WSIS Forum 2018 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Executive Summaries

Thematic Workshop

*Please note that the WSIS Forum 2018 Outcome Document will be released on the **23ʳᵈ of March***
(the last day of the Forum)

1) **Title of your session**
   The Role of International Standards and of the Basel Convention in Tackling E-Waste and Achieving a Circular Economy

2) **Name of Organization/s organizing the session**
   Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions Secretariat and International Telecommunication Union

3) **Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11**
   E7, E-environment

4) **Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (these will be reflected in the press release and Outcomes Document of the WSIS Forum 2018)**

5) **Main outcomes highlighting the following:**

   I.   **Debated Issues**
   - The participants highlighted that there is low awareness of the risks posed by e-waste to human health and the environment and that much more should be done to inform the public and young users on what is inside, in particular, mobile phones, computers and tablets.
   - Both the Experience of Egypt in developing an e-waste management system nationally and the experience of the East African Communications Organization, whose member countries developed a common strategy for e-waste management, showed that it is very important to involve private sector associations and all stakeholders involved in e-waste management, at the country or regional levels, in the process of setting up a collection and management system.
   - The audience agreed that green standard setting in the ICT sector is key provide competitive advantages to producers, recyclers and dismantlers who are complying

with these standards and can receive financial incentives. Green ICT standards play a key role in achieving a circular economy.

II.   Quotes

Increasing the recyclability of ICT products by design is the mission of Huawei. (Mr. Paolo Gemma, Senior Specialist on issues related to energy saving and environmental sustainability, Huawei).
Green standards for ICT equipment and on e-waste management are essential to ensure the effectiveness of recycling processes and to creating a level playing field in a country or in a region. Without these standards, the efforts to build a circular economy would be deeply hampered. (Mr. Federico Magalini, Managing Director Sofies UK)

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III.   Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- More awareness is needed on the risks associated to dumping ICT equipment at the end of life in a bin.
- The development of green standards for ICT equipment can inform consumer choices and change the behaviors of people when they need to dispose of ICT equipment at the end of life.

IV.   Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

- The sustainable management of e-waste will contribute to the attainment of sustainable development goals in particular, Goal 3 (Good health and Well-being), Goal 6 (Clean water and Sanitation), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 14 (Life Below Water), and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

- Target 3.9 refers to the reduction of the number of deaths and illnesses caused by hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination. Target 6.1 seeks to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, and Target 6.3 aims to reduce pollution, eliminate dumping, and minimize release of hazardous chemicals and materials. Goal 14 refers to marine pollution and the protection of the marine ecosystem (Targets 14.1 and 14.2).

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- Target 11.6 aims to reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, by paying special attention to air quality and to municipal and other waste management. Most e-waste will be generated in cities and it is particularly important to properly manage e-waste in urban areas, improve collection and recycling rates, and to reduce the amount of e-waste that ends up in dumpsites.

- Similarly, Target 12.4 aims to achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout the life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and to significantly reduce their release into air, water, and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

- Target 12.5 aims to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, repair, recycling, and reuse. An increasing number of people on the planet are consuming growing amounts of goods, and it is critical to make production and consumption more sustainable by raising awareness levels of producers and consumers, specifically in the area of electrical and electronic equipment.

V. **Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting**
- Developing countries will increase the rate of e-waste generated at a faster speed than developed countries.

VI. **Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2019**
- Continue to raise awareness of e-waste and the role of green ICT standards to improve the design of products and e-waste management.

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