

**THE 8TH EACO REGIONAL E-WASTE AWARENESS CONFERENCE,
KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

10-POINT COMMUNIQUE,

We, members of the East African Community under the auspices of the East African Communications Organization met for three days from 16th – 18th March 2026, at **Fleuve Congo Hotel Kinshasa, (DRC)**, and exchanged ideas and experiences in management of e-waste within our region, under the *theme* **“Building a circular e-waste economy in the EACO Region: Strengthening regional infrastructure, innovation, and partnerships for sustainable development.**

We agreed to:

1. **Advance a circular e-waste economy** by promoting repair, reuse, refurbishment, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal of electrical and electronic equipment across all Member States.
2. **Harmonize regional policies and regulatory frameworks** in alignment with the EACO Regional E-Waste Management Strategy, including the adoption of common guidelines, standards, and approaches to transboundary movement of e-waste.
3. **Strengthen regulatory oversight and licensing** by empowering competent national institutions to establish, implement, and enforce appropriate licensing, monitoring, and compliance frameworks across the entire e-waste value chain.
4. **Define and enforce responsibilities of National Telecommunications Operators (NTOs)**, including the establishment of take-back schemes, participation in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems, and transparent reporting on end-of-life ICT equipment.
5. **Invest in sustainable e-waste infrastructure** by supporting the development of certified collection centers, dismantling facilities, and recycling plants through public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms.
6. **Operationalize Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks** by adopting both mandatory and voluntary mechanisms and integrating EPR into national policy and regulatory frameworks to ensure lifecycle responsibility of electronic products.
7. **Strengthen data, research, statistics, and regional information systems** by promoting academic collaboration, establishing national e-

waste inventories, and developing a harmonized regional database to support evidence-based policymaking and planning.

8. **Promote youth employment, innovation, and financing opportunities** by supporting skills development, research programs, entrepreneurship, and access to funding for e-waste management initiatives and circular economy enterprises.
9. **Recognize and progressively formalize the informal sector** by integrating informal e-waste actors into the formal system through capacity building, certification, safer working conditions, and inclusive policy approaches.
10. **Establish and empower National E-Waste Steering Committees** to coordinate multi-stakeholder implementation, strengthen partnerships, and align national actions with regional and international frameworks, including ITU-T Study Group 5 initiatives.

We call upon governments, development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society to support the implementation of this communiqué through financing, technology transfer, research collaboration, and capacity building.

Declared at the 8th EACO Regional E-Waste Awareness Conference, we reaffirm our shared responsibility to transform e-waste into an opportunity for environmental protection, inclusive economic growth, and sustainable development in the East African region.

Adopted on this day, by acclamation of all participating Member States.