

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Policy Development

#eWaste



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Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

WEEE includes almost any household or business item with circuitry or electrical components with a power or battery supply.

It is estimated that 40% of all countries are covered by WEEE policy, legislation or regulation.

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies - ICTs. Global membership includes 193 Member States and some 900 companies worldwide.

More and more people are joining the global information society and are benefiting from opportunities this brings.

In parallel, higher levels of disposable income and industrialisation are leading to more waste.

To assist Member States to balance their economic and social development with their environmental management, ITU provides a programme dedicated to policy and regulatory development.

The programme is guided by ITU's high-level targets, by 2023 to:

- Increase the global WEEE recycling rate to 30%
- Raise the percentage of countries with a WEEE legislation to 50%

ITU welcomes in-kind or financial support in the implementation of this programme, to ensure all countries have the opportunity for stakeholder consultation and national WEEE policy development.

ITU delivers technical assistance through a flexible stepwise approach to meet specific WEEE policy or regulatory development requests of countries.

The WEEE policy development process is viewed as multi-sectoral involving the different dimensions of ICTs, environment, human health finance, labour and commerce.

Relevant line ministries and departments are brought together.

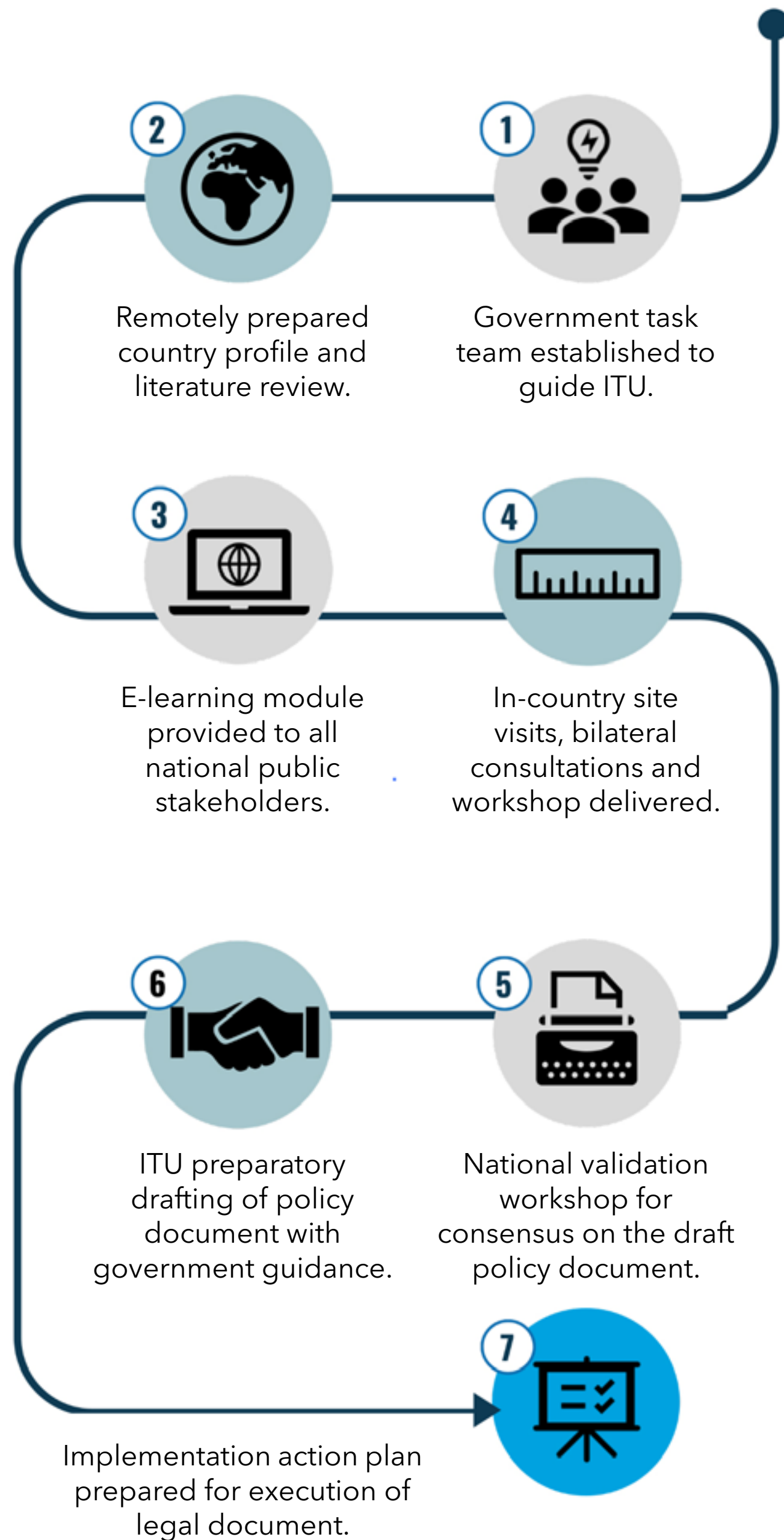
A government task team drives the policy process and steers the support required from ITU.

The Policy Programme by ITU Covers all WEEE Categories



Source: Baldé et al., 2015

National WEEE Assessment



What is our impact?

This tailored, but flexible, stepwise approach to WEEE policy and regulatory development assistance provided by ITU ensures collaboration with the legislature from start to finish.

Increased collection and recycling of WEEE and enforcement of these activities are achieved with a sound regulatory environment in place. This results in environmental protection, and economic and social prosperity.

How do we add value?

ITU's role is to identify Member States that lack the basic policy instruments required to govern and enforce the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the management of WEEE.

This refers to collection, storage, repair, refurbishment, recycling, disposal and other aspects of handling discarded equipment.

Because of ITU's strong relationship with ICT ministries and regulators, we guarantee well-established collaboration with government to ensure concerted policy dialogue and technical assistance from start to finish.

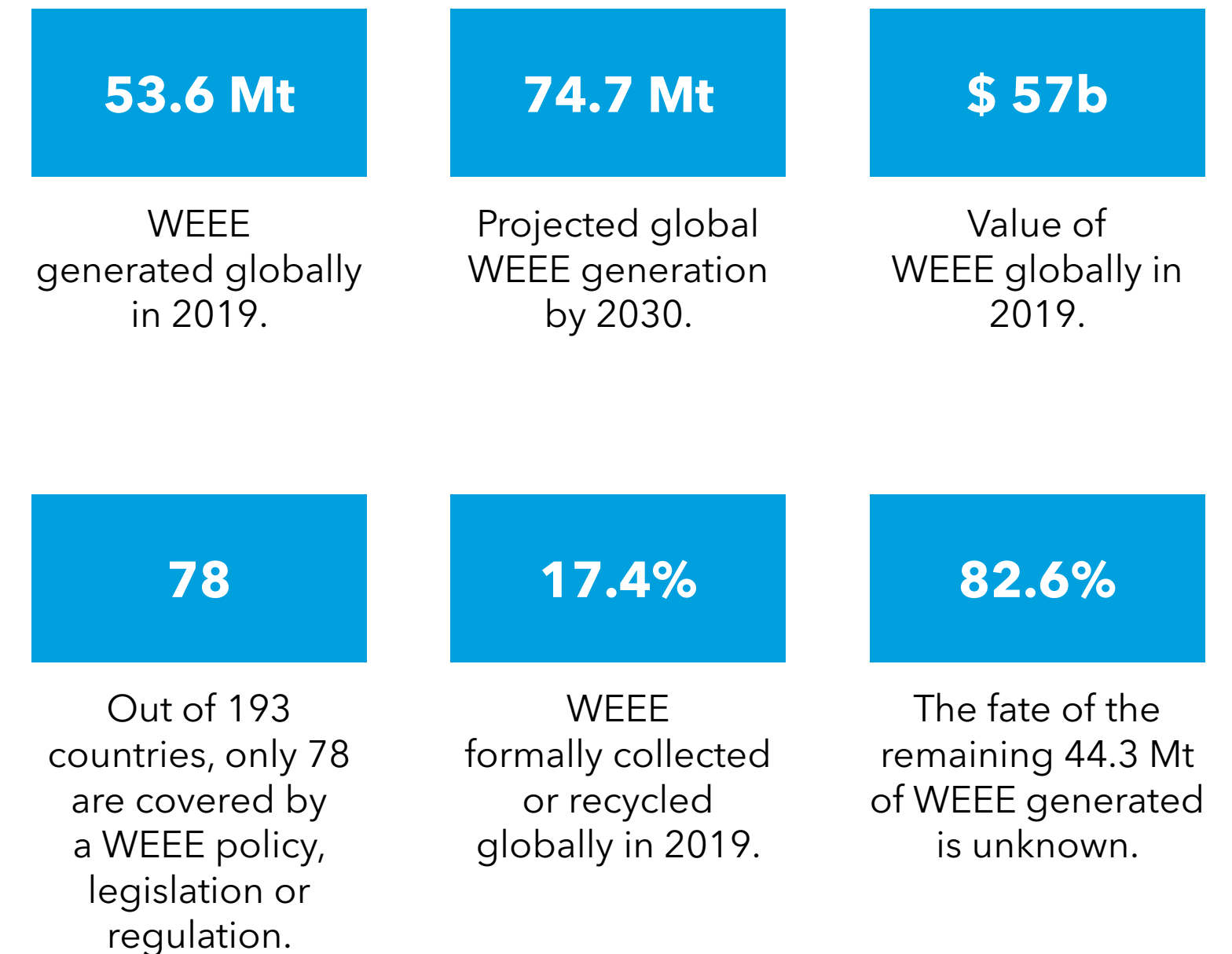
How could we collaborate?

The systematic and thorough nature of this country intervention requires financial commitment and long-term programmatic collaboration with external partners.

At any one time, ITU is providing WEEE policy assistance to at least two countries. ITU is prepared to mobilize resources together to safeguard long-lasting commitment towards global WEEE policy and regulatory coverage.

ITU welcomes donors and international development partners to financially support and/or to join the programme.

Key Global WEEE Figures



Source: Forti V., Baldé C.P., Kuehr R., Bel G. The Global E-waste Monitor 2020, Quantities, flows and the circular economy potential.

If you are interested to support the WEEE policy development activities of ITU, or to collaborate or to find out more, please send an email to bdteet@itu.int