**CLOSING REMARKS BY DR. ALLY SIMBA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EACO 7TH REGIONAL E-WASTE AWARENESS CONFERENCE
26TH MARCH 2025, NAIROBI, KENYA**

**Chief Guest, Prof. Edward Kisiang'ani, Ph.D., CBS -** Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting & Telecommunications, Ministry of Information, Communications & the Digital Economy.

**Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana –** Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment, Republic of Burundi.

**Hon. Allan Chesang** – Chair, Senate ICT Committee, Republic of Kenya

**Hon. Tony Ayoo** –Chair, Parliament ICT Committee, Republic of Uganda

**Hon. Abigaba Cuthbert** –Member of Parliament, Republic of Uganda

**Mr. David Mugonyi, EBS** – Director General of Communications Authority of Kenya.

**Dr Kennedy Okong’o** – Telecommunications Advisor, East Africa Community.

International and Regional Partners,

Government and Private Sector Partners,

Members of EACO WG07 and Regional Steering Committee,

Distinguished Delegates,

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

What an incredible three days it has been! As we come to the close of the 7th EACO Regional E-Waste Awareness Conference, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for making this event an outstanding success. Over the past three days, we have engaged in insightful discussions, shared best practices, and reaffirmed our commitment to advancing sustainable e-waste management across the East African region.

I am pleased to announce that this conference has seen a remarkable level of participation, with a total of 300 attendees, including 52 online participants and 248 in-person delegates. We were privileged to host representatives from all eight East African Community Partner States, as well as distinguished participants from Europe—Germany and Switzerland—and Asia—India and Thailand. Additionally, we had strong engagement from international and regional organizations and private sector partners, further enriching our discussions.

This diverse and extensive representation underscores the growing global recognition of the importance of e-waste management and the need for collaborative action. Your collective expertise and dedication have strengthened our deliberations and reinforced the importance of working together to tackle this pressing challenge.

**Our Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentleman**

Throughout this conference, we have examined the progress made in policy development, the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and innovations in e-waste recycling. Our site visits to e-waste facilities provided a firsthand look at practical solutions, and our discussions underscored the urgency of scaling up these efforts.

While we celebrate the significant strides we have made, this conference has also reminded us that much work lies ahead. The challenge of e-waste continues to grow, and our response must be equally dynamic. Let us take the commitments made here and turn them into actionable steps that will shape a more sustainable future for our region.

On behalf of EACO, I extend my deepest appreciation to the Government of Kenya, the Communications Authority of Kenya, and all our partners for their invaluable support in hosting this conference. The hospitality has been truly exceptional. To all Moderators, Panelists, Speakers and participants, thank you for your active engagement and unwavering commitment to this cause.

As we part ways, let us remain united in our mission to promote responsible e-waste management and ensure that our region leads the way in sustainable environmental practices. Safe travels to those returning home, and I look forward to seeing the impact of our shared efforts in the years to come.

Ahsanteni Sana. Thank you all!