E-WASTE SUBGROUP REPORT

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21st September 2023

BACKGROUND

- E-waste is a growing concern across many regions of the world, however, data availability on e-waste is still scarce

- The 5th EGH meeting in 2017 agreed to explore and discuss how data from household surveys can help monitor E-waste and the recycling of E-waste

- The 8th Meeting of the EGH in 2020, agreed to create a sub-group within EGH to address the measurement of electronic waste (e-waste) within the context of household surveys.

- Presentations on the measurement of e-waste were contributed by Eurostat and UNUVie-SCYCLE, which provided relevant context to this work and shared their experiences on this topic.
    - 17th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) in December 2020

BACKGROUND

- The ITU presented information on the East African Communications Organization (EACO) Regional E-waste Data Harmonization project.

  - At the 9th EGH meeting in 2021.

- The e-waste sub-group presented their report which included the draft questionnaire.

- The 10th EGH in 2022 decided to extend the mandate of the subgroup on E-waste to address the measurement of electronic waste (e-waste) within the context of household surveys.

- Work remained to do the following:
  - Coordinate disposal route options between the subgroup template and the EACO survey
  - Decide the scope of equipment included
  - Decide whether awareness should be measured
  - Decide if a simplified set of questions as done by Eurostat is sufficient

FOCUS OF THE WORK

- Harmonization of existing work done by Eurostat and EACO with the existing draft e-waste questionnaire developed by the EGH subgroup

- The main issues for harmonization were as follows:
  - Reference period
  - In-scope equipment
  - Disposal Route
  - Awareness questions
  - Unit of analysis

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SUB-GROUP

Reference Period

- To use 12 months as a reference period as this provides a timeframe longer than 3 months where respondents will be less likely to have disposed of e-waste but do not extend past a point where respondents are less likely to recall the details of how they disposed of such equipment.

In-scope Equipment

- The equipment list should follow the WEEE equipment categories and align directly with E-Waste Statistics Guidelines On Classification, Reporting, And Indicators, Second Edition.

Disposal Route

- Only general categories of disposal routes were considered as it is easier to harmonize at the international level; however, the categories can vary depending on country-specific needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SUB-GROUP

Awareness Questions

- Questions on awareness are not to be included in the questionnaire to avoid the response burden of adding more questions to the survey. In addition, respondents may not be aware of what is meant by the term e-waste.

Unit of Analysis

- Survey questions should be addressed to individuals where they are also asked to think of products shared within their household.

Other Issues to Consider

- E-waste questions should not be directed to young children and filtering questions on individuals' experience with ICT equipment should not be used
- To include a question on the age of products discarded.

PROPOSED E-WASTE QUESTIONS

Questions formulated for each selected equipment

Question	Response options
Have you or someone in your household discarded or thrown away any [equipment category] that you owned or shared with others in your household in the last 12 months	a. Yes b. No
Referring to the most recent [equipment category] discarded or thrown away, what was the mode of discard?	a. Discarded or thrown away in electronic waste collection/recycling. b. Returned to the company that sold me the product. c. Sold it or gave it away. d. Discarded or thrown away but not in electronic waste collection/recycling. e. Cannot remember
Was the most recently discarded or thrown away [equipment category] purchased used or second-hand? That is, did it have a previous owner?	a. Yes b. No
How many years did you own or possess this [equipment category] before it was discarded or thrown away?	Number of years.
What was the main reason you discarded it or threw it away?	a. It was broken. b. It was no longer performing as well as desired. c. It lacked needed features. d. I no longer needed it. e. Other

PROPOSED E-WASTE QUESTIONNAIRE

▶ The sub-group agreed to the questionnaire

Equipment	Have you or someone in your household discarded or thrown away any items in the last 12 months?	Referring to the most recent item discarded or thrown away, what was the mode of discard?	Was the most recently discarded or thrown away item purchased used or second-hand? That is, did it have a previous owner?	How many years did you own or possess this item before it was discarded or thrown away?	What was the main reason you discarded it or threw it away?
Televisions					
Laptops (including tablets/notebooks)					
Mobile phones (including smartphones, pagers)					
Desktop personal computers (excluding monitors and accessories)					
Printers (e.g., scanners, multi-functionals, faxes)					
Telecommunications equipment (e.g., cordless phones, answering machines)					
Small IT equipment (e.g., routers, mice, keyboards, external drives & accessories)					

THANK YOU

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