Communications for all in East Africa

REPORT OF THE 7TH EACO E-WASTE CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE EAST AFRICA REGION ON 24TH – 26TH MARCH, 2025 AT SAROVA PANAFRIC HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA,

1.0 PREAMBLE

In an effort to enhance awareness on sustainable E-waste management in the East African region, the East African Communications Organization (EACO) has held Seven (7) regional workshops. The 1st workshop was held in March 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya; the 2nd in July 2017 in Kampala, Uganda; the 3rd in May 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda; the 4th in March 2019 in Bujumbura, Burundi; the 5th Workshop held in March 2023 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania; then the 6th in March 2024 in Juba South Sudan and now the 7th in March 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The 7th regional conference for sustainable E-waste management was held from **24th – 26th March 2025** in **Nairobi, Republic of Kenya.** The theme of the conference was: **"Advancing sustainable e-waste management in East Africa: Embracing Extended Producer Responsibility."**

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The following were the Objectives of the awareness workshop:

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.

To achieve the above objectives, the annexed programme in ***Appendix I*** was executed in the workshop**.**

3.0 PARTICIPATION

This workshop was attended by 300 participants: physically (248) and virtually (42) from the EACO Member States, Africa and Europe. Presentations were done both physically and virtually. The 7th EACO Regional E-Waste workshop was attended by stakeholders, as follows: -

i. EACO Member States and partners;
ii. Law makers;
iii. Policy makers in relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Local Government/Country Governments, Environmental & ICT Regulators;
iv. National Standards Bodies;
v. ICT Service Providers;
vi. Private Sector Players/Recyclers/Informal e-waste handlers;
vii. Academia/Training Institutions;
viii. Consumer Organizations and the public/consumers of ICT services.

(*The list of participants is annexed as Appendix II*)

4.0 OPENING SESSION (SESSION 1) - REMARKS BY GUESTS

1. Welcome Remarks by the Master of Ceremony. The Master of Ceremony welcomed delegates to Nairobi Kenya and to the workshop; and wished them fruitful deliberations during the three-day workshop.

2. Welcome Remarks by **EACO Executive Director, Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba**, who welcomed the invited guests and delegates, thanked the Honorable Guest of Honour**,** Hon. William Kabogo - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications & the Digital Economy and other high-level dignitaries present for honouring the invitation to the workshop.

3. Introductory Remarks by EACO Executive Director, Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba, who on behalf of the East African Communications Organization (EACO), and on his own behalf, extended his deepest gratitude to the Hon. Guest of Honour for gracing this important conference despite a demanding schedule. He mentioned that his presence reflects the commitment of the region to tackling one of the fastest-growing environmental challenges, electronic waste. He also took opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of Kenya through the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) for their invaluable partnership in hosting this conference and for their unwavering support of EACO's programs and initiatives. Additionally, he recognized all distinguished guests, experts, speakers, and participants, whether present physically or joining virtually, and welcomed them to the gathering of minds and solutions.

4. The EACO Executive Director, Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba informed the participants the progress in e-waste Management and reported that the conference marks a significant milestone, celebrating ten years since the first EACO e-waste awareness workshop in Nairobi in 2015. That initial gathering catalyzed the formation of national e-waste steering committees across East Africa. He continued that over the past decade, substantial progress has been made, including increased public awareness, improved legal and policy frameworks in several countries, expanded e-waste management

infrastructure, and the introduction of e-waste education programs in universities. These achievements highlight the power of regional collaboration and shared commitment to addressing the e-waste challenge.

5. Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba, much as he appreciated the progress of e-waste management, he expressed concern on the ongoing e-waste crisis that calls for urgent action as he noted that e-waste remains the fastest-growing waste stream globally, with 62 million tonnes generated in 2022 alone, of which only 22.3% was properly recycled. Also, he noted that Africa faces significant challenges due to inadequate recycling infrastructure, with 2.9 million tonnes of e-waste generated in 2019. To combat this crisis, EACO has developed regional e-Waste management strategies, focusing on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), circular economy promotion, policy harmonization, and striving for zero negative environmental impact by 2030. Strengthening global partnerships and accelerating regional efforts will be critical in tackling these challenges.

6. In a moment of reflection and transition, the EACO Executive Director is prepareing to conclude his tenure and reflected with pride on the strides made in e-waste management. The policies shaped, awareness raised, and platforms created, including this conference, stand as a testament to the dedication of all stakeholders. Expressing gratitude to attendees and partners, he remains optimistic that the momentum will continue, ensuring that e-waste becomes an opportunity for sustainable development rather than an environmental burden. The conference serves as both a celebration of achievements and a call to action for a more sustainable future. The remarks of the ED are annexed as ***Appendix III.***

7. The **CEO, ICT Authority, Kenya, Mr. Stanley Kamanguya**, highlighted several key points: He emphasized the importance of discussing e-waste management in relation to sustainable development goals. He noted that Africa generates nearly 5 million metric tons of e-waste annually, with less than 1% being formally recycled or reused. The ICT Authority has established a national e-waste management facility and aims to collect 100,000 devices from government agencies this year. They've trained about 500 young people in device dismantling and reassembly, creating job opportunities. Kamanguya stressed the economic potential in e-waste management, including job creation and manufacturing opportunities.

He called for regional collaboration to address regulatory issues, such as allowing cross-border e-waste movement for recycling purposes. The ICT Authority is expanding e-waste collection efforts to include private sector organizations and citizens, with plans to establish collection centers across counties. He emphasized that e-waste management is a shared responsibility among users, organizations, private sector, government, and civil society.

8. **Mr. David Mugonyi, EBS** – Director General/CEO, Communications Authority of Kenya also welcomed delegates to the EACO Regional Conference on sustainable e-waste management in Nairobi. He emphasized that sustainable e-waste management is crucial for technological progress and digital development. He highlighted Kenya's progress in e-waste management, including enacting the Sustainable Waste Management Act in 2022, developing a national e-waste strategy, and implementing Extended Producer Responsibility regulations. He noted the challenges of increasing e-waste due to mass adoption of ICTs and importation of low-quality electronics. He

outlined regulatory measures taken by the Communications Authority of Kenya, including:

- Requiring licensees to ensure environmentally friendly infrastructure,
- Mandating approval from environmental authorities for new ICT installations,
- Encouraging take-back schemes and proper e-waste management by service providers.

He mentioned the authority is finalizing a framework to reduce carbon emissions in Kenya's ICT industry. He stressed the importance of regional cooperation on e-waste management, suggesting classifying e-waste as a resource to attract investors. He emphasized Kenya's commitment to participating in regional and global e-waste management initiatives.

9. **Ms. Mary Mungai, the Chairperson of the Communications Authority of Kenya**, highlighted on e-waste that is a global issue posing risks to human health and the environment. The conference is an opportunity for regional knowledge sharing and benchmarking on e-waste management. CA is implementing measures to ensure the ICT sector adopts best practices for e-waste disposal. To tackle e-waste effectively, there's a need to:

- Revisit policies and regulations,
- Establish infrastructure for e-waste collection and recycling,
- Strengthen inspection at ports of entry,
- Increase public awareness,
- Focus on the informal sector where unsafe handling occurs.

Accurate data on e-waste is essential for informed decision-making. The economic potential of e-waste should be recognized, as investing in recycling can create jobs and boost economic growth. Collaboration between governments, manufacturers, and civil society is crucial for developing comprehensive e-waste management systems.

She concluded by urging attendees to move beyond discussions and take concrete action, emphasizing that the future of e-waste management depends on current steps.

10. **Eng. John Tanui, MBS, Principal Secretary - State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy,** Ministry of Information, Communications & the Digital Economy expressed his gratitude to the EACO Executive Director and acknowledged the establishment of EACO as a vital platform that brings together key stakeholders from East Africa to discuss matters related to e-waste management. He underscored the significance of effective electronic waste (e-waste) management and the necessity of regional collaboration in addressing this growing challenge.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of fostering local production of electronic devices, semiconductors, and electronic assemblies within the region. He encouraged manufacturers across East African countries to not only focus on hardware production but also invest in the development of digital platforms and software. In addition, he highlighted the role of these advancements in supporting a circular economy, promoting sustainable e-waste management practices, and enhancing the tracking of electronic devices throughout their lifecycle, particularly at the end-of-life stage.

11. The written speech of **Hon. William Kabogo, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Information, Communications & The Digital Economy**, was delivered by

Eng. John Tanui. He welcomed guests and expressed gratitude to EACO for the invaluable opportunity to host the EACO Workshop on Sustainable E-Waste Management in the East Africa Region, which focuses on advancing the circular economy and transformation.

He emphasized the importance of integrating technological advancements into business and other sectors, commending efforts to reduce e-waste, carbon emissions, and environmental footprints, which are rising at an alarming rate, as projected by global monitors.

Although Africa has the lowest estimated e-waste stream, the increasing demand for new equipment, high imports and sales of ICT devices, and the rapid rate of e-waste generation remain critical concerns and pose a significant threat to the region. Therefore, embracing technology must be accompanied by robust policies, regulations, and collaborative efforts to effectively manage e-waste.

To mitigate environmental impact, he underscored the need for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations to enhance interconnectivity in managing Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) and e-waste. He commended EACO's initiative to bring together member state regulators, mobile operators, and public-private partnerships, recognizing it as a strategic and timely intervention.

12. The keynote speeches were delivered by Mariana Daykova on behalf of Federico Magaline of dss+ as well as by Boniface Mbithi, CEO of WEEE Centre, Kenya.

The presenter commended the attendees for their strong participation, noting that the robust discussions would contribute to strengthening EACO's strategies for e-waste management, particularly in adapting to the dynamic technological environment and aligning with international best practices.

It was further recognized that member countries have made significant progress by prioritizing infrastructure development for e-waste management, enhancing data collection efforts, implementing practical and scalable solutions for both capital (CAPEX) and operational expenditures (OPEX), ensuring consumer compliance, and introducing incentives for distributors and manufacturers to promote sustainable practices.

Mr. Mbithi's speech was titled "Sustainable E-Waste Management". He began by expressing his appreciation to the audience for attending the conference and acknowledged the diverse panel of experts present.

Mr. Mbithi highlighted the WEEE Centre's offerings, which include youth skill development, employment opportunities, entrepreneurship support, awareness campaigns, research, and collaboration. He emphasized the increasing global challenge of e-waste generation in relation to population growth, warning that, according to global statistics, e-waste will become overwhelming and uncontrollable by 2050.

He urged stakeholders not only to explore opportunities in e-waste management but also to recognize its potential dangers. His key recommendations included: Raising awareness about e-waste issues, enhancing material circularity to protect natural resources, and safeguarding human health from toxic environmental exposure.

He called for international collaboration in addressing e-waste challenges, emphasizing the need for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws that align with

environmental needs. He stressed that EPR regulations must ensure consumer protection while fostering a sustainable ecosystem for effective e-waste management.

In conclusion, Mr. Mbithi highlighted that proper e-waste management is crucial for a sustainable future, ensuring the smooth functioning of ecosystems while preserving both human well-being and natural resources.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

During the three-day workshop, presentations were made by experts from the East African region and outside the region including Government Ministries, Bureaus and Agencies, Private Sector, Formal and Informal Recyclers in the e-waste management sector, Academia and Research institutions. There were also panel discussions and comments from the participants. The link to the presentations is found in ***(Appendix V).*** Below is a summary of the deliberations:

DAY 1 (24TH MARCH 2025)

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
Session 2: Presentation on activities of EACO WG 07: E-waste Management and Green ICTs.	**Presenters: Ms. Beatrice Lema** on behalf of **Ms. Anita Hodari** - Chairperson of EACO Working Group 07 on E-waste Management and Green ICTs	**N/A**	Highlights from the presentation were as follows: • Though a lot has been done by WG:07, the highlights were for the FY 2023/2024. • EACO WG07 has a framework on e-waste management for the region. • The working group has terms of reference on e-waste Management and Green ICTs • WG7 organizes regional workshops and capacity building programs as part of awareness creation on e-Waste in the region; It has held 5 online meetings, and a physical meeting was to be held on 14-15 March 2024. • EACO is currently implementing the regional e-waste management strategy 2022-2027 which replaced the first Regional strategy 2017-2022. • The regional e-waste management strategy 2022-2027 has all solutions about e-waste which are incorporated in the five pillars. • The WG:07 has a model framework that gives guidelines to individual States.

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
			• The implementation of the regional e-waste management strategy is at different stages of implementation in the member states. • There are various steps undertaken by the individual member states together with the projects (individual or jointly) undertaken to Harmonise and develop e-waste management strategies. • On Green ICTs, WG:07 is in the process of formulating a comprehensive information paper on Green ICTs to be recommended for adoption by Member States. • The challenges experienced are as follows: Inadequate funding for e-waste management, Inadequate awareness, limited expertise in the field of e-waste and green ICT, Inadequate government support especially on legal framework, slow pace of reviewing laws on e-waste and inadequate representation of relevant stakeholders. • The future focus of the WG7 is; fully implementation of the e-waste Strategy; concerted efforts between Public and Private sector; Regional e-waste facility; E-waste fund; working towards Zero negative impact of e-waste.
Session 3: Milestones in the implementation of EACO Regional E-waste Management Strategy 2017-2022 – Country Status	**Moderator: Mr. Juma Ooro** - Member – EACO Working Group 07	**Discussants** **1. Beatrice Msenga:** Vice President Office (VPO), Tanzania *Country status in the implementation of EACO E-waste Management Strategy in Tanzania*	Highlights from the presentation and discussions **Tanzania:** Has an active Electronic Communication Equipment Standards and E-waste Management Regulations, 2020 requires manufacturers and importers of electronic communication equipment to pay an ecolevy fee in respect of handling the end-of-life of the electronic and ensure the collection of e-waste resulting from the end of life of a product complies with the principle of EPR. Meantime, the EPR guideline, 2021 are still under approval processes. Tanzania's has achieved a

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
		2. Emmanuel Ndorimana – Ministry of Environment, Burundi *Country status in the implementation of EACO E-waste Management Strategy in Burundi* **3. Dr. Ayub Macharia F**– NEMA (Kenya) *Country status in the implementation of EACO E-waste Management Strategy in Kenya* **4. Mr. Paul Demetry -** Ministry of Environment and Forestry, South Sudan *Country status in the implementation of EACO E-waste Management Strategy in South Sudan* **5. Mr. Michael Ocero –** Ministry of ICT, Uganda *Country status in the implementation of EACO E-waste Management*	total of 168,177 electronic communication devices inspected as of September 30, 2024. Has a total of 377 Eco Levy Certificates issued as of September 30, 2024 and currently, has a total of 2 certified dismantling plants and 20 e-waste collectors. **Burundi:** Has some legal and regulatory framework in place for e-waste management. The country has already ratified the Basel Convention. **Kenya**: Has operational EPR regulations 2024. The producers and PROs have until 3rd May 2025 to comply with the EPR regulations 2024. For those who are importing finished products and packaging are to pay Kshs 150 per item (standard unit of measure e.g. dozen, carton, bale) to NEMA. Generators of e-waste are expected to segregate waste at source and e-waste will be stored in black color-coded bags together with general waste. It could also be stored in blue-coded bags as recyclables. E-waste will be transported in segregated state to the material recovery facilities. The PROs are expected to facilitate collection, transportation, recycling and handling end of life safe disposal of e-waste. **South Sudan:** There is an environment policy 2015-27 for provisions of general waste without consideration of e-waste. The NCA drafted an independence e-waste policy which is under review by stakeholders. **DRC:** Has national strategy for managing electrical and electronic waste, which is based on four pillars: legal framework, infrastructure, and public-private partnerships. Has electronic legal framework, signatory to Basel convention, handles repair, disposes and categorisation of e-waste. Its currently fixing a collection and disposal target. Has 1,000t of e-waste per year, A public-private partnership

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		Strategy in Uganda **6. Sebastien Mpoto,** Democratic Republic of Congo **7. Olivier Mbera,** Rwanda	framework has been established for e-waste collection and management. The government has created a public institution called the Environmental Intervention Fund to help with waste collection and management. The DRC has developed a self-financed program for managing electrical, electronic, and pneumatic equipment waste. **Rwanda**: Government in partnership with Enviroserve Rwanda Green Park has established a state of art e-waste dismantling and recycling facility and collection points. EPR regulations to be approved. There are statistics on EEE usage, annual imports and annual retail sale, e-waste collection and recycled. There are collection points, professional repair and refurbishment centers established. **Uganda**: Has 2022 assessment of e-waste generation and management in Uganda. EPR Regulations appended to NEMA e-waste regulations 2024/2025. One Govt processing Facility is in place, 4 regional collection centers are being developed, and preliminary studies have been completed infrastructure set to commence. Trainings undertaken for e-waste handlers, Higher learning institutions, sensitization and integration in curriculum.

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
Session 4: presentation of EACO regional e-waste management strategy, 2022 – 2027	**Presenter: Michael Ocero** - Chairperson – Regional E-waste Management Steering Committee (RSC)	**N/A**	Highlights from the presentation were as follows: Status of implementations of the strategy in the member states noting that members are at different levels of implementations: **Burundi;** Has a draft E-waste Policy **Democratic Republic of Congo;** Has the Law 11/009 that provides for environmental protection **Kenya;** Has E-waste regulations, draft Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations and Draft EPR Guidelines **Rwanda;** E-waste regulations, e-waste management standards, importation of electronic equip regulations, EPR Regulations are being drafted. **South Sudan;** Draft e-waste Guidelines have been developed **Tanzania;** has e-Waste regulations specifically for electronic communication equipment formulated in 2020 and amended in 2024 **Uganda**: E-waste Policy and strategy in place under review, waste management regulations updated to include e-waste. E-waste management data: **Burundi and Kenya;** A pilot survey was done in 2022 on e-waste infrastructure needs. **South Sudan**; Mini survey done 2023 Nov. in Juba **Tanzania;** National e-waste statistical survey done in 2019 **Rwanda:** 2020 Survey undertaken for informal and formal activities on e-waste management. **Uganda**: Pilot survey carried out across the country 2022. Assessment of levels of e-waste in urban areas undertaken 2024. • Member States are at different levels of implementing EPR and infrastructure-collection and dismantling infrastructure.

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
			• There is a lot that member states have done on resource mobilization and capacity building, research and innovation • Member states have made fundamental steps in management of e-waste most notably introduction of requisite policy frameworks, however, more work required in the establishment of facilities and infrastructure for proper e-waste management and the implementation requisite funding mechanisms.
Session 5: Building knowledge on Legal, Policy and Regulatory Framework	**Moderator: Ebenezer Amadi, Bopinc,**	**Presenters:** **Bel Garam, ITU** *Electronic Waste Regulation and Involving Producers in Developing and Implementing it*, **Beatrice Mtenga**, Vice President Office (VPO) Tanzania Topic: *The electronic waste management policy, legal, regulatory framework, and enforcement in Tanzania* *The electronic waste management policy, legal,*	The presentation were as follows: • Highlighted on a typical Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), consultation and participatory approach to the development of EPR law in Rwanda and Uganda; Clear regulation, Financing EPR, shared experience in implementing EPR in Rwanda and obligations for Producers in Obligations for Producers in Rwanda. • Challenges experienced by different countries; Un regularised informal sector, High recycling cost, inadequate collection infrastructure, , insufficient data statistics, low public awareness, inadequate funding mechanisms, and weak policy implementation and enforcement. etc • E-waste dumping in Africa from developed nations, has strategies for its prevention were explored. Updates on the Basel Convention were provided, particularly concerning its implications for e-waste management, focusing on the three waste classifications:

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
		regulatory framework, and enforcement in Uganda, **Olivie Nakamatte**, Uganda Communications Commission **Mary Ngechu**, International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) Convention, **Francesca Cenni & Jackline Wanja Wanjiru,** Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, UN Environment Programme **Niels Peters Williams,** Associate Programme Officer, UNODC Global Programme on Crimes that Affect the Environment, UNODC	hazardous, household, and presumed non-hazardous. • Innovative technologies and business models are transforming how we collect, process, and repurpose electronic waste. This encourages repairability, upgradability, and recyclability, reducing e-waste generation. It also strengthens EPR by making manufacturers accountable for the end-of-life of their products. • Leveraging technology, policy, and community engagement, turns e-waste into a catalyst for economic growth and environmental sustainability. • The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal was discussed in addition to the 3 Pillars of the Basel Convention; 1) Minimize the generation of hazardous waste, 2) Control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes 3) Promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. In addition, the Basel Convention and ESM ensure the availability of adequate disposal facilities, ensure that persons involved in the management of hazardous wastes take necessary care to prevent pollution by minimizing the consequences for human health and the environment, and require that hazardous wastes to be exported in an environmentally sound manner in the State of import. The elements of the ESM framework include but not limited to regulatory, facility, OSH, innovation and R&D, resource & process etc. For more details refer to ESM toolkit at;

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
			https://www.basel.int/tabid/3615/Default.aspx Other international regulatory bodies for waste management are; The basel convention and WEEE, E-waste and the Stockholm Convention. On the other hand, there is development of basel convention partnership for action on challenges relating to E-waste (PACEII) focusing on TV screens, refrigerators, mobile phones etc, export/import/transit controls under the Basel Convention thorough controlling of transboundary movements requiring four stages: Notification of proposed shipment; Written consent to proposed shipment; Issuance of movement document; and Confirmation of ESM disposal. Also, there are developments in e-waste amendments harzadous waste i.e waste for especial consideration; deletion of the existing e-waste entries e-waste; and single use camera. Further more, resources for legislative development i.e guide to the development of National Legal Frameworks to implement the Basel Convention for reference is shared at: https://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalLegislation/tabid/1420/Default.aspx

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DISCUSSION
Session 6: Collaborative actions for e-waste sustainability: Industry and government perspectives	**Moderator: Dr. Jackson Kinyanjui Koimbori,** Head of KEPSA Consult & Senior Circular Economy and	**Presenters:** **1.Pascal Leroy,** WEEE Forum **2.Catherine Masolia,** WEEE Centre, Kenya **3.Shaun Mamford,**	Highlights from the presentation were as follows: • The financial challenges associated with logistics in e-waste management can be effectively addressed by establishing a robust collection infrastructure in collaboration with government entities and public-private partnerships

	Climate Change Coordinator, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA	Enviroserve, Kenya **4.Dr. Ayub Macharia,** NEMA **5.Olivier Mbera –** CEO**,** Enviroserve, Rwanda **6.Roger Oudraogo –** GLICE, Burundi 7.**Nancy Shushu,** National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), Tanzania **8.***The Role of Standardizatio n For Effective E-Waste Management*, **Derick Simiyu Khamali,** Communicatio ns Authority of Kenya	(PPPs). Relying on a single entity to manage the infrastructure is unsustainable. • There is a critical need to harmonize e-waste policies across East African countries to facilitate transboundary movement, thereby supporting recycling processes. Additionally, PPPs should invest in recycling initiatives to enhance global competitiveness, especially considering the rapid influx of short-lifespan electronic products, such as those from China. • The enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations has faced significant challenges. In Tanzania, for example, the absence of labeling on electronic items made it difficult to trace their source and hold accountable parties responsible. To address this, it is essential to establish a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO/EPROK) within the EPR system. This body would oversee the registration of all Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) producers and their products, ensuring accountability throughout the e-waste management process. Moreover, enforcement efforts have been hampered by a general lack of public awareness, highlighting the need for extensive educational campaigns. • Before enforcing e-waste regulations, it is imperative to conduct stakeholder consultations. Tanzania's experience underscores this necessity, as their initial regulations had to be revised due to stakeholder constraints.

			Similarly, collaboration among government entities, private sector partners, and researchers is crucial, given that different companies manage various segments of the e-waste recycling chain. Adopting best practices from Western countries, where strong partnerships drive efficiency, could enhance the sector's effectiveness. • A key challenge in recycling is the scarcity of materials, often due to consumer uncertainty about proper e-waste disposal. Governments must actively engage in awareness campaigns and form partnerships to address this issue. • Standardizing regulatory approaches across East Africa is feasible, as most countries are signatories to international agreements such as the Basel Convention, and those of the US and EU. Member states should continue developing their national laws while working towards harmonized regional policies. Despite existing legal frameworks, East African countries face challenges related to inefficiency, weak enforcement, and non-compliance. Therefore, it is essential to standardize EPR systems, strengthen enforcement mechanisms, and bridge gaps in implementation. • Capacity building and public awareness must be prioritized to ensure the harmonization of sales, distribution, and take-back systems across the East African Community (EAC). Additionally, collaboration among the eight EAC member states is crucial to aligning

			policies, legislation, regulatory frameworks, and compliance measures with industry stakeholders. Governments should also integrate e-waste management with green technology initiatives, ensuring sustainable environmental management practices.

Day 2: Tuesday 25th March 2025

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
Session 7: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - A tool for sustainable e-waste management	**Moderator: Mr. Paul Demetry:** Ministry of Environment & Forestry, South Sudan	***Presenters:*** *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Emerging Markets* - **Neirin Jones**, Director, GFS East Africa *Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) - A Tool For Sustainable E-Waste Management: A case study of India,* **Saurabh Shah, Managing Director,** Landbell-GFS India 3.E-waste Producer Responslbility of Kenya (EPROK) EPR: Pathway to promote	**Highlights of the discussion** The meeting focused on e-waste management and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), providing valuable insights into its principles and implementation. The session explored global EPR practices, emphasizing: • **Product End-of-Life Management:** Enhancing transparency and traceability in waste processing. • **Role of Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs):** Overseeing collection, recycling, compliance, and reporting while ensuring coordination among stakeholders and managing EPR scheme credits. While producers can work with PROs who is not mandated, it becomes difficulty for the government in managing queries from thousands of registered producers and recyclers. So, PROs could have helped aggregate producers and ease the government's workload. • **Regulatory Frameworks & Enforcement:** Addressing cost impacts on producers and consumers, promoting equitable participation, and ensuring flexible regulations to include informal waste collectors.

		Equity and Equality, **Eric Guantai,** Circular Economy and Sustainability Consultant, Nairobi Metro CBOs Waste Management Network **Steven Ruzibiza,** Private Sector Federation, Rwanda	• **Challenges in EPR Implementation:** Key challenges include inadequate regulatory capacity, auditing gaps, limited infrastructure, and informal waste handling. The EPR experts shared insights on Manual vs. Mechanical Dismantling in e-waste recycling, highlighting the advantages and challenges of each approach. The discussion recognized the effectiveness of manual dismantling in Africa compared to mechanical systems in Europe. Key observations included; • **Higher Recovery Rates:** Manual dismantling enables the efficient extraction of valuable components, reducing material loss. • **Employment Opportunities:** It supports job creation, particularly in the informal sector. • **Cost-Effectiveness:** Unlike expensive mechanical processing, manual methods require minimal infrastructure investment. • **Safety & Standardization Needs:** Establishing protective standards and safety measures is essential to improve working conditions for manual dismantlers. It was noticed that Africa faces barriers such as a lack of skilled dismantlers, limited EPR service providers, and regulatory gaps. Recommended solutions include: • Implementing a digitally traceable, one-stop EPR system tailored to each country's needs. • Expanding door-to-door e-waste collection, repair, refurbishment, and parts harvesting.

			• Introducing government incentives such as EPR compliance waivers and support for informal waste collectors. • Establishing clear classification standards for e-waste and safety protocols for manual dismantling. • Leveraging AI and IoT technologies for improved waste tracking and processing. The meeting outlined the benefits of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Recycling Credits System, highlighting the following key points: • EPR has led to significant growth in recycling capacity across various material streams. • In India's model, recyclers generate credits by documenting scrap purchases and recovered metal sales, which are then transferred to producers for compliance. • Specific regulations dictate recovery percentages for valuable metals like Gold, Copper, Iron, and Aluminium in personal computing devices. The EPR session emphasized the importance of collaboration, training, and inclusive participation in e-waste management. Key focus areas included ensuring equitable resource distribution, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and leveraging technology to enhance traceability and efficiency in EPR systems. Additionally, the integration of manual dismantling alongside mechanical processing was highlighted as a practical and sustainable solution for the region. Moreso, General comment about the complexity of EPR fees and taxes,

			suggests a need to simplify the system to allow EPR to gain momentum before introducing more complex taxation. Also, there was a suggestion of the regulators to revise waivers. There is a need for inclusivity in participation and equitable distribution of benefits for all stakeholders, especially marginalized groups. There is a call for policymakers to translate international protocols into actionable reforms that benefit waste pickers and collectors. EPROK provides members with compliance certificates and EPR plans for importation. To comply with regulations, producers must first register with NEMA, then join an EPR scheme like EPROK. ***"Eensure no one is left behind in e-waste management"***
Session 8: Regional case studies on EPR and take-back schemes .	**Moderator: Michael Koech, Airtel Africa**	**Steven Mbugua,** Collection/Processor/Recycler/Disposal – EWIK **Valentine Cheruiyot** – Lead, Environment and Climate Change, Safaricom PLC **Hanna Dittmeyer/Maureen Adongo,** Head of the competence Centre Energy, Environment and Sustainable Economy, Delegation of German Industry and	Highlights of the presentations: EWIK in Kenya collect e-waste through door-to-door collection and from institutions then process collected e-waste through repair, refurbishment, parts harvesting. Also partner with other recyclers for non-electronic components and conduct research on e-waste disposal behaviors. It has training and job opportunities for PWDs, women and youth. Safaricom has 52 outlets with e-waste collection points for public drop-offs. Offer repair and refurbishment services at dealerships and retail shops. Partnered to open a local mobile device assembly plant. Conduct awareness programs with government agencies and collected over 2,052 tons of e-waste for recycling. They use a takeback scheme program, they create job opportunity. However, they expressed concern that the public lack knowledge on EOL

		Commerce for Eastern Africa	**Recommendation:** Intensive awareness as there is a lot of resistance from public due to behaviour change. Be specific on the e-waste category you are dealing with. Partner with government agencies and other stakeholders
Session 9: - exhibition (physical/virtual /visit to an e-waste facility)	**Moderator. Juma Ooro,** Communications Authority of Kenya	Recap of the visit to the e-waste facility – Enviroserve, WEEE Centre and EWIK– **Ngara/Nyayo** market– Informal Players **WEEE centre** – KENYA, Eastern Bypass **Enviroserve, Kenya,** Mombasa Road	The lessons learnt involves experience, opportunities and challenges: At Ngara, plastics is recycled, and fuel is made for Tukuku. At Enviroserve, there is dismantling of ICT e-waste to obtain components to be exported to Dubai. There is refurbishment and recycling to make bigger solar batteries for sale hence supporting energy sector. At WEEE center, ICT e-waste is dismantled, mother boards as waste are exported as sources of revenue, there are recyclable materials to make building materials. They have zero rate of waste. Through their capacity building they empower youth and PWDs. They are linked to other recycling facilities and agencies. They experience high costs managing e-waste from fluorescent tubes. At EWIK, is training center for all levels of citizens on e-waste as they deal in big e-waste items. It has e-waste collection centres, dismantling and segregation center. One of the products refurbished from the recycling plant is inverters for borehole operation. E-waste collection is still a challenge due to behavour change. Low awareness on e-waste disposal was reported Additionally, the topic of data sanitization was briefly addressed as a crucial requirement for the safe disposal of electronic waste. Hard

			drives can be sanitized through methods such as drilling, data degaussing, and shredding. During the sanitization process, various options are available depending on individual or organizational preferences. These include obtaining a certificate of destruction, selecting a designated decommissioning location, and maintaining detailed inventory records.

DAY 3 (26TH MARCH 2025)

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
Session 10: Implementing the regional e-waste management strategy: Research, Innovations, Funding and Impacts	**Moderator:** Patroba Joshuah (Tangaza University)	**Presenters:** *The importance of having legal, policy and regulatory framework from the waste monitoring perspective,* **Vanessa Forti, UNITAR/SCYCLE** **Linah Ngumba,** Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) **Ambroise NIKWIBITANGA,** Head of Agricultural and Environmental Studies and Statistics Department**,** National Institute of Statistics of Burundi	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics uses the "put on market" tool agreed upon by ITU for e-waste data collection. They have data from 1995 to 2024, showing an increase from 4.9 metric tons to 53,563 metric tons of e-waste generated. Their statistics mainly cover imports and exports, with domestic production data currently missing. Small equipment (e.g., earphones, small electronics) contributes the most to e-waste generation by weight. Their challenges in data collection include: • Lack of domestic production data • Incomplete information on informal e-waste recycling • Need for household and enterprise-level disposal data Kenya National Bureau of Statistics recommend including stronger collaboration among recycling players to standardize reporting and provide more comprehensive data on recycling versus generation rates. The East African Science and Technology Commission coordinates science, technology, and innovation activities in the region advises that

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
		Sustainable Solid Waste Management and Electronic Waste, **Dr. Oscar Aghan Joshua,** Tangaza University **Professor Dickson Andala,** Chief Executive Officer, National Research Fund **Gerwin Jansen,** Head of Innovation, Bopinc *A Legislative Guide for E-Waste Management: Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Regional Action*, **Alvin John Gachie,** Legal Officer, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, Environmental Rule of Law Branch | Law Division, UNEP **Dr. Amos Omamo,** Meru University of Science and Technology **Dr. Brenda Obondo,** Director, Kenya	there is a need for research to inform the East African Community on necessary steps regarding e-waste management. Research opportunities include resource recovery, job creation, and environmental protection. Funding for research is available, but a formal request or call needs to be made to access it. The challenges in data collection include: -Lack of information on domestic production and informal recycling sector. -Lack of accurate methodology on household-level and enterprise-level data collection on e-waste disposal -No data on how much e-waste is being recycled at a national level. -Import statistics for electronic gadgets are available, but recycling statistics are not consolidated. The speakers emphasized the need for collaboration among countries and stakeholders to standardize data collection and reporting on e-waste generation and recycling Tangaza University has started a waste management course that includes a unit on e-waste. It trains staff to identify and properly segregate e-waste from other types of plastic waste as is complex and can't simply be crushed. The institution, repurpose computer fans to build a new type of smokeless cookstove. The National Research Fund in Kenya has resources available for research and awareness creation related to e-waste. The following are other companies which provide funds and training opportunities: -Safaricom (a telecom company in Kenya), funded initiatives at

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
		Medical Association **Mr. Andrew Amadi, Kenya** Renewable Energy Association	universities like University of Eam and Mary University of Science and Technology, -Computer for Schools Kenya (CFSK) and -Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Center (WEEE Center) UNEP's International Environmental Technology Center (IETC) works on promoting information sharing and addressing issues like improving recycling rates. The members expressed concerns on high repair costs often higher than buying new devices and unsustained repaired device. It was suggested to: • Improve repair quality and speed to increase willingness • Have repairers specialize in certain devices for efficiency • Educate consumers on buying quality products with warranties Members wanted to know the estimated cost for setting up a large-scale e-waste recycling facility as this would help generate interest from potential investors and participants but there was no answer. The National Research Fund provided the following information on available funds: • The innovation grants are administered through the National Research Fund • An Innovation Hub Grant is available • Other opportunities exist even within the e-waste space • The available funda are for public institutions since it's public funds • Universities distributed across Kenya can be access points • For youth to start, they should work with the nearest e-waste facility in their area

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
			The speaker emphasized that many youths are not informed about these opportunities and suggested that EACO should engage more directly with communities to share information about these funding opportunities related to e-waste. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics use the following during country's e-waste statistics. 1. E-waste data at both household and administrative levels. 2. For administrative data, they use import and export figures, along with other variables and calculations, including end-of-life estimates for electronics. 3. They use a standardized tool that other National Statistical Offices in East Africa also have, which helps in generating e-waste statistics. 4. There's a call for collaboration going forward, especially in collecting household-based statistics. 5. The statistics presented earlier were based on administrative data, showing what is expected to be generated as e-waste at a particular level. 6. They acknowledged that their approach differs from UNEP's, which follows ITU guidelines, suggesting a need for better alignment in data collection methods. There are training opportunities of students in Kenya who want to become entrepreneurs and start their own recycling centers to make waste management sustainable. Many of their students are already entrepreneurs, so the skills they learn will help them expand their scope of services. The hope is that as these students grow their recycling

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
			businesses, they will be able to employ more youth in those centers or businesses. Also, UNEP explained that EPR is challenging to implement in developing countries. While EPR exists in theory and works well in developed nations with formal systems and registries to track producers, it's difficult to apply in countries where many operators work informally. In Kenya, there are some EPR provisions in the law, but implementation remains a challenge due to the lack of formal documentation and systems to hold producers accountable. The speaker acknowledged this is an ongoing issue that requires further discussion.
Session 11: Strengthening the e-waste value chain: the role of informal sector	**Moderator:** Lawrence Thuo, EWIK	**Discussants:** 1.Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises 2.Dandora Youth Group 3.Cooperatives 4.Youth Groups	The informal sector is a major employer, reaching areas formal systems cannot access. It contributes to data collection and research. Key challenges include a hostile regulatory environment and lack of recognition, so there's a need for tailored solutions and updated frameworks. Rather than full formalization, an "organized informal" approach may be preferable. This involves improving existing structures and transitioning gradually, many informal groups are already somewhat organized with certificates and permits. Full formalization risks displacing livelihoods, therefore, the following policy was recommended: • Legally recognizing e-waste pickers • Amending laws to ease operations • Including informal sector in EPR schemes • Implementing mandatory e-waste segregation

SESSION	PRESENTER	DISCUSSANTS	HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESENTATION/DISCUSSIONS
			• Contracting registered CBOs for local waste collection • Providing health and safety protections. The informal sector is crucial for implementing circular economy principles and should be seen as a resource, not a problem to solve. The following catchphrases were from informal sector; •"De-risk the waste conversation and see waste as a resource." •"The informal sector is hiring. If you don't have a job, we have one." •"Organize, operate efficiently and collaborate." •"If waste pickers are informal, then circular economy is also informal." •"A circular economy without waste pickers is not a circle, but a broken loop." Hence, it was emphasized to see e-waste as a resource and job opportunities in the informal sector. So, the need for organization, collaboration, and the critical role of waste pickers in achieving a true circular economy.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND KEY TAKE AWAYS

SESSION 13: CLOSING

- Presentation of Key Points/Declarations from the workshop by the Rapporteurs
- Closing Remarks – EACO Executive Director, Dr. Ally Simba
- Closing Address by Prof. Edward Kisiang'ani, Ph.D, CBS – Principal Secretary, State Department for Broadcasting & Telecommunications, Ministry of Information, Communications & the Digital Economy

The following is the 10-point Declaration arising from the conference:

1. **Enhance** percentage of e-waste being properly recycled in Africa. The conference aimed to strengthen cooperation, explore innovative solutions, and define a sustainable path forward for e-waste management in the region.

2. **Build** infrastructure for dismantling, proper disposal and recycling of e-waste.

3. **Governments** set up funding mechanisms for e-waste management.

4. Continue to **harmonize policies** and **regulatory frameworks** for e-waste management across East African countries.

5. **Facilitate** the movement of e-waste and the establishment of **a regional e-waste recycling facility**.

6. Facilitate **data sharing** and **research** to gain deeper insights into the e-waste challenge, develop effective solutions, and enhance **statistics through standardized tracking** and reporting methodologies.

7. The adoption of **emerging technologies** (AI and IoT) to enhance e-waste management.

8. **Strengthen** capacity building initiatives and **Public-Private Partnerships** and collaboration among key stakeholders.

9. **Integrate** the informal sector within a circular economy approach, recognizing its potential for economic growth and environmental sustainability.

10. **Establish** and implement **Extended Producer Responsibility** (EPR) schemes, embracing producer pays principle.

7.0 CLOSING SESSION - REMARKS BY GUESTS

Closing Remarks by EACO Executive Director, Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba.

Dr. Simba, the Executive Director of EACO, expressed gratitude for the successful conference on sustainable e-waste management in East Africa. He communicated that there were 300 total attendees (248 in-person, and 42 online) from all 8 East African Community partner states and international participants. He highlighted on the topics discussed during the conference i.e policy development, extended producer responsibility (EPR), e-waste recycling innovations and site visits to e-waste facilities. He acknowledged progress made and challenges ahead within member countries and appreciated support from the Kenyan government, Communication Authority of Kenya (CA), and partners. He emphasised on the call for turning commitments into actionable steps and continued collaboration and unity in promoting responsible e-waste management. His conclusion was looking forward to seeing the impact of shared efforts in the coming years.

Closing Remarks from the representative of the Director General (DG), Communications Authority of Kenya (CA):

Mr. Boniface Wambua, (Director of Communications), who was representing the DG of CA, thanked delegates for their efforts in addressing the rapid growth of e-waste in East Africa and highlighted that only a small percentage of e-waste in Africa is formally collected and recycled, which needs to change. He noted that the conference's

achievement has raised awareness about responsible e-waste management, provided training on developing e-waste management infrastructure, worked on strengthening e-waste regulations, and fostered partnerships between governments, NGOs, and businesses. He emphasized that more work is needed, including: Reaching more communities and businesses, expanding e-waste collection and recycling facilities, enforcing e-waste policies and regulations, supporting innovative technologies for e-waste management, and continuing with public awareness campaigns. He expressed confidence that by working together, the region can create a more sustainable future for e-waste management and called for continued collaboration to make a difference in protecting the environment and community health.

Further, he extended his appreciation to all delegates for their participation in the three-day EACO Conference on e-waste management. He underscored the urgency of addressing the rapid increase in e-waste across East Africa and the critical need for sustainable management practices. He highlighted that only a small proportion of e-waste in Africa is formally collected and recycled, emphasizing the necessity of improving these processes. Additionally, he acknowledged the conference's role in raising awareness, providing training, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and fostering strategic partnerships. Looking ahead, he stressed the importance of expanding e-waste collection facilities, enforcing policies, supporting technological innovations, and sustaining public awareness campaigns. Concluding his remarks, he reiterated the need for collaboration in building a sustainable future for the region and expressed confidence that through collective efforts, meaningful progress can be achieved in responsible e-waste management, ultimately protecting both the environment and public health.

Closing Remarks from the Permanent Secretary (PS), State Department of Broadcasting & Telecommunications in Kenya, Professor Edward Kisiang'ani.

He reported on his recent elevation to the position of Senior Advisor to the President of Kenya and member of the Council of Economic Advisers in the President's office. He emphasized the importance of managing e-waste both internally within East Africa and externally, including protecting coastlines from illegal dumping. He highlighted the health and environmental risks of e-waste, including cancer, miscarriages, and neurological damage caused by toxic substances like mercury and lead. He stressed that Africa produces only 5% of carbon emissions but suffers 80% of the effects of environmental degradation. He called for protecting key water resources like Lake Victoria and the Congo River, as their pollution affects multiple African countries. He emphasized the need for proper legislation, public education, and responsible individual behavior to address e-waste issues. He urged governments to invest in technology and tools for e-waste management and to work with the private sector to allocate resources for this purpose. He stressed the importance of collecting scientific data on e-waste to inform policy decisions. He mentioned that the Kenyan president has been advocating for Africa on the global stage regarding environmental degradation and e-waste dumping. He suggested that manufacturers should accept broken electronics returned to manage e-waste more effectively.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The venue and dates for the next EACO e-waste awareness Workshop is proposed to be held and hosted by DRC, March 2026

9.0 APPENDICES

Kindly, note that all appendices can be accessed from EACO's website under workshop reports (www.eaco.int)

Appendix I – Workshop Program

Programme - 7th
EACO E-waste Confer

Appendix II – List of Participants

EACO REGIONAL
E-WASTE ATTENDAN(

Appendix III – Opening Remarks by the Executive Director, EACO, Dr. Ally Yahaya Simba

ES Remarks - 7th
Awareness Conferenc

Appendix IV – Keynote presentation

10-point
Communique E-waste

Appendix V - Link to the presentations. https://eaco.int/6thE-Waste/Home.html