

The 8th E-Waste Awareness Conference Speakers and Panelists Short Bios



1. Ms. Caroline Koech, Executive Director of the East African Communications Organization (EACO)

EACO is a regional organisation responsible for communications sector policy harmonisation in East African region based in Kigali, Rwanda.

Caroline is seasoned ICT professional and dynamic leader, with over 20 years of experience in regional and international development. She has worked across both the public and private sectors, successfully leading impactful digital projects throughout East and Southern Africa and contributing significantly to the region's digital transformation.

A Kenyan national, who holds a Masters degree in ICT from the University of Sunderland (UK), Caroline has held strategic positions in globally recognized institutions, including Safaricom PLC, the GSMA, and the World Bank Regional Office in Nairobi. Her work has consistently advanced digital transformation, regional integration, and policy development. She has notably influenced critical areas such as inclusive digital infrastructure, digital services and skills development, cross-border connectivity, cybersecurity and data privacy, interoperability of digital services across the region among others.

She has an expanded vision, backed by extensive experience in leading regional advocacy, implementing complex digital systems, and fostering impactful partnerships with institutions such as the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the GSMA, and other global development partners.

Her leadership philosophy centers on inclusive collaboration, innovation, and delivering tangible progress. Caroline remains deeply committed to accelerating digital development and ensuring EACO's mission is met with excellence and integrity.



2. Mr. Garam Bel

Garam Bel is the Circular Economy Coordinator for the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union based in Geneva. He coordinates the electronic waste projects in BDT covering regulatory development and data collection. Prior to joining ITU, he worked for the Environment Management Group which is a United Nations system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements. In this position, he ran activities towards streamlining the various electronic waste related initiatives of UN agencies and programmes. Before moving to Geneva, Garam worked for local government in Scotland in the area of municipal solid waste. He holds a

master's degree in Standardization, Social Regulation and Sustainable Development from the University of Geneva.



3. Mr. Michael Ozero

Is the Chairperson Regional E-waste Steering Committee, Chairperson Uganda National E-waste Steering Committee, Assistant Commissioner for Information Technology and Head of the ICT Division, Ministry of Public Service, Kampala, Uganda



4. Mr. Adrien Specker

Adrien joined the World Resources Forum (WRF) in April 2022, where he works on projects advancing sustainable resource management, with a focus on plastics and e-waste. His work includes collaborations with UNIDO, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) on sustainable waste solutions in Africa, as well as European-funded projects enhancing circularity in the health sector. Since 2025, he serves as Executive Director of the Sustainable Electronics Platform (STEP), hosted by WRF, leading global efforts for responsible electronics production and e-waste management. Adrien holds an MSc in Environmental Systems and Policy from ETH Zurich, where his thesis examined plastic waste from e-waste in South Africa (in collaboration with Empa and the University of Johannesburg), and a BSc in Geosciences and Environment from the University of Lausanne.



5. Ms. Beatrice Msenga is an Environmental Officer within the Pollution Section of the Vice President's Office – Division of Environment, Tanzania. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Management, and a Master's degree in Biodiversity in Ecosystem Management, she contributes to the development and implementation of environmental policies and programs, with a focus on pollution control.



6. Ms. Sara Njau is the Managing Director of GFS East Africa. GFS East Africa is a purpose-driven organization established in 2024, committed to empowering businesses in East Africa to navigate the complexities of environmental responsibility and unlock the value of the circular economy.



7. Mr. Juma Ooro
Acting Deputy Director/Consumer Protection & Advocacy, Communications Authority of Kenya (CA)

Juma is a University of Nairobi trained Economist (Master of Arts in Economics) and is in charge of Consumer Protection and Customer Service at Kenya's ICT Regulator, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA). He has worked at CA for 19 years. Previously, he worked at Kenya's Competition Regulator, now the Competition Authority of Kenya for over 10 years.

Mr. Ooro is a former Chairperson of East African Communications Organisation's (EACO) Working Group 07 on E-waste Management and

Green ICTs, having served for 10 years. He is also a member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Study Group 12 that deals with Performance, Quality of Service and Quality of Experience and Study Group 5 that deals with Environment, EMF, climate action and circular economy. He achieved many milestones while at the helm, including, putting in place a regional Model Framework on E-waste Management and Regional E-waste Management Strategies.



8. Lewis Chimfwembe is an economist and policy specialist with over 10 years of experience in policy analysis and advisory at both national and regional levels, supporting sustainable industrial development and improved business environments. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Zambia and a Master of Philosophy in Industrial Policy from the University of Johannesburg.

Lewis currently serves as Technical Lead on Circular Economy Policy Frameworks under the SWITCH to Circular Economy in East and Southern Africa (SWITCH-2-CE in ESA) programme, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. He has previously held roles with DT Global and the Zambia Association of Manufacturers and has consulted for organisations including KPMG and the International Trade Centre.

At the EACO Annual Conference, Lewis will present the technical assistance and support packages available under the SWITCH-2-CE in ESA programme and highlight opportunities for stakeholders to advance circular economy initiatives in the region.