SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN LATIN AMERICA

A presentation to the 10th Green Standards Week

Driving Sustainable Digital Transformation through sustainable e-waste management and Circular Economy

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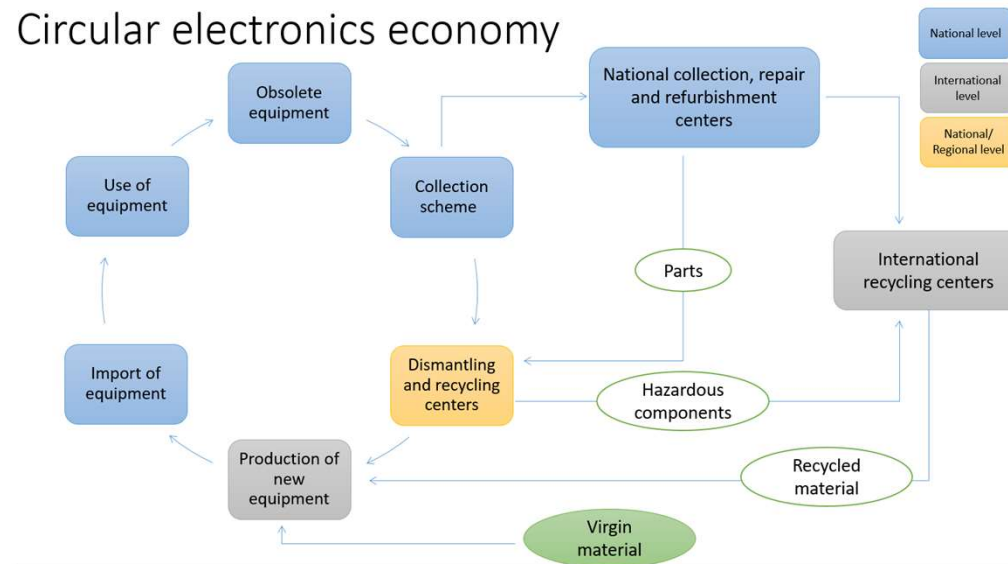Tuesday, 14 December 2021

Introduction

This presentation highlights key features of UNIDO's proposed approach to circularity in e-waste management, as applied to Latin America.

The approach requires strengthening partnerships with ITU and key actors involved with information and communications technology (ICT).

It also requires deepening current work with: national and local governments, donors, specialized UN partners, producers, the waste recycling industries, academia, NGOs, CSOs, media and communications partners, among others.
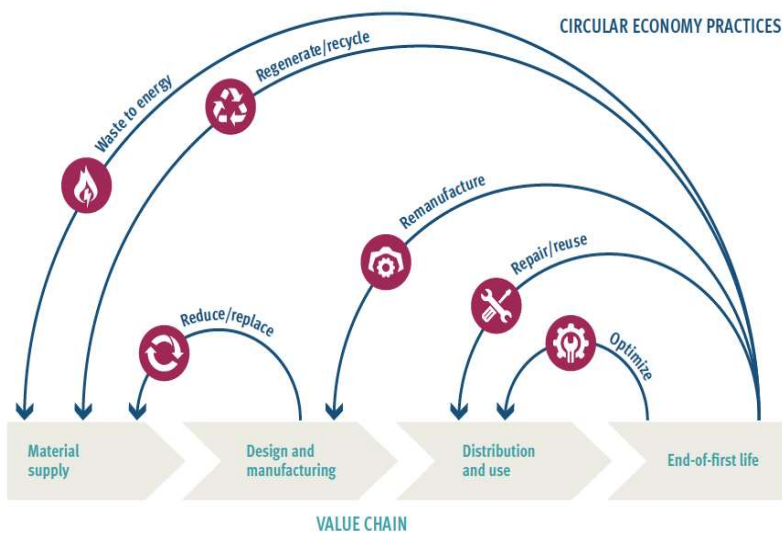
UNIDO approach to CE (1/2)

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation launched the CE paradigm in 2012. UNIDO and some partners began working on CE in e-waste management in 2014.

Circular electronics economy

UNIDO approach to CE (2/2)

UNIDO has worked on further applying CE to a variety of industrial sectors. We are mainly a policy-driven, project-driven, results-driven organization.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRACTICES

Waste to energy
Regenerate/recycle
Remanufacture
Repair/reuse
Reduce/replace
Optimize

Material supply → Design and manufacturing → Distribution and use → End-of-first life

VALUE CHAIN

For UNIDO, CE is an "industrial economy" aimed at
- Getting products that last and maintain their value as long as possible
- Minimizing waste and pollution
- Prioritizing renewable energy along value chains

Its main enablers are
- Innovation
- Digitalization
- Stewardship
- Partnership
- Collaboration: businesses, governments, consumers

UNIDO approach to CE in e-waste mgmt: main considerations

- Collaborate and integrate public and private stakeholders across relevant sectors: ICT, environment, health, education, labour, science, etc.
- Support recycling industries that safeguard the environment and create quality jobs
- Promote partnerships for knowledge exchange and technology transfer
- Help countries to develop e-waste management policies, strategies and systems based on the value chain and life-cycle approach

- Promote regional harmonization and enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
- Work at operational, professional and political levels to promote HL policy decisions

Example: The LAC E-waste project

- Five-year project with GEF funding USD 9.5 M
- Co-financing of more than USD 71.4 M
- First regional project of its kind in Latin America

It focuses on 3 components:

- Strengthening of national e-waste management initiatives/policies
- Strengthening of national capacities on waste dismantling and recycling facilities and infrastructure
- Enhancement of regional cooperation on e-waste management

Honduras
Nicaragua
Guatemala
Panama
El Salvador
Venezuela
Costa Rica
Ecuador
Peru
Bolivia
Uruguay
Chile
Argentina

The LAC E-waste project: illustrative results (1/2)

- New regulations ready for approval in El Salvador and Venezuela – Improved regulations in Costa Rica and Ecuador. Under development: Chile, Panama, Uruguay.
- National strategies in 9 countries: Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, Panama, Uruguay and Chile.
- Universities involved in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Ecuador; contacted in 4 countries.
- People sensitized or trained: 579 in 2020 and 2601 in 2021
- Strategies and national plans ready for national capacity-building and strengthening of e-waste dismantling and recycling facilities and related infrastructure
- Substantial progress on regional pilot projects implemented by partners: ILO, ITU, SUR/RELAC, UNU, WHO/PAHO

The LAC E-waste project: illustrative results (2/2)

Component 1

Component 2 (focus on BFR plastics)

Component 3

Example: Joint SDG Fund - Uruguay

Joint SDG Fund - Fondo de Innovación en Energías Renovables

Gestión de residuos & tecnologías de tratamiento

- Setting up a fund to support Uruguay's second energy transition.

- Decarbonize transport and industrial sectors.

- Combat climate change and boost competitiveness

- Provide affordable access to clean and innovative technologies.

Example: KM products on circularity and international commerce

THANK YOU!