



American Model United Nations
United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEA/I/4

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Sound management of chemicals and waste

SUBMITTED TO: The United Nations Environment Assembly

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

1 *Reaffirming* the resolutions brought forth from the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Conventions (BRS) enacted
2 throughout years of 1992 - 2004, and Minamata Convention in the year of 2017,

3 *Additionally reaffirming* that the current protocols do not place an importance on electronic waste specifically,
4 most likely due to the era in which the conventions were held,

5 *Recognizing* that the Basel Convention (1992) regulated a Member State's transportation and disposal of
6 hazardous waste, and Minamata Convention (2017) states a regulation of mercury and lead production, storage and
7 use,

8 *Further recognizing* that neither the Basel Convention, nor Minamata specifically state the safe disposal of
9 electronic waste and elements sourced from this waste, nor the multiple chemicals that it releases including, but not
10 limited to: Cadmium, Barium, Lithium, Polybrominated Flame Retardants and Exavalent Chromium,

11 *Keeping in mind* that electronic waste is critical in our modern era, as technology is constantly being updated
12 and old technology becomes meaningless debris,

13 *Guided by* the fact that electronic waste is now the fastest growing waste stream as it can include a number
14 of items such as old refrigerators, outdated television sets, and even motorized toothbrushes and phone chargers,

15 *Deeply concerned* for the Member States that this issue immensely affects, all of which are predominantly
16 poor and underdeveloped,

17 *Reminds* that electronic waste affects nearly every system in the body, because it contains a plethora of toxic
18 wastes,

19 *Expressing its concern* for the families, animals, and environment that is being affected by this daily through
20 water pollution created from electronic waste,

21 1. Urges the international community to create and plan a new convention designed to:

22 (a) Enforce existing rules and regulations placed by the BRS and Minamata Conventions;

23 (b) Create new protocols stressing the importance of safe electronic waste management;

24 (c) Recognizes the detrimental implications all transportation of electronic waste between Member
25 State's, as defined by the expanded definition of hazardous waste under the Basel Convention, as they should handle
26 their claimed electronic waste within their own country;

27 (d) Promote the understanding that underdeveloped countries are being highly affected by electronic
28 waste and need guidance in resolving the issue;

29 2. Endorses the implementation of a recycling program with many incentives and purposes, including but
30 not limited to:

31 (a) Being created in a centralized location of each Member State who agrees to the creation of such
32 a recycling program, that every member of that nation will have access to;

33 (b) Education of proper handling of electronic waste;

34 (c) Creating guidelines on how to safely transport electronic waste to recycling centers;

35 (d) Presenting awareness for this issue;

- 36 (e) Provide free training by the government or private sector on healthy recycling practices;
- 37 (f) Learn how to take apart electronic waste and dispose of the chemical waste properly, and reuse
38 the precious materials found in electronic waste such as copper, silver, steel, and gold;
- 39 (g) Suggest that member nations, should they have a need for it, create jobs to for the recycling
40 program, possibly including but not limited to;
- 41 (i) Scavengers that walk around, safely picking up and transporting the E-Waste to the recycling
42 center;
- 43 (ii) Truck drivers to help transport E-Waste to the recycling center;
- 44 (iii) Boost the economy of every country with job supply;
- 45 (h) Boost the economy of every country with job supply;
- 46 3. Further Recommends that electronic companies begin manufacturing their products to be easily taken
47 apart, and only to use the most sustainable components. In doing so, these companies be given incentive by funding
48 determined by the General Assembly's Second Committee;
- 49 4. Calls Upon the General Assembly's Second Committee to also come up with a funding plan for the
50 recycling program listed above;
- 51 5. Requests that all states take the necessary steps to prevent electronic waste from polluting their lands,
52 borders, and water supplies;
- 53 6. Denote any states that fail to tend to the resolutions request and attempt to assist them;
- 54 7. Emphasizing all states of their responsibilities under the new United Nations Environmental Assembly
55 Convention to comply with all new protocols that the United Nations has enacted on this matter.

Passed, Yes: 53 / No: 4 / Abstain: 1