Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Recycling in Emerging and Developing Economies

by Sonia Valdivia¹, Mathias Schluep¹, Rolf Widmer², Rolf Widmer³, Anna-Katharina Hagedorn¹ (¹World Resources Forum (WRF), Switzerland; ²Empa; ³SNV)
The Challenge of e-waste
ISO Global Framework for Inclusive Recycling

Guidance Principles for the Sustainable Management of Secondary Metals

1. Enabling safe, healthy and equitable working conditions
2. Building and strengthening local community relations and resilience
3. Conserving and protecting the environment and natural resources
4. Improving recovery of secondary metals
5. Implementing a sustainable management approach

https://www.iso.org/standard/69354.html
Sustainability Requirements: 17 Objectives

1.1 Enable safe and healthy workplaces.
1.2 Establish working terms and conditions that are decent and equitable.
1.3 Eliminate child labour, forced labour and all forms of discrimination.
1.4 Ensure freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.
1.5 Provide clear channels for communication and dialogue with workers.

2.1 Respect and foster local communities’ rights.
2.2 Enable social inclusion of workers in the community.
2.3 Establish clear channels for communication and dialogue with local communities.

3.1 Conserve and protect water, air and soil resources.
3.2 Restore severely damaged areas from metals recovery operations.
3.3 Conserve and protect biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services.

4.1 Promote technologies and strategies to increase secondary metals recovery.

5.1 Evaluate existing baseline conditions of secondary metals operations.
5.2 Mitigate negative and strengthen positive impacts of operations through a management plan.
5.3 Strengthen the organisational capacity of economic operators.
5.4 Ensure compliance with local and national laws and regulations.
5.5 Eliminate bribery, money laundering and corruption.
Pilot Testing in Target Countries (2017)

- Ghana
- Peru
- Colombia
- South Africa

- Official business activities
- Subsistence activities & unofficial business activities
Pilot Testing Results

• Formal recyclers are able to fulfil sustainability requirements but probably just a few are able to realise traceability related ones

• Quality definition of materials to be recycled is needed

• Implementation in the informal sector needs support from local governments

• Linkages with ISO 9000, 14000, 18000 and 23000

Next Steps

• Training and promotion of the implementation of the Guidance Principles

• Adoption of the Spanish version by ICONTEL (Colombia) and INACAL (Peru)

• Revision of the Guidance Principles in 2019 and, possibly, conversion into ISO standard
Thank you.