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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**MESSAGE TO THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL CONVENTION  
ON THE CONTROL OF TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS  
OF HAZARDOUS WASTES AND THEIR DISPOSAL  
Bali, 26 June 2008**

Twenty years since the adoption of the Basel Convention, the international regime regulating transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes, this Conference will have to grapple with a range of new challenges.

Electrical and electronic waste are emerging as a major problem. Right now, more than one in three people worldwide – 2.5 billion in total – use a mobile phone. That figure is expected to rise by up to 400 new subscribers each year. While this trend is responsible for immeasurable advances worldwide, discarded mobile phones are posing a growing and potentially alarming environmental threat.

You have already made significant progress in responding. At the Eighth Conference of the Parties, the Basel Convention adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste, and a related programme of activities to tackle this new challenge hands-on.

Even as the Ninth Conference of the Parties continues this important work, it must also maintain attention to longstanding concerns. Hazardous and other wastes that are improperly managed or transported continue to pose serious risks for human health and the environment.

Given the undeniable interdependence between the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes and the achievement of sustainable development, I welcome the COP-9's attention to the critical impact of waste on human health and livelihood.

The Basel Convention, by establishing the principle of environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, is a key tool in pursuing environmental sustainability and the Millennium Development Goals.

To reach these targets for a better world, all States should provide the necessary political commitment and resources to the Basel Convention, integrating efforts to carry out its provisions into the broader global campaign for sustainable development.

For our part, the United Nations will continue to take an active role in meeting the global waste challenge.



Ruxandra Ferascu/UN/UNO

18/06/2008 11:28 AM

To Katharina KUMMER/UNEP/GVA/UNO

cc Nathan Henninger/UN/UNO

bcc

Subject SG message to Basel Convention COP - 26 June

Dear Ms. Kummer Peiry,

Further to your request below, I am pleased to send you the Secretary-General's message to the High-level Segment of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which will be held from 26 - 27 June 2008 in Bali, along with our best wishes for a successful event.

Kind regards.

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Katharina KUMMER

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Katharina KUMMER  
**Sent:** 05/09/2008 05:38 PM CEDT  
**To:** Michael Meyer  
**Cc:** Annika Savill; James Sniffen  
**Subject:** Draft message of the Secretary-General to the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention

Dear Mr. Meyer,

As per previous discussions between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and your office, I take the liberty of transmitting to you a proposed message from the UN Secretary-General to the High-Level Segment of the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held from 26-27 June 2008 in Bali, Indonesia. The High-level Segment will focus on the theme of "Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood". The discussions and decisions are expected to highlight the important contribution that proper management of potentially dangerous wastes can make to the protection of human health and to poverty reduction, which are among the major issues enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals. By emphasizing the link between work carried out under the Basel Convention and these overarching goals shared by the international community, it is hoped that the issue of waste management can be streamlined into the international political and development agendas.

The suggestion is that the message from the UN Secretary-General be read out by the UN Resident Coordinator in Jakarta, Mr. Benlamlih, who will be attending the High-Level segment of the Conference.

It is my sincere hope that it will be possible to deliver such a message, which could be based on the

attached proposal. I am convinced that this would be greatly welcomed by the Environment Ministers and other Conference participants whose daily work and efforts focus on better waste management with the overarching objective of better protecting human health and livelihood.

I thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Katharina Kummer Peiry, Ph.D.  
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Draft SG message for COP9.doc