



**Intervention by BAN at Basel Convention Conference of Parties in  
Geneva, Switzerland, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Closing the Repair Loophole on Non-Working Electronic  
or Other Equipment**

Thank you Madame President. My name is Christopher Hudak, and I'm Senior Policy Advisor with Basel Action Network (BAN). Distinguished delegates, I respectfully urge you to once and for all close a major loophole in the Basel Convention and support the R14 ALT revised amendment proposal on Annex IV.

R14 ALT closes a loophole that currently allows developing countries to be exploited by unscrupulous traders as a dumping ground for broken or non-working electronic or other equipment laden with toxic chemicals such as mercury, PFAS, or brominated flame retardants. Traders often use the fiction that this equipment is repairable with an end-market, and thus not waste, even when it may in fact be economically unrepairable or obsolete. This allows them to bypass all Basel notifications and controls, meaning destination countries are unaware of the imports, cannot give consent, and cannot deny them, no matter how many tons are shipped and possibly dumped, and no matter how hazardous this equipment may be. Already, we are seeing this burdening officials in countries like Malaysia, due to exporters making unsupportable claims of repair. And even in those cases where the non-working electronic equipment can be repaired, we know that replaced parts are often becoming hazardous waste in the receiving territory, often dumped right outside repair shops in local markets.

The truth is, exports for repair *do* involve exports of waste, and the Basel Convention needs to clarify this by covering exports of non-functional equipment for repair as a waste destination in Annex IV. This would be consistent with the glossary of terms that the Parties agreed upon, which indicates that exports for repair may be a waste. Currently, there are two options to fix the dangerous loophole. Option R14 ALT is the preferred option as its meaning is clearer, but it could still benefit from work in the contact group. In closing, R14 ALT needs the support of all Parties so that exports of broken equipment are considered exports of waste that remain waste until they are made back into working equipment.

We thank you.