

Shaping a Sustainable and Digital Future

Pathway towards the Green Standards Week

2023 Outcome Document



Co-Organized by:



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Acknowledgement

The workshop on *Shaping a Sustainable and Digital Future: Pathway towards the Green Standards Week* was jointly coordinated by ITU and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Basel Convention.

The co-organizers would like to thank UNIDO-GEF project, "Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE)" for their support in this event.

The Outcome Document was developed by Victoria Papp and Reyna Ubeda (ITU).

Additional information and material related to this Workshop are available at the event webpage [here](#).

If you would like to provide any additional information, please contact Reyna Ubeda (ITU) at tsbsg5@itu.int.

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Executive Summary

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in joint collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Basel Convention, organized a workshop on "Shaping a Sustainable and Digital Future – Pathway towards the Green Standards Week" which took place virtually on the 15 June 2023 from 14h00 - 17h00 ART / 19h00 - 22h00 CEST. The workshop focused on the role of international standards in promoting a sustainable digital transformation and managing e-waste effectively.

- **Keynote Presentation** Emphasized the importance of international standards in achieving a sustainable digital transformation. It highlighted the need for standardizing information on products' reusability, reparability, and upgradability to encourage sustainability.
- **Session 1** Explored the benefits and significance of a Global Digital Product Passport (DPP) for ICT in Latin America. The session discussed how DPP can contribute to circular economy principles, digital product transformation, and the management of electronic waste.
- **Session 2** Focused on sustainable e-waste management in Argentina and the implementation of international standards. Argentina showcased its efforts in addressing e-waste challenges and shared experiences in implementing policies and standards for sustainable e-waste management.

Overall, the workshop program provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and experiences regarding sustainable digital transformation and e-waste management in Latin America. It highlighted the role of international standards and initiatives like the DPP in driving circular economy principles, and sustainable practices in the ICT sector.

Key Outcomes:

- Discussed the implementation of ITU-T Recommendation L.1031 in Argentina.
- Explained the importance of a DPP for circularity and what it means for the value chain in Latin America
- Highlighted key initiatives and examples such as the PREAL project.
- Provided a global platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration on the circular economy and value chain.
- Showcased real case examples in Latin America of successful implementation of international standards.



Opening Remarks

The speakers welcomed attendees to the ITU Workshop on "Shaping a Sustainable and Digital Future." They mentioned the importance of collaboration to drive circular economy and sustainable e-waste management in Latin America.

- **Bilel Jamoussi** set the tone by emphasizing the vital role of [international standards](#) in fueling the shift towards a circular economy. He noted the significant impact that regions like Latin America can have in shaping global change through standardization.
- **Leila Devia** followed up by shedding light on the crucial need to [support regions on their pathway](#) to sustainable e-waste management. She emphasized the importance of workshops like this, where people can come together, unite their expertise, and discuss the extraordinary outcomes of Argentina's collaboration efforts.
- **Keira Ives-Keeler**, drew attention to the fact that only 3% of electronic waste in Latin America is collected and safely managed. She urged that there is opportunity for a more holistic approach of managing resources [across industries and across the entire supply chain](#).
- **Candela Nassi** shared the positive impact and promising results already achieved in Argentina through the implementation of [Recommendation ITU-T L.1031](#) in Argentina. This success presents an incredible opportunity for long-term progress in waste management in the region.

Speakers



Bilel Jamoussi,
Chief of ITU-T Study Group Department, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU



Leila Devia,
Director of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America



Keira Ives-Keeler,
Editor and Media Specialist, UNIDO



Candela Nassi,
Chief of Staff at Secretary of Environmental Control and Monitoring, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina



Keynote presentation: Importance of International Standards for a Sustainable Digital Transformation

In a captivating keynote speech, Dominique Würges emphasized the crucial role of sustainable digital transformation and international standards. He shed light on the following key points:

- **Digital Transformation:** was explained as the integration of technology into various sectors, enhancing connectivity, efficiency, and opportunities.
- **Sustainability at the core:** Würges emphasized the need for sustainability to be at the core of this transformation, contributing to closed material and energy flows, reduced environmental impacts, and empowered consumer choices.
- **ITU-T-SG5:** ITU-T Study Group 5 (“Environment, EMF and Circular Economy”) develop standards for e-waste management and reducing emissions in the ICT sector. These standards are vital for ensuring sustainable integration of technology throughout the value chain.
- **Value Chain:** responsible technology integration should encompass all stages of the process, from design and manufacturing to usage and disposal. By considering the entire value chain we can minimize our impact.
- **Collaboration:** emphasized the importance of Latin America’s involvement in the standardization process and through the implementation of the Recommendation has contributed to the overall quality and effectiveness of the standard.

Speaker



Dominique Würges,
Chairman ITU-T Study Group 5, Environment, EMF and Circular Economy: "Towards a Sustainable Digital Transformation with International Standards"



Session 1: Exploring the Benefits and Importance of a Global Digital Product Passport for ICT for Latin America

This session explored how solutions such as digital product passport (DPP) can encourage eco-design and sustainability through standardizing information on a product's reusability, reparability, upgradability.

- **Leandro Navarro** delved into the transformative potential of a DPP and defined it as *"A structured collection of product-specific data conveyed through a unique identifier"* reminding that it must focus on environmental and sustainability aspects. With a staggering 83% of e-waste ending up in landfills, he emphasized the pressing need for a DPP that could track products throughout their entire lifecycle.
- **Francesca Cenni** shifted the conversation to Latin America's pivotal role in global waste management. Highlighting that the passport provides valuable information on raw materials, waste classification, and product age, facilitating environmentally sound practices. She also shed light on the **indispensable role of conventions** like the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. She explained the changes of the various conventions and how the DPP can support their efforts.
- **Patrick Lyon Moreno**, continued the discussion on the e-waste landscape in the LATAM region. He acknowledged the pervasive **challenge of informal recycling practices** and e-waste's inherent complexity and untapped value. He emphasized the importance of recyclers and their role in e-waste management and in the development of a DPP. He raised that due to this inherent complexity of e-waste, DPP can help with tracking and **transparency to better support recyclers**.

Moderator



Alberto Capra,
International consultant,
UN Environment & Basel
Convention Regional
Centre for South America

Speakers



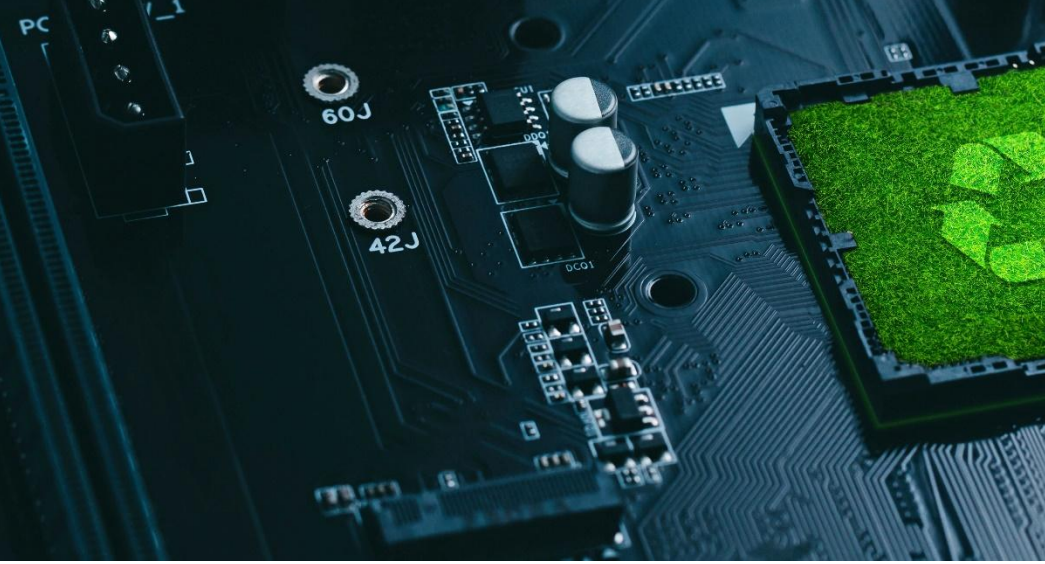
Leandro Navarro,
Co-rapporteur Question
7/5: E-waste, circular
economy, and
sustainable supply chain
management.



Francesca Cenni,
Programme Management
Officer, Basel, Rotterdam
and Stockholm
Conventions Secretariat.



Patrick Lyon Moreno,
President, E-waste
LATAM



Session 2: Sustainable e-waste management in Argentina and implementation of international standards

Argentina has embarked on a journey to address their e-waste challenge. This session was joined by speakers who shared their experiences in e-waste management in Argentina.

- **Candela Nassi** mentioned that until recently, Argentina did not have a sustainable e-waste management system in place. She emphasized the potential of e-waste and the risks it poses to the environment and human health. She highlights the need for [proper e-waste management in the public administration sector](#) and mentions the collaboration between GEF and UNIDO to strengthen regional cooperation. Overall, the aim is to enhance national initiatives and boost e-waste recycling capacity in Argentina.
- **Emiliano Castro** highlights several milestones achieved since the [implementation of the PREAL project](#). He mentioned the initial lack of robust government data on e-waste and the subsequent collection of data on organizations involved in managing e-waste. This allowed them to become familiar with existing practices related to e-waste management. He noted that they identified 27 entities actively involved in e-waste management. He also mentioned the application of a methodology for forecasting e-waste, indicating efforts to estimate future e-waste generation.

Moderator



Reyna Ubeda,
Project Officer, ITU-T

Speakers



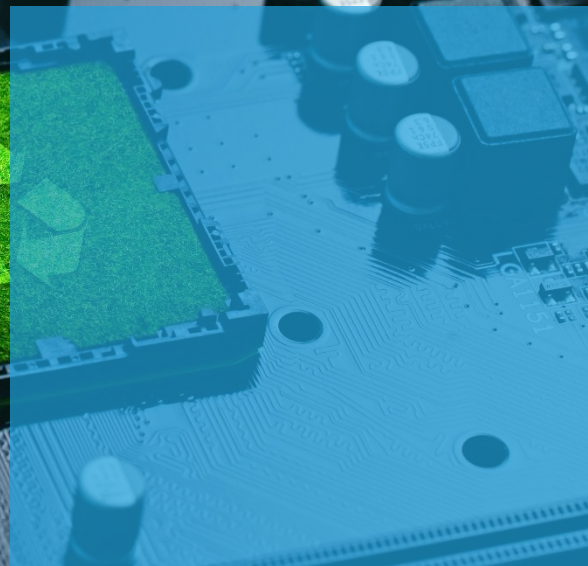
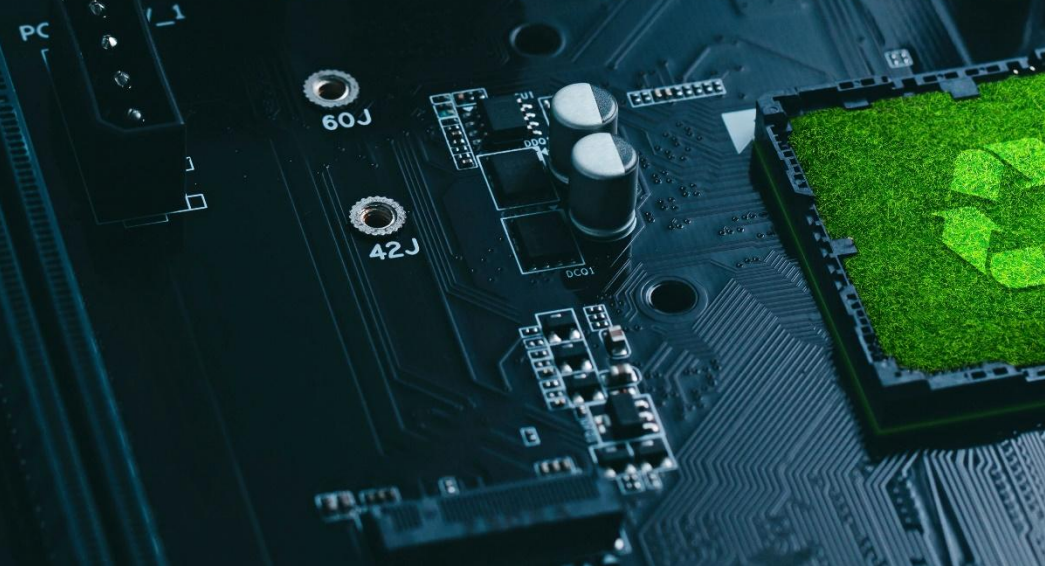
Candela Nassi,
Chief of Staff at Secretary of Environmental Control and Monitoring, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina



Emiliano Castro,
Technical Manager, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina



Leila Devia,
Director of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America



- Leila Devia provided an overview of the implementation of the Recommendation ITU-T L.1031 in Argentina from 2020-2021. She mentioned the three objectives of the project:
 - Implement Step 1 of the Recommendation to carry out a **comprehensive inventory of WEEE** on the 11 tracers: Refrigerators, washing machines, dryer, air conditioner, flat TVs, cellphones, tablets, notebooks, PC's, flatscreen monitors, printers.
 - Document the development of **necessary modifications** based on the implementation in Argentina.
 - Promote the improvement of **regional cooperation** in the area of e-waste management.
- She described the purpose of the inventory is to define the context, evaluation and assessment. It is to classify WEEE, and the estimate amounts based on specific KPIs. Identify the role of each main stakeholder, identify the best approach for WEEE prevention and reduction strategies.
- She re-iterated the **6 phases of preparing the inventory** include: Definition and classification, scope definition, choice of application, preparation, obtaining data and evaluation.
- She described the **data and information** that was used to create the inventory and mentioned that both a market supply-based methodology and a consumption-based methodology was used.
- She highlighted that a survey was conducted to **identify the state of WEEE recyclers** to identify obstacles and challenges. A material flow evaluation was then conducted to graphically represent flows and how they circulate.
- She **summarized** that the information generated from this implementation will:
 - Allow for the development of **public policies**.
 - Strengthen **national legislation**.
 - Set more informed **e-waste goals** and targets.
 - **Evaluate** the national system.
 - Allow Argentina to improve its current system, identify areas critical opportunities, and have the ability to address them in the **short and medium term**.

Moderator



Reyna Ubeda,
Project Officer, ITU-T

Speakers



Candela Nassi,
Chief of Staff at Secretary of Environmental Control and Monitoring, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina



Emiliano Castro,
Technical Manager, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Argentina



Leila Devia,
Director of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America



Speakers



Carlos Hernández,
LAC E-waste Project
Coordinator, UNIDO –
PREAL



Reyna Ubeda,
Project Officer, ITU-T

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Carlos Hernandez expressed gratitude to the Basel Convention and the ITU for hosting this important workshop. It was emphasized that workshops like this reflected upon the SDGs and the [path towards achieving Net Zero](#). Carlos provided a recap of the sessions:

- Highlighting the importance of accelerating [sustainable digital transformation](#).
- The [significance of e-waste](#) was emphasized, particularly noting that the government was one of the main producers of e-waste in [Argentina](#), making the workshop crucial for addressing this issue.
- The role of a [digital product passport \(DPP\)](#) in facilitating the transition to a circular economy was underscored.

Reyna Ubeda expressed gratitude to all the speakers for their time and support, emphasizing that the event's success would not have been possible without everyone's collaboration. Thanks were extended to the event coordinators and logistics team for their efforts. Reyna expressed hope that the attendees had enjoyed the workshop.

Furthermore, it was mentioned that the [presentations and recording](#) of the event would be made available, allowing participants to access and review the content even after the event had concluded.

Useful Links:

- [View the Workshop webpage](#)
- [Watch the Recording](#)
- [Recommendation ITU-T L.1031 Guideline for achieving the e-waste targets of the Connect 2030 Agenda](#)
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For more information

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