowledge and policy decisions that should protect people."

[View Article Sources](#)



## U.N. Releases New Visual Guide to Protect Children from Pesticides

[Press Release by Issuing Company](#)

Tuesday, May 19th, 2015

With the help of a [new training guide](#) developed by FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO), extension workers in Africa and elsewhere are engaging with rural communities to reduce children's exposure to toxic pesticides used in farming.

Nearly 100 million boys and girls between 5 and 17 years old are engaged in child labour in agriculture, according to ILO statistics. Many are directly exposed to toxic chemicals while working on the farm. But children are also exposed when they help with family chores or play, and through the food they eat and the water they drink.

Children are far more sensitive to pesticides than adults. Exposure can result in acute poisoning and sickness immediately after contact. But often, it also has longer-term, chronic impacts on their health and development.

Limiting pesticide use and promotion of non-toxic alternatives are important for reducing exposure, but education is equally crucial.

[Protect children from pesticides!](#), FAO and ILO's new visual guide, provides an easy accessible training tool. It helps agricultural extension workers, rural educators, labour inspectors, and producer organizations in teaching farmers and their families how to identify and minimize risks at home and on the farm. They also learn how to recognize and respond to signs of toxic exposure.

The user-friendly guide has three main modules: how children are exposed to pesticides, what the health risks are and why children are particularly vulnerable, and what can be done to reduce those risks.

### Growing interest

"The tool was initially developed in Mali, where it is now widely used by extension workers, farmer field schools, labour inspectors, and producer organizations", said Rob Vos, Director of FAO's Social Protection Division. "Its use is also expanding in Niger and other African countries. We are seeing growing interest from other regions. The guide is not only raising awareness that something must be done, but also showing what needs to be done."

Not all situations are the same. The guide is not only available in several languages (currently in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and a Russian version will be available soon), but also adapted to different regional contexts, including Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia Pacific. The graphics and illustrations are adapted accordingly as well.

#### **Support from the Rotterdam Convention**

The effort to adapt the visual guide and promote its wider use is being supported by the Rotterdam Convention, a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibility in relation to imports of hazardous chemicals. FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly serve as the Secretariat for the convention.

"This is a good example of how the normative work of a convention can contribute to reaching out to the most vulnerable groups and make a difference to their lives" according to Christine Fuell, FAO's Coordinator for the Rotterdam Convention. "The colourful illustrations are built on local knowledge and refer to very concrete and real situations, such that they also appeal to children, raising their own awareness of the risks posed by pesticides."

#### **Why children are at greater risk**

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure for various biological and behavioural reasons.

They breathe in more air than adults and so take in more dust, toxic vapours, and droplets of spray. Relative to their body weight, children need to eat and drink more than adults, and if food is contaminated, they absorb more toxins. The surface area of a child's skin per unit of body mass is greater than that of an adult, and their skins are more delicate. All these factors can lead to greater absorption of chemicals, and children's organs are less able to detoxify pesticides because they are not yet fully developed, according to the guide.

Young children often play on the ground, put things in their mouths and are attracted to colourful containers, all common behaviours that increase risk.

## HUFFPOST TECH

### The Dark Side of the Digital Age: E-Waste

Posted: 04/27/2015 12:31 pm EDT Updated: 04/27/2015 12:59 pm EDT



*E-Waste via Basal Action Network*

With the passing of Earth Day, I am left with the usual examination of areas in my life where I could possibly improve and be more eco-friendly. The findings are usually pretty dismal; I could do so much better. In the U.S., most of us have the luxury of not having to face the daily realities of all the damage humans do to the planet. It is hard to understand the devastation we create unless you travel to a developing nation or actively try to find it in our own country -- pictures or words will never do it justice.

I am definitely not well informed on all the issues that face the environment, but when I hear about something new, I try to learn and do better -- such is the case with the issue of e-waste. I am embarrassed to admit that I really did not know that much about it until recently, which is ironic because I actually work in the technology field. While I personally love gadgets and appreciate all the ways that technology has enhanced our lives, I found that it comes at an ethical and environmental cost.

#### **What is E-Waste?**

E-Waste (electronic waste) is the term used to describe the rapidly growing stream of waste from discarded electronics and appliances. These items include anything from computers, TVs and phones to washing machines and refrigerators to everything else in between. Most of these electronics or appliances are often not trash, but simply outdated and traded up for the latest version on the market.

According to the most recent [report](#) released by the United Nations University (UNU) on the matter, findings show that globally we produced 41.8 million tonnes of e-waste in 2014. Even more startling -- it is believed that less than one-sixth is properly recycled or reused.

### Why is E-Waste bad?

While the negative impact of e-waste is vast and growing, most people are probably unaware of its reach. The lack of proper recycling leads to harmful toxins like lead and mercury leaching into the environment. Harmful materials like these and many others found in e-waste, cause all sorts of health issues like [neurological damage](#), [kidney damage](#) and [some cancers](#), to name a few. And let's not forget about the ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons left behind.

Not only are the e-waste dumpsites toxic, but so are the surrounding areas as a result. For example one of the larger "digital dumping" holes in slums along the banks of the Korle Lagoon in Ghana, has turned the body of water into one of the most polluted on Earth. PBS has a very informative and eye-opening [video](#) on the e-waste situation in Ghana as well as several other countries.

Maybe the worst part of this issue is that most e-waste from developed countries is exported to developing countries like India, Africa and China. Often the pits of discarded computers and other electronics are picked over by locals who attempt to mine profitable materials like copper and gold from them. The improperly performed [recovery methods](#) like acid baths and burning of electronics are extremely harmful and are often performed by local women and children.

While it is legal to ship waste to developing nations, some of the waste is exported illegally under the guise of "used goods" instead, which has less regulations. With the UNU report estimating \$52 billion in discarded valuable reusable resources like iron, copper, gold, silver -- it is easy to see why people would try to exploit the system. Many survive on mining these products, but with poor practices and regulations, it comes at a much higher cost -- the health of the planet and its people.

### [\(E-Waste Infographic\)](#)



### What Is Being Done?

The Basel Convention was created in 1989 by the United Nations Environment Program to help control the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal and currently includes over [180 participants](#).

One stipulation the treaty ensures, is that before the export of hazardous waste can occur, sending parties must confirm that waste will be managed in an environmentally safe manner in the country of import. The United States signed the treaty, but has yet to [ratify it](#), which does not make us an official party nor are we yet legally bound by the regulations. We remain the only developed nation that has **not** ratified it.

States have their own legislation in place for e-waste and many hold the manufacturer responsible for paying to recycle discarded goods. Some states force recycling of electronics as well. You can view laws by state on [electronicstakeback.com](http://electronicstakeback.com).

### What can you do?

While we all have busy lives, we can still do our part to help, as the famous "Be the change..." quote by Ghandi goes. For instance, we can easily implement the three R's we learned in school.

### REDUCE

- Be mindful about tossing your old, but fully functioning electronics and appliances for newer models when unnecessary.
- Use your power as a consumer wisely.
  - Our power as consumers is probably greater than we realize. Try to purchase from companies that use recycled materials in their products and/or support proper handling of e-waste. [Ethicalconsumer.org](http://Ethicalconsumer.org) is a great site to help evaluate companies and products that have eco-friendly practices and products.
  - If you must buy a new computer, the [Natural Resources Defense Council](http://NaturalResourcesDefenseCouncil.org) has some great pointers to help you make the most environmentally sound choice. Many companies like Dell, Apple and Sprint are making some strides, but we can always do better.

### REUSE

- Instead of purchasing new electronics, explore refurbished or second-hand options whenever possible.
- Donate or sell your old items.
- Get Creative.
  - Mike Schropp over at [www.totatgeek.com](http://www.totatgeek.com), used an [old computer modem](#) to control soil heat and grow wheat grass out of the top . While the use of electricity in this case may negate some of the eco-friendly aspects, it just opens the door to so many other possibilities.
  - Artists like Marek Tomasik use old computer parts to create an amazing [art installations](#).
  - Innovations like Google's Project Ara, which is a modular phone with snap in parts, invite all sorts of ways that e-waste could be worked in.

### RECYCLE

- Never throw away unwanted electronics or appliances in the trash.
- Search for reputable recyclers...
  - There are many sites available to find local recyclers to take your used goods the [EPA](#) is a great resource , [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) has a great search for local recyclers for just about anything, but especially the tricky large appliances, and [E-Steward](#) programs.
  - If all else fails, [Best Buy](#) and [Staples](#) have great recycling programs as well, Staples even pays you in the form of a Staples eCash Card.
  - Be sure the recycling center you choose is certified by the e-stewards program which ensures facilities comply with the Basel Convention.
- Go back to the device manufacturer for recycling of the used good...
  - [Electronics Take Back](#) has quite an extensive list on their site of manufacturer programs and instructions.
- Donate your gently used mobile phone...
  - Help soldiers call home via the [Cell Phones for Soldiers](#) organization.
  - Assist in funding domestic violence organizations that turn the phones or other digital electronics into profit via recycling programs -- try the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) or [Shelter Alliance](#)

Follow Mary Kay on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/marvsmaking](https://www.twitter.com/marvsmaking)



## Warning Of 'Tsunami' Of e-Waste

By [Newsroom America Staff](#) at 4 May 17:25

(Newsroom America) -- The head of the United Nations body tasked with setting the global environmental agenda has stressed the need to limit the use of dangerous chemicals and to find a solution to the masses of electronic waste building up around the world, as a Conference of Parties to three major Conventions on the subject began in Geneva today.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), told journalists that the “tsunami of e-waste rolling out over the world” not only accounted for a large portion of the world’s non-recyclable “waste mountain” but also needed dealing with because many elements found in electronic equipment are potentially hazardous to people and the environment.

“Never mind that it is also an economic stupidity because we are throwing away an enormous amount of raw materials that are essentially re-useable,” said Mr Steiner.

“Whether it is gold, silver or some of the rare earths that you have heard about perhaps in recent years, it is still an incredible amount.”

Mr Steiner said that the amount of some such materials that are available above ground in unused electronics now exceeds the amount still in the ground and he looked to the potential of the Basel Convention to help access „urban mines” by working to better inform people of how to dispose of their e-waste.

As well as the Basel Convention, for which the Geneva meeting is the 12th Conference of Parties, the eleven-day „2015 Triple COPs: Setting the Scene for Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste, Worldwide” will also cover the Seventh Conference of Parties to both the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions.

Over 1,500 delegates are expected to take part in the talks, which aim to improve three international conventions contributing to global controls on hazardous chemicals and waste.

The Executive Director said the three Conventions were not about stopping the use of chemicals but about providing a clear platform from which to inform policy-makers of science that can inform decisions to help protect citizens from toxicity and about signalling to the market that alternatives are needed.

He pointed out how materials used in production of various items are becoming ever more present in people’s daily lives, and he said people were becoming “increasingly a repository for the chemical footprint of the 21st century,” often in ways that damage health.

“Annually, one million people die from occupational poisoning,” Mr Steiner said, referring to the effects of the use of chemicals on people’s bodies.

“This is something that is, in this day and age, not only unnecessary it’s really intolerable. And this is why the sound management of chemicals is something that has brought Governments, civil society but also the private sector and the chemical industry together.”

The Executive Secretary of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Rolph Payet, echoed Mr. Steiner’s concerns about the number of people dying from occupational poisoning and described the wide reach of chemicals, with DDT found in polar bear and fat because of its transport in water and in the air.

While the number of those dying from occupational poisoning was notable, he also pointed to the “silent crisis,” whereby the accumulation of chemicals in people’s bodies was possibly slowly killing them.

Clayton Campanhola, the Executive Secretary of Rotterdam Convention and a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said the agency was particularly focused on the prevention of use and safe disposal of obsolete pesticides.

About 500,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides scattered around the developing world posed serious risks to people and environment, he said.

# Vietnam

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[Liên hợp quốc cảnh báo về nguy cơ từ rác thải điện tử](#)

14:03 | 13/05/2015

Chương trình Môi trường Liên hợp quốc (UNEP) vừa công bố báo cáo mới nhất cho biết có tới 90% rác thải điện tử của thế giới, trị giá gần 19 tỷ USD, đang được giao dịch hoặc vứt bỏ trái phép mỗi năm. Sự thiếu đồng bộ trong các quy định xuyên biên giới tạo ra những thách thức đối với việc kiểm soát tình trạng rác thải điện tử, gây nguy hại đến sức khỏe và làm mất đi nguồn tài nguyên của nhiều quốc gia.

Công nghiệp điện tử - một trong những ngành lớn nhất và phát triển nhanh nhất thế giới, đang tạo ra khoảng 41 triệu tấn rác thải điện tử mỗi năm từ các mặt hàng như máy tính, thiết bị điện tử và điện thoại thông minh... Dự báo con số này có thể lên đến 50 triệu tấn vào năm 2017.

Tổ chức Cảnh sát Hình sự Quốc tế (INTERPOL) ước tính giá của một tấn chất thải điện tử vào khoảng 500 USD. Theo sau những tính toán này, giá trị của rác thải điện tử không đăng ký và không chính thức xử lý, bao gồm cả giao dịch và đổ rác bất hợp pháp, có thể lên tới 12,5 tỷ USD đến 18,8 tỷ USD mỗi năm.



Ảnh minh họa. (Nguồn: AFP)

Hiện châu Âu và Bắc Mỹ là những nhà sản xuất lớn nhất về rác thải điện tử, trong khi châu Phi và châu Á là điểm đến chủ yếu cho các lô hàng lớn rác thải nguy hiểm này. Ghana, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire và Cộng hòa Congo là những nước châu Phi tiếp nhận nhiều nhất rác thải điện tử. Ở châu Á, Trung Quốc, Pakistan, Ấn Độ, Bangladesh...cũng đang phải gánh chịu những lô hàng rác thải điện tử trái phép.

Việc không thống nhất trong quy định giữa xuất khẩu và nhập khẩu - bao gồm việc phân loại là chất thải nguy hại hoặc bị ô nhiễm, đang đặt ra thách thức đối trong việc chống lại có hiệu quả tình trạng buôn bán rác thải bất hợp pháp.

Giám đốc điều hành UNEP, ông Achim Steiner (A-chim Xtai-nơ) nhấn mạnh thông qua tăng cường hợp tác quốc tế và sự gắn kết luật pháp của các quốc gia, cùng với việc nâng cao nhận thức và biện pháp phòng ngừa, chúng ta có thể ngăn chặn việc buôn bán và đổ rác thải điện tử bất hợp pháp. Ngoài ra, cần có các giải pháp sáng tạo chống lại tình trạng xử lý không bền vững và trái phép chất thải điện tử, phục hồi các kim loại có giá trị bên trong các sản phẩm điện tử để có thể làm giảm lượng rác thải, bớt áp lực đối với môi trường, tạo ra công ăn việc làm và tạo thu nhập./.

**Các từ khóa theo tin:**

**(Theo TTXVN)**

## Việt Nam dự hội nghị các bên tham gia 3 công ước về môi trường

[Vietnam Plus](#) - 05/05/2015 09:42 [1 tin đăng lại](#)

Ngày 4/5, Hội nghị các bên tham gia ba công ước gồm Công ước Stockholm về các chất ô nhiễm hữu cơ khó phân hủy (lần thứ 7); Công ước Rotterdam về các thủ tục thông báo trước đối với một số hóa chất và thuốc bảo vệ thực vật nguy hại trong thương mại quốc tế (lần thứ 7) và Công ước Basel về Kiểm soát chất thải xuyên biên giới (lần thứ 12) đã khai mạc tại Geneva, Thụy Sĩ.



Đại diện Việt Nam dự phiên họp. (Nguồn: Vietnam+)

Tham dự Hội nghị lần này, đoàn Việt Nam có đại diện của Bộ Tài nguyên và Môi trường (là đầu mối quốc gia Công ước Stockholm và Công ước Basel), Bộ Công Thương (đầu mối quốc gia Công ước Rotterdam) và Tập đoàn Điện Lực Việt nam.



Toàn cảnh phiên họp. (Nguồn: Vietnam+)

Những nội dung cơ bản của Hội nghị lần này sẽ tập trung vào danh mục các hóa chất mới thuộc Công ước Stockholm và Công ước Rotterdam; thông qua các hướng dẫn kỹ thuật thuộc Công ước Basel; cơ chế tài chính và hỗ trợ kỹ thuật cho việc thực hiện ba công ước.

Ngoài các nội dung cơ bản được trao đổi tại phiên họp chính thức, một loạt các hội nghị bên lề được tổ chức để thảo luận về các chủ đề riêng biệt của từng công ước và chia sẻ kinh nghiệm của quốc gia thành viên.

Phát biểu khai mạc tại phiên họp tổng thể của ba công ước, ông Achim Steiner - Giám đốc điều hành của Chương trình Môi trường Liên hợp quốc (UNEP), đã nhấn mạnh thế giới đang sử dụng hàng trăm nghìn loại hóa chất và thống kê cho thấy mỗi năm có hơn 1 triệu người chết do tác động bởi hóa chất. Chính vì vậy, những nội dung mà Hội nghị các bên thảo luận trong hai tuần tới sẽ có ý nghĩa quan trọng trong việc giảm thiểu ảnh hưởng của hóa chất đến môi trường và sức khỏe cộng đồng.

Bên cạnh các hoạt động chính của hội nghị, Việt Nam sẽ tổ chức Hội thảo bên lề và gian trưng bày để chia sẻ kinh nghiệm và giới thiệu các thành tựu của Việt Nam qua 10 năm thực hiện Công ước Stockholm./.

# United Nations

UNEP NEWS CENTRE

مركز أنباء الأمم المتحدة

联合国新闻

NEWS & MEDIA  
UNITED NATIONS RADIO

مركز أنباء الأمم المتحدة

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UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras | ر ش ف م

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## **UNEP Chief Warns of Tsunami of E-Waste at Conference on Chemical Treaties Tue, May 5, 2015**

**At the Triple Conference of Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**



**Geneva, 4 May 2015** - The head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) today stressed the need to limit the use of dangerous chemicals and to find a solution to the masses of electronic waste building up around the world, as a Conference of Parties to three major Conventions on the subject began in Geneva today.

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP told journalists that the "tsunami of e-waste rolling out over the world" not only accounted for a large portion of the world's non-recyclable "waste mountain" but also needed dealing with because many elements found in electronic equipment are potentially hazardous to people and the environment.

"Never mind that it is also an economic stupidity because we are throwing away an enormous amount of raw materials that are essentially re-useable," said Mr. Steiner. "Whether it is gold, silver or some of the rare earths that you have heard about perhaps in recent years, it is still an incredible amount."

Mr. Steiner said that the amount of some such materials that are available above ground in unused electronics now exceeds the amount still in the ground and he looked to the potential of the Basel Convention to help access 'urban mines' by working to better inform people of how to dispose of their e-waste.

As well as the Basel Convention, for which the Geneva meeting is the 12th Conference of Parties, the eleven-day '2015 Triple COPs: Setting the Scene for Sustainable Management of

Chemicals and Waste, Worldwide' will also cover the Seventh Conference of Parties to both the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions. Over 1,500 delegates are expected to take part in the talks, which aim to improve three international conventions contributing to global controls on hazardous chemicals and waste.

The Executive Director said the three Conventions were not about stopping the use of chemicals but about providing a clear platform from which to inform policy-makers of science that can inform decisions to help protect citizens from toxicity and about signalling to the market that alternatives are needed.

He pointed out how materials used in production of various items are becoming ever more present in people's daily lives, and he said people were becoming "increasingly a repository for the chemical footprint of the 21st century," often in ways that damage health.

"Annually, one million people die from occupational poisoning," Mr. Steiner said, referring to the effects of the use of chemicals on people's bodies. "This is something that is, in this day and age, not only unnecessary it's really intolerable. And this is why the sound management of chemicals is something that has brought Governments, civil society but also the private sector and the chemical industry together."

The Executive Secretary of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Rolph Payet, echoed Mr. Steiner's concerns about the number of people dying from occupational poisoning and described the wide reach of chemicals, with DDT found in polar bear and fat because of its transport in water and in the air. While the number of those dying from occupational poisoning was notable, he also pointed to the "silent crisis," whereby the accumulation of chemicals in people's bodies was possibly slowly killing them.

Clayton Campanhola, the Executive Secretary of Rotterdam Convention and a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said the agency was particularly focused on the prevention of use and safe disposal of obsolete pesticides. About 500,000 tonnes of obsolete pesticides scattered around the developing world posed serious risks to people and environment, he said.





**全球化学品管理三项公约缔约国大会开幕：讨论全球化学废物管理等问题**



环境署图片

2015年5月4日

《关于控制危险废物越境转移及其处置的巴塞尔公约》、《关于在国际贸易中对某些危险化学品和农药采用事先知情同意程序的鹿特丹公约》和《关于持久性有机污染物的斯德哥尔摩公约》缔约国大会5月4日在日内瓦拉开帷幕。来自全球180个国家的政府、民间社会和非政府组织以及企业和国际组织代表将在为期两周的时间里就全球废物管理技术指南等议题进行讨论。

《巴塞尔公约》、《鹿特丹公约》和《斯德哥尔摩公约》就保护人类的身体健康和生存环境免遭危险化学品和危险废物的危害提供了一系列控制措施。联合国环境规划署执行主任施泰纳在三个《公约》缔约国会议5月4日开幕当天举行的记者会上指出，应建立良好的化学品和废物国际治理框架，以减少人们遭受这些物品所带来的危害，应通过建立全球化学品治理框架，防止过去百年来由于大量引进某些化学品而导致严重后果等悲剧的发生。

施泰纳指出，化学品是21世纪经济的一部分，存在于环境周围，是所使用物品的组成部分。这三项《公约》不是禁止化学品，而是提供科学平台，向决策者和民众以及环境提供保护，免遭毒性物资的侵害，减少化学品的负面影响，而对化学品实施使用限制能够向市场提供信息，需要找出替

代品。

此次大会旨在对三个公约的内容进行进一步完善，并对含有持续性有机污染物的废物进行管理提出技术指南。

目前世界上存在着10万种不同化学物资，其中大部分化学品的危害性并未得到评估，而有毒化学物品每年造成超过100万人死亡。



## UN and Africa: E-waste in Africa, children in South Sudan and nuclear science and water in River Nile Basin

Listen / [Download](#)



Ghana and Nigeria key destinations for shipments of e-waste. Photo: UNEP (file)

- Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year. That's according to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Ghana and Nigeria are among the key destinations in Africa for large-scale shipments of obsolete computers and other hardware.



# Others



(Jordan / Bahrain / Oman/ Qatar / United Arabic Emirates)



(USA / Canada)



StarAfrica



[illegible]

Source: U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) news release

Nearly 100 million boys and girls between 5 and 17 years old are engaged in child labour in agriculture, according to ILO statistics. Many are directly exposed to toxic chemicals while working on the farm. But children are also exposed when they help with family chores or play, and through the food they eat and the water they drink.

Children are far more sensitive to pesticides than adults. Exposure can result in acute poisoning and sickness immediately after contact. But often, it also has longer-term, chronic impacts on their health and development.

Limiting pesticide use and promotion of non-toxic alternatives are important for reducing exposure, but education is equally crucial.

[Protect children from pesticides](#), FAO and ILO's new visual guide, provides an easy accessible training tool. It helps agricultural extension workers, rural educators, labour inspectors, and producer organizations in teaching farmers and their families how to identify and minimize risks at home and on the farm. They also learn how to recognize and respond to signs of toxic exposure.

The user-friendly guide has three main modules: how children are exposed to pesticides, what the health risks are and why children are particularly vulnerable, and what can be done to reduce those risks.

## Growing interest

"The tool was initially developed in Mali, where it is now widely used by extension workers, farmer field schools, labour inspectors, and producer organizations", said Rob Vos, Director of FAO's Social Protection Division. "Its use is also expanding in Niger and other African countries. We are seeing growing interest from other regions. The guide is not only raising awareness that something must be done, but also showing what needs to be done."

Not all situations are the same. The guide is not only available in several languages (currently in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, and a Russian version will be available soon), but also adapted to different regional contexts, including Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Latin

America and the Caribbean and Asia Pacific. The graphics and illustrations are adapted accordingly as well.

#### Support from the Rotterdam Convention

The effort to adapt the visual guide and promote its wider use is being supported by the Rotterdam Convention, a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibility in relation to imports of hazardous chemicals. FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly serve as the Secretariat for the convention.

"This is a good example of how the normative work of a convention can contribute to reaching out to the most vulnerable groups and make a difference to their lives" according to Christine Fuell, FAO's Coordinator for the Rotterdam Convention. "The colourful illustrations are built on local knowledge and refer to very concrete and real situations, such that they also appeal to children, raising their own awareness of the risks posed by pesticides."

#### Why children are at greater risk

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure for various biological and behavioural reasons.

They breathe in more air than adults and so take in more dust, toxic vapours, and droplets of spray. Relative to their body weight, children need to eat and drink more than adults, and if food is contaminated, they absorb more toxins. The surface area of a child's skin per unit of body mass is greater than that of an adult, and their skins are more delicate. All these factors can lead to greater absorption of chemicals, and children's organs are less able to detoxify pesticides because they are not yet fully developed, according to the guide.

Young children often play on the ground, put things in their mouths and are attracted to colourful containers, all common behaviours that increase risk.



## BIR CONVENTION: Unwelcome classification

Source: [Recycling Today](#)

Country: [UNITED ARAB EMIRATES](#)

State: [Dubai](#)

Published: 5/25/2015

Views: 25

Clicks: 1

### Summary

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regulatory agencies in the European Union and elsewhere are proposing changes to existing regulations potentially disruptive to global trade in several scrap commodities.

These potential changes were a topic of conversation at the meeting of the International Environment Committee (IEC) at the 2015 Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) World Recycling Convention in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in May.

IEC panelists, led by committee chair Olivier Francois of Belgium's Galloo Group, expressed concern that Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) classification, labeling and packaging (CLP) regulations designed to address shipments of chemicals may be applied to scrap materials.

Submitting a chemical analysis of every scrap shipment is "nearly impossible" and would present "very big difficulties," said Francois. "If they have this idea in their head, it is very dangerous. Is it best to [simply] landfill old materials?" asked Francois.

Panelist Surendra Borad of Belgium-based Gemini Corporation said too many regulations, in Europe in particular, are based on "mismatches" between hazardous and non-hazardous materials. "Why does scrap paper need to be monitored" as potentially hazardous, he asked.

BIR Trade & Environment Director Ross Bartley also provided a report on a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) meeting that had taken place in Geneva, Switzerland, earlier in May.

Delegates at that meeting discussed proposed updates and changes to the Basel Convention, designed in part to regulate trade between OECD and non-OECD nations.

Bartley said there was considerable discussion at the meeting about stemming the flow of used and repairable end-of-life electronics from OECD nations to non-OECD nations. Further discussion lies ahead, but essentially any nation “not wishing to import such items can do that,” said Bartley.

Coinciding with the meeting, UNEP released a study on end-of-life electronics disposal and recycling that has been met with considerable skepticism from the BIR, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc. (ISRI) and other organizations.

The report’s authors determined that some 90 percent of obsolete electronics are being disposed of in ways they consider illegal. “One has to be careful about where you get your data,” Bartley said of the report. “People have made some assumptions. Just because you can’t measure it, doesn’t make it illegal,” Bartley said of many reuse and recycling methods.

He added, “To say 90 percent is being dumped illegally, that would say that everything [the NGOs and the Basel Convention] have been doing for decades has been ineffective.”

ISRI President Robin Weiner also was skeptical, saying ISRI had analyzed the UNEP report and had found in some cases the authors were using one criterion for the numerator and a different one for the denominator, by including household appliances (refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) in the overall end-of-life stream but only measuring the volume of computers and cell phones recycled.

“The report is not just off by a couple of percentage points,” said Weiner, but by an amount that is difficult to even measure. She also said it conflicts directly with the findings of United Nations University research that was conducted just one year earlier.

“I was somewhat shocked that the report had come through in that state,” added Bartley.

The 2015 BIR World Recycling Convention was May 17-20 at the InterContinental Festival City in Dubai.



## [Waste Crime -- Addressing Gaps in the Global E-Waste System](#)

**Source:**[Klean Industries](#)

**Country:**[SWEDEN](#)

**State:**[Stockholm](#)

**Published:**5/28/2015

### Summary

Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry -- one of the world's largest and fastest growing -- generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tonnes already by 2017.

A staggering 60-90 per cent of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's 'Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector', launched today in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around US \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, includi [READ MORE](#)





## **Countries Move Forward on Important Issues for Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste**

Source: [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#)

Published: May 18, 2015

**Key decisions adopted at the meeting include the listing of four new chemicals under the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.**



Geneva/Nairobi/Rome -- Significant steps were agreed upon early this morning by parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, as the 2015 Triple COPs drew to a close.

Staged under the theme 'From Science to Action: Working for a Safer Tomorrow' from 4 to 15 May 2015, almost 1,200 participants from 171 countries converged on Geneva to push forward the chemicals and waste agenda at this biennial event.

A number of technical guidelines for the management of waste under the Basel Convention, four new listings (three under the Stockholm and one under the Rotterdam Conventions - polychlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorobutadiene, and pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters; and methamidophos respectively), and continued and strengthened synergies and implementation arrangements were the highlights of the decisions adopted on the final day. Meanwhile several chemicals considered were not listed, but instead deferred or made subject to special inter-sessional working group focus.

Basel Convention technical guidelines, aimed at assisting Parties to better manage crucial waste streams and move towards environmentally sound management (ESM), were adopted covering mercury waste and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) waste (one general and 6 specific waste-streams). Of high significance is the adoption on an interim basis of the technical guidelines concerning the transboundary movement of e-waste and used electronic and electrical products.

The BC technical guidelines on electronic, or e-waste provide much-needed guidance on how to identify e-waste and used equipment moving between countries, with the aim of controlling illegal traffic. Adoption came just days after UNEP released new data suggesting that as much as 90% of e-waste is dumped illegally, costing countries as much as US 18.8 \$ billion annually and posing severe hazards to human health and the environment, particularly in Africa. Designed to provide a level playing field for all parties to the Convention, the guidelines will support and also encourage genuine recovery, repair, recycling and re-use of non-hazardous electronic components and equipment.

Regarding those pesticides where consensus could not be reached for listing, including paraquat and fenthion formulations, and trichlorfon, Clayton Campanhola, FAO Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention, commented that 'hazardous pesticides are not helping countries to produce more food with less, on the contrary: if badly managed, they cause negative impacts on natural resources and the health of rural communities and consumers.' In this respect, Parties requested additional technical assistance and support to identify alternatives to the use of hazardous pesticides which - if combined with integrated pest management (IPM) and agro-ecological approaches - form the basis for sustainable agricultural and rural development.

Whilst many Parties expressed their disappointment at the inability to reach consensus required for listing more of the chemicals proposed to be listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the BRS Executive Secretary Rolph Payet stressed the significance of the steps taken in noting that 'our Conventions' joint and mutually reinforcing objective is the protection of human health and the environment, and the Guidelines and additional listings decided upon by Parties during these two weeks continue to move us in this crucial direction. We have to place the sustainable management of chemicals and waste in the context of peoples' lives, especially the more than 1 billion people on our planet who continue to live in absolute poverty and who strive to better themselves in whatever ways they can. We will never waver in our moral and political responsibilities towards the most vulnerable people in this world, and I believe strongly that the three conventions continue to offer the best framework for moving jointly towards a greener, more inclusive economy, and a safer tomorrow for all'.

## Health, Deprives Countries of Resources- UNEP Report

GENEVA, 12 May 2015 / PRN Africa / — Up to 90 per cent of the world's electronic waste, worth nearly US \$19 billion, is illegally traded or dumped each year, according to a report released today by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Each year, the electronic industry – one of the world's largest and fastest growing – generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste from goods such as computers and smart phones. Forecasts say that figure may reach 50 million tonnes already by 2017. A staggering 60-90 per cent of this waste is illegally traded or dumped, according to UNEP's "Waste Crimes, Waste Risks: Gaps and Challenges In the Waste Sector", launched today in Geneva, at the Conference of Parties to the three major conventions addressing the global waste issue, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) estimates the price of a tonne of e-waste at around US \$500. Following this calculation, the value of unregistered and informally handled, including illegally traded and dumped e-waste ranges from US \$12.5 to US \$18.8 billion annually.

UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner said: —We are facing the onset of an unprecedented tsunami of electronic waste rolling out over the world. Not only does it account for a large portion of the world's non-recyclable »waste mountain«, but it also poses a threat to human health and the environment, due to the hazardous elements it contains.”

—Through enhanced international cooperation and legislative coherence, stronger national regulations and enforcement, as well as greater awareness and robust prevention measures we can ensure that the illegal trade and dumping of e-waste is brought to an end. This will create a win-win situation, whereby rare and expensive elements are safely recycled and reused, boosting the formal economy, depriving criminals of income and reducing health risks to the public,” he added.

Innovative solutions to combat illegal and unsustainable handling of e-waste are emerging. Recovering valuable metals and other resources locked inside electronic products, for example, can reduce the amount of e-waste produced, diminishing pressure on the environment, creating jobs and generating income. The growing volumes of e-waste, municipal waste, food waste, discarded chemicals and counterfeit pesticides, all contribute to increasing pressure on the environment. The report also points to the fact that every year, roughly one third of the food produced for human consumption globally — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes, worth over US \$1 trillion— is lost or wasted.

The global waste market – from collection to recycling – is estimated to be worth US \$410 billion a year, generating jobs and incomes. As with any large economic sector, it creates opportunities for illegal activities at various stages of the waste chain. Concentrated on making profit, operators are prone to ignore waste regulations and expose workers to toxic chemicals. On a larger scale, organized crime may engage in tax fraud and money laundering, as volumes handled go largely unregistered, allowing for substantial under and overreporting. Currently, Europe and North America are the largest producers of e-waste, though Asia's cities are catching-up quickly.

Export of hazardous waste from European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Member States to non-OECD countries is banned; therefore it is not subject to notification or licensing. Instead, thousands of tonnes of e-waste are falsely declared as second-hand goods and exported from developed to developing countries, including waste batteries falsely described as plastic or mixed metal scrap, and cathode ray tubes and computer monitors declared as metal scrap. Both small and large-scale smuggling techniques can be observed all over the world, from organized truck transport across Europe and North America to the use of major smuggling hubs in South Asia, including widespread container transport by sea.

Africa and Asia are key destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes for dumping, and sometimes for recycling. Ghana and Nigeria are among the largest recipients in West Africa, although high volumes of e-waste are also transported to Cote d'Ivoire and the Republic of Congo. In Asia, China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam appear to bear the brunt of illegal e-waste shipments.

Inconsistency in regulations between exporting and importing countries – including what is classified as hazardous or contaminated waste – poses a challenge to effectively combatting illegal waste trafficking.

Technical guidelines on the criteria used to classify equipment as waste or non-waste are currently negotiated at the international level. Binding agreements on classification of waste through the conventions will be vital to preventing the dumping of waste in developing countries.

Insufficient control over waste removal is another loophole exploited by criminals, who collect payments for the safe disposal of waste, which they later dump or recycle unsafely. Another source of income from illegal waste handling comes from recycling certain components, such as rare earth metals, copper and gold. The discarded electronics are recycled in conditions that are hazardous to health, and typically lead to subsequent dumping of the majority of the waste. Promoting safe recycling is vital to a better waste management.

### Recommendations

Countries are encouraged to:

- Strengthen awareness, monitoring and information by mapping of scale, routes and state of hazardous waste, and possible involvement of organized crime.
- Strengthen awareness in the enforcement chain, and of prosecutors, of the risks of fraud, tax fraud and money laundering through the waste sector.
- Strengthen national legislation and enforcement capacities.

- Promote prevention measures and synergies, such as facilitate the proper return of illegal waste shipments and at cost to shipper.
- Proceed with a technical assessment of quantities and qualities of abandoned containers, particularly in Asia, and of dumping of hazardous waste worldwide.
- Further improve binding agreements on classification of waste.

The report is available at: <http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/waste-crime>

For more information, please contact:

Shereen Zorba, Head of News and Media, UNEP

+254 788 526000, [Shereen.Zorba@unep.org](mailto:Shereen.Zorba@unep.org) or [unepnewsdesk@unep.org](mailto:unepnewsdesk@unep.org)

Michal Szymanski, UNEP News and Media

+254 715 876185, [Michal.Szymanski@unep.org](mailto:Michal.Szymanski@unep.org) or [unepnew](mailto:unepnew)

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