Forum on Sustainable Digital Transformation in the Africa Region
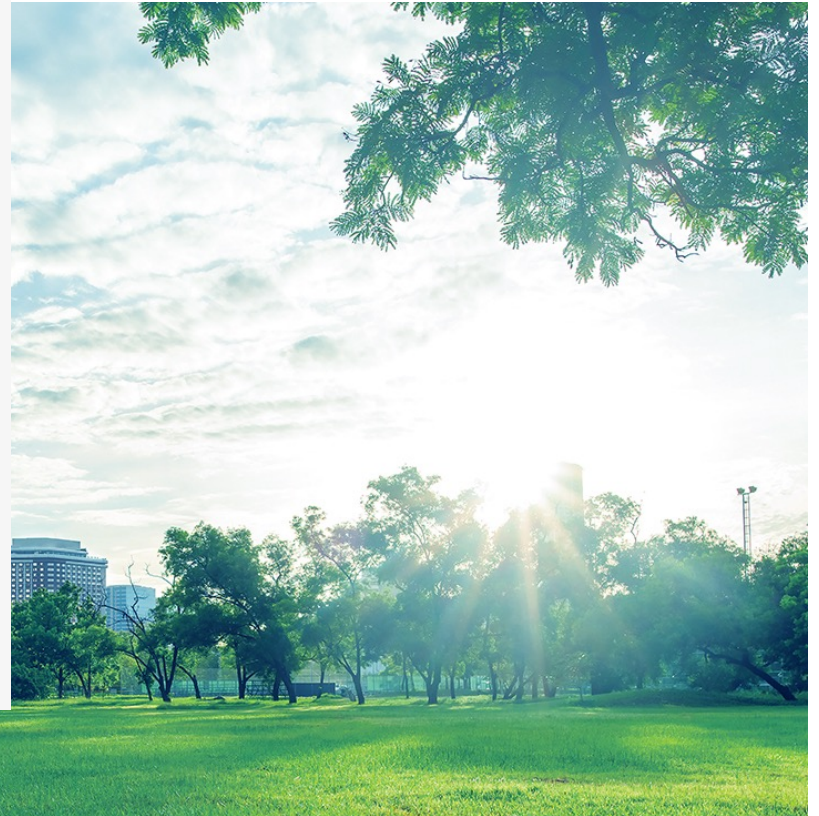
Session 2: Closing the Loop: The Importance of Circular Economy and Sustainable Procurement of ICT

Mathieu Rama | Programme Manager | 16.05.2023

ECOS

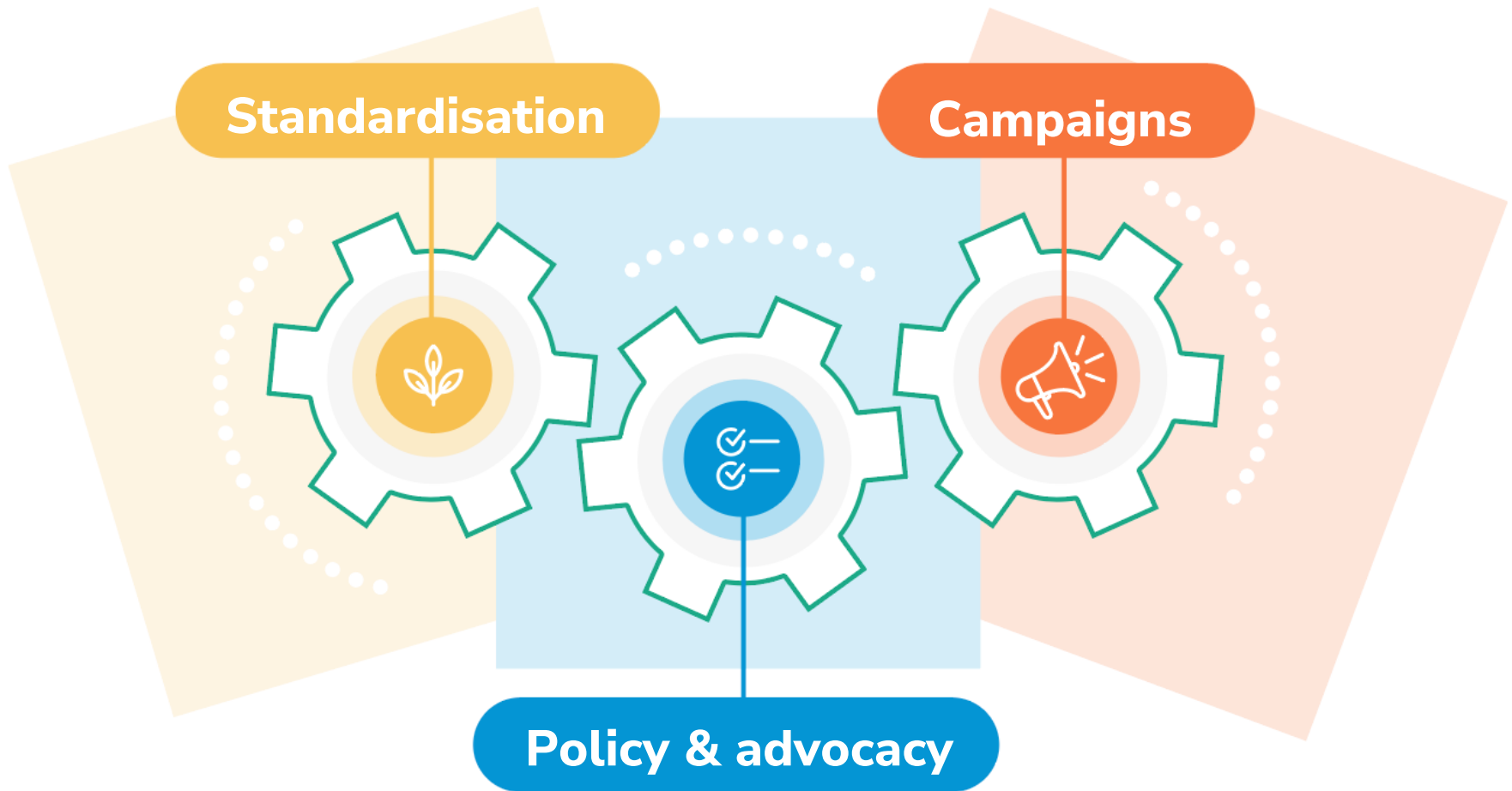## Environmental Coalition on Standards

is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies, and laws.

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In a nutshell

International
environmental
NGO

Technical
expertise

ecos

Network of
members
and experts

The ECOS method – how do we work?

Standardisation
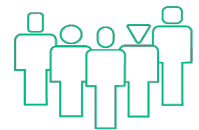
Campaigns

Policy & advocacy

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ECOS GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

ECOS STRATEGIC GOAL IV
Strengthen the voice of environmental organisations in international standardization

- ❏ Proactive engagement in ISO, ITU & IEC standards
- ❏ Advocate for increased access to standards and technical work programmes
- ❏ International dialogue and partnerships as a thought leader in standards and sustainability (UNEP, UNCTAD, UNFSS, UNECE)
- ❏ ECOS is part of advisory council for the Global Electronics Council
- ❏ Global reach projects with local partners in Asia
- ❏ Member of the CEN/CLC Taskforce on Africa

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Sustainable electronic products and batteries: Why necessary?

- Usage of electronics = 40% of EU citizen's budget of planetary boundaries (GreenIT, 2021)

- Fastest growing waste stream in the world

- Only 17.4% recycled globally (ITU, 2020)

- Trigger conflicts, human rights abuses, chemical pollution and environmental degradation

- Standards and laws are still insufficient

What ECOS wants to achieve?

- The global market provides enabling conditions for low environmental impact electronic products and batteries: ambitious standards, regulations and labels

- Electronic products and batteries are the instruments of a fair digital transition

- Through a life-cycle approach, advocating for standards, laws and ecolabels driving the global market towards sustainable electronic products and batteries with:

    1. Electronic products and batteries that are long-lasting, repairable and energy efficient

    2. Waste management prevents waste electronics

    3. A reduced and better-quality extraction of minerals respecting environmental and social requirements

Make electronics longer lasting, repairable

- Electronic products are both

  - reliable = last long before having to be repaired

  - durable = can be repaired several times before being discarded

- Promotion of a universal Right to Repair

- Information for end-users (e.g. EPEAT)

Make waste management prevent waste electronics

- Early separation collection of re-usable and recyclable waste electronics

- Waste collection systems preserving re-usability and recyclability of electronic products and prevent leakage

- Re-use operators and non-profit repair communities participate in the prevention of waste electronics and batteries

Waste electrical goods need to be handled with care, or they can't be re-used

ECOS   #WEEELove   rreuse

ECOS strategy and activities

- Influence standards and labels (EPEAT) at international and EU level to push for sustainable innovation

- Looking to collaborate with other regions interested in this work

- Shape EU policy (Ecodesign and other product policies) to mainstream sustainability ambition in the EU single market

- Sustain and expand environmental alliances

- Develop research and capacity building

ECOS participates in the shaping of EPEAT criteria

- EPEAT is a reference standard used globally in green public procurement and is developed by the Global Electronic Council

- ECOS participates in the finalization of criteria for mitigating ICT environmental impacts are currently under finalization:

  - material selection

  - product longevity

  - design for reuse and recycling

  - critical metals/rare earth elements

  - responsible end-of-life management

  - zero waste manufacturing and

  - water consumption in the supply chain and packaging)

GLOBAL ELECTRONICS COUNCIL

Sustainability for a Connected Future

epeat

ECOS participated in drafting of material efficiency standards for energy related products

Environmentally sustainable by design
EN 4555X series

The series of standard is used for product specific material efficiency standards for servers and data storage products (ETSI) and washing machines (CEN/CENELEC)

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EU Ecodesign resource efficiency requirements

ECOS follows and provide expertise on EU Ecodesign requirements for:

- Displays - already exist
- Mobile phones, smartphones, cordless phones and tablets - finalised, soon to be published
- External Power Supplies – to be developed
- Imaging equipment, including consumables (printers and cartridges) – to be developed
- Computers – to be developed
- Servers and data storage products - already exist but about to be revised

EU Ecodesign requirements can have a ripple effect on the global market!

Thank you

Mathieu RAMA

Programme Manager on Circular Electronics

www.ecostandard.org

WeWork, Rue du Commerce 31, 1000, Brussels

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