***1st ITU Workshop on Environmentally sound management of e-waste in Ecuador***

***Transforming E-waste Management into an Opportunity***

***August 13, 2013, Quito, Ecuador***

The workshop celebrated in the city of Quito, Ecuador on August 13, 2013, was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Society, and hosted by Telefonica Movistar. The objective of the workshop was to promote the importance of environmentally sound management of e-waste. Government representatives and representatives of international organizations, ICT industry, recycling companies, non-profit organizations, academia and civil society participated in the event.

The following conclusions came about from the discussions:

1. Recognize the importance of ITU-T Resolution 79 “The role of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it” approved by the World Telecommunication and Standardization Assembly (Dubai, 2012), which calls upon ITU to carry out activities in the area of e-waste management, build capacity and encourage the development and implementation of ITU-T Recommendations, methodologies and other publications concerning environmentally sound management of e-waste.
2. Invite governments, ICT industry, NGOs, academia, UN agencies such as ITU, UNU, UNEP and UNESCO to work together in order to transform e-waste management into an opportunity for a sustainable development that will lead to the increase of technological development for citizens.
3. Establish the importance of defining roles and commitment of manufacturers, importers and distributors, to enforce the extended producer responsibility through appropriate analysis of the entire life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment, to be made available to consumers.
4. Recommend the implementation of international standards (e.g. ITU-T Recommendations) in order to elaborate public policies related to environmental challenges such as e-waste, apply best practices for reuse and recycling and measure the obtained results properly. These standards should be developed in coordination with manufacturers, importers, distributers, retailers, operators and telecommunication service providers and e-waste management companies, supported by environmental models which are socially and economically sustainable.
5. The participants commit to share experiences and knowledge from their institutions and organizations and actively contribute in the process of formulation and implementation of regional policies and strategies in Latin America for an environmentally sound management of e-waste.

In conclusion, ITU, and the Latin American Governments are called upon to establish public policies, develop regulation based on international standards, organize workshops or information sessions on environmentally sound management of e-waste to reduce environmental risks, create green jobs, prevent contamination and promote a green economy.

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