

CONCEPT NOTE

**7TH EACO REGIONAL
AWARENESS CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE
MANAGEMENT, 24TH – 26TH
MARCH 2025 IN NAIROBI KENYA**

1.0 Introduction

The East African Communications Organization (EACO) has held six regional workshops in an effort to create awareness geared towards achieving sustainable e-waste management in the East African region. The 1st workshop was held in March 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, the 2nd workshop was held in July 2017 in Kampala, Uganda, the 3rd workshop was held in Kigali, Rwanda in May 2018, the 4th workshop was held in Bujumbura, Burundi in March 2019, the 5th workshop was held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, in March 2023, while the 6th workshop was held in Juba, South Sudan in March 2024.

The objective of the 1st workshop was to bring together key stakeholders from the East African Community (EACO) region to address the growing challenge of e-waste. As a result of this workshop, an e-waste management action plan was developed, and the regional and national steering committees on e-waste management were established. The committees were designed to include a diverse range of key stakeholders in the e-waste management eco-system, beyond the national ICT regulators to create a comprehensive and coordinated approach to managing e-waste.

The focus of the 2nd workshop was to create a roadmap towards zero negative impact of e-waste in the EACO region by 2030, by creating a platform for collaboration and sharing of best practices among the member states. The main outcome of this workshop was the validation and endorsement of the 1st Regional E-waste Strategy for the EACO member states [2017-2022], aimed at providing a solid foundation for harmonizing regional efforts in sustainable e-waste management while keeping in view the global developments.

The theme of the 3rd workshop was focused on the practical implementation of the regional e-waste management strategy as well as identifying strategies for financing the e-waste management initiative and projects in the region.

The 4th workshop was centered on the benefits of a regional approach in tackling e-waste management. The objective of the workshop was to evaluate the progress of the implementation of the regional strategy on e-waste management, and to identify areas where improvement was needed.

The 5th regional workshop focused on the theme, “From awareness to action: Sustainable E-waste management as a priority towards achieving 2030 SDGs”, which focused on among other things, the evaluation on the status of the ReDUCE-waste and the E-waste Data Harmonization Projects that were undertaken between 2020 - 2023. The 6th workshop focused on the theme, “Sustainable Strategies for e-waste Management in South Sudan and EAC region”- A holistic approach.

The 7th Regional Awareness Conference is planned to take place in Nairobi, Kenya **from 24th – 26th March 2025**, under the theme: ‘**Advancing Sustainable E-waste Management in East Africa: Embracing Extended Producer Responsibility**’.

2.0 Objectives

The Conference will focus on the following:

- a) Update the implementation of the Regional E-waste Management Strategy (2022-2027) within the EACO member states.
- b) Assessing the Extended Producer Responsibility legal and regulatory framework within the region.
- c) Examine the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), as a solution to sustainable e-waste management.
- d) Promote the adoption by various stakeholders of sustainable e-waste management practices.
- e) Devise mechanisms of enhancing collaboration among governments, industry, and civil society in addressing e-waste management challenges.
- f) Identifying and addressing barriers to sustainable e-waste management.

3.0 Conference programme

The 3-day conference will feature interactive panel discussions on taking tangible steps in executing the regional e-waste management strategy, best practices, challenges and needs in e-waste management, as well as effective awareness strategies. The sessions will be moderated and led by selected speakers/presenters. A panel of experts will also discuss related topics and issues.

4.0 Speakers and presenters

Speakers for the different sessions will be drawn from a pool of national, regional, and international experts and stakeholders. Selections will be made based on the speaker's expertise and experience in a specific topic. The conference will also accept submissions from interested presenters on various aspects of e-waste management.

5.0 Participation

The target audience at this conference would likely include:

- i. The national ICT Regulators, government officials and policy makers from national and regional levels,
- ii. Representatives from the private sector, including manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers,
- iii. The environmental protection agencies and e-waste handlers, collectors and recyclers,
- iv. Researchers and academics specializing in e-waste management and sustainability,
- v. Civil society organizations and advocacy groups,
- vi. International organizations and development agencies,
- vii. Other stakeholders involved in the e-waste management eco-system,
- viii. Consumers and users,
- ix. Lecturers and Students in ICT colleges/universities.

The conference will be held physically and virtual participation will also be possible for individuals who are unable to attend in person. The estimated attendance for the conference is 150 participants.

6.0 Sponsoring Organization

The 7th Regional awareness conference for e-waste management will be hosted by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), as the key player in regulating and developing the ICT sector in Kenya. This will be done in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders including the National E-waste Management Steering Committee in Kenya, due to the significance of the conference and the large number of stakeholders involved.