



E-waste and recycling: Whose responsibility is it?

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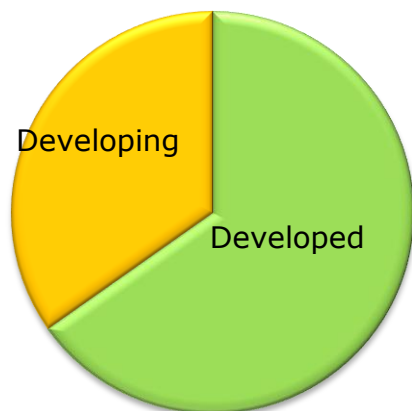
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What is e-waste?

E-waste is a generic term encompassing various forms of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) that are old, end-of-life electronic appliances and have ceased to be of any value to their owners. A practical definition of e-waste is *‘any electrically powered appliance that fails to satisfy the current owner for its originally intended purpose’*.

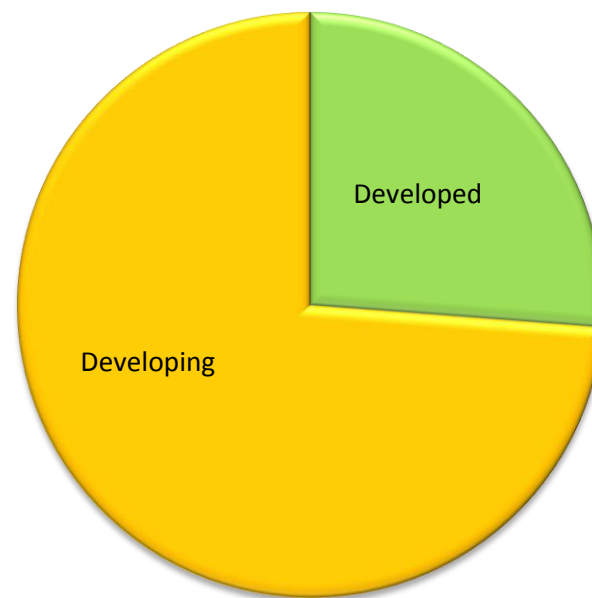
Source: UNEP, <http://www.unep.fr/scp/waste/ewm/faq.htm#1>

Mobile subs. by level of development



2000

Total 719 million



2010

Total 5.4 billion

Aim of presentation

- a) Raise awareness on the dangers of e-waste;
- b) Encourage the consideration of e-waste management in the design of ICT policy;
- c) Create an urgency for the adoption of strategic policy and regulatory approaches that are sensitive to local context; and
- d) Encourage a move to more concerted cooperation in handling e-waste at the regional and international level.

Factors causing increase of e-waste

- Technological advances drive
 - Proliferation of gadgetry
 - Upgrade or introduction of new infrastructure
 - Consumer trends
- ICT sector incentives eg. Tax incentives
- Trade related (North-South) impacts [dumping]

Statement of the problem

- Modern electronics contain up to 60 elements, some evaluable, others hazardous, some both
- Informal methods of disposing e-waste that lead to an adverse impact of e-waste on the environment, animals and human health
- Hazards documented in
 - Guiyu, China
 - Agbobloshie, Ghana



**Computers pile up and pollute the earth,
rotting slowly and dissolving into the soil**



Children scavenging



Child sitting amongst e-waste



Barriers to effective waste management

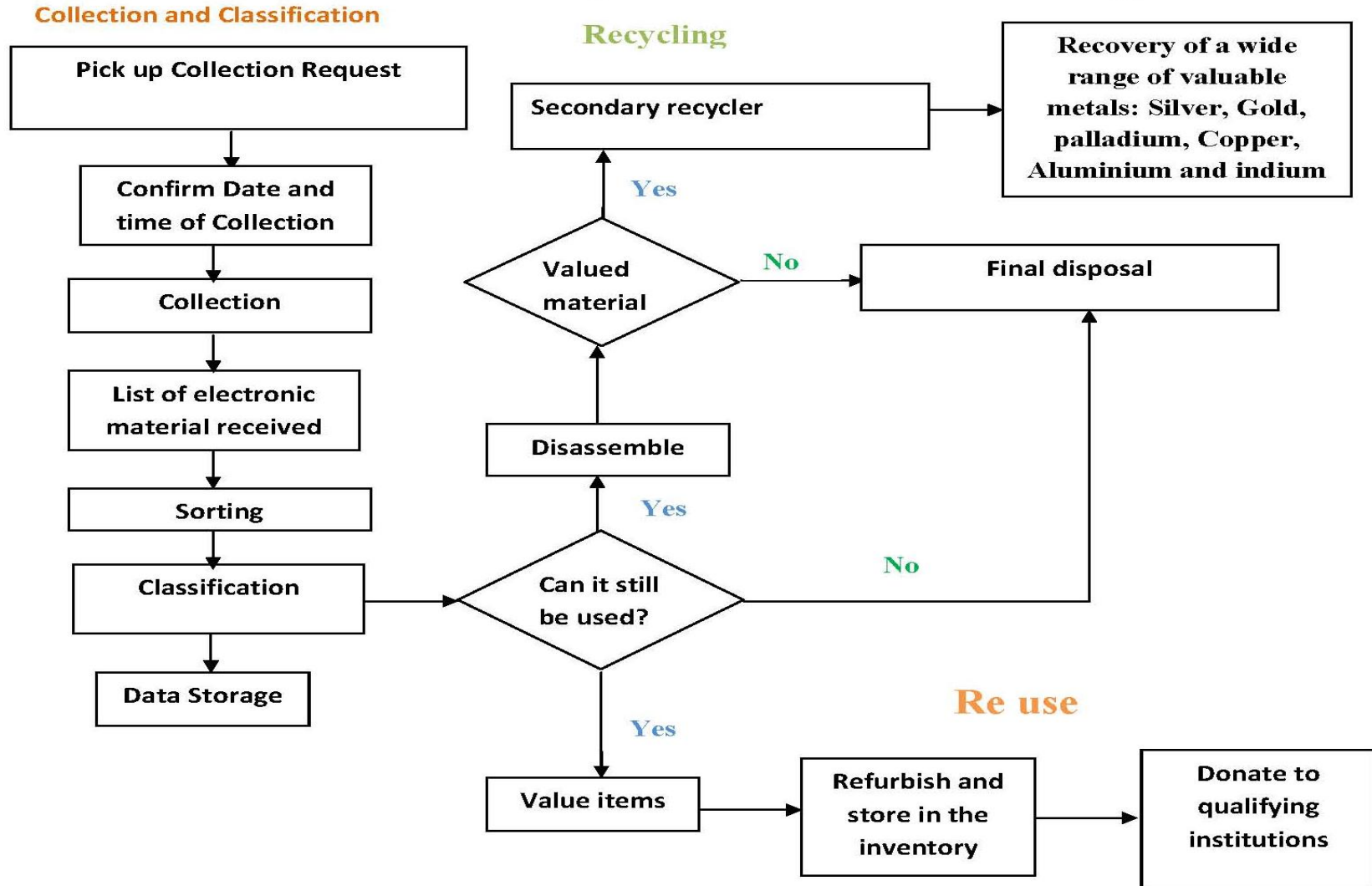
- Lack of public awareness on the need for an e-waste management system and consumer responsible behavior.
- Inadequate/non-existent legislation
- Funding/sustainability
- No data on quantity of e-waste generated and disposed off each year and the resultant extent of environmental risk
- Limited capacity of important government agencies to deal with e-waste
- Lack of coordinated approach across service providers and ministries to deal with e-waste.

Features of an effective e-waste system





CFSK e-waste Management Process Flow Diagram



Governance Frameworks

INTERNATIONAL

- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

REGIONAL

- EU Directives on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation
- Durban Declaration on e-waste management in Africa

Governance cont.

DOMESTIC

- Co-relation between development of e-waste mgt. regulatory activity with constraints in land fill capacity
- Many jurisdictions lack e-waste policy and regulatory instruments, particularly in developing countries. Why?
 - Lack of a focal point? Limited capacity?
 - Risk is not recognized? No visibility for actors?
 - Existence of open spaces?
- **There is need for legal reform on e-waste management.**
- **What is the role of the ICT regulator?**



Role of Legal Reform

- Formal and informal regulation
 - Encourage adoption of 3R
 - Collocation and type approval
- Extended Product Responsibility (take back law)
- Financing of e-waste management (the dark side of innovation and increased access)
- Enhanced monitoring and enforcement



Checklist for development of a roadmap for management of e-waste

- Are you a signatory to the Basel Convention?
- Do you have an e-waste policy?
- Have stakeholders been identified?
- Has a strategy/roadmap for e-waste management been formulated?
- Is there a specific agency mandated to handle the management of e-waste? OR
- If there are a number of regulatory agencies with responsibility of various aspects of e-waste, is there a defined framework for co-operation?
- Has an assessment of the e-waste generated in your country been undertaken?
- Do you have a domestic regulatory framework on sound management of electronic waste?
- Has a vulnerability assessment of the e-waste regulatory framework been undertaken?
- Have you identified some aspects of e-waste management in-country which can be handled through co-operation with other countries at a regional level?



Help keep electronic waste from growing.



Policy and Regulatory recommendations

- Harmonization within regions
 - To attract political support
 - fastrack adoption of regulatory frameworks
 - Emphasis on co-operation mechanisms
- Introduction of a matrix of obligations and incentives
- Towards greater awareness of the 3Rs – reduce, re-use , recycle



CONCLUSION

By acting now, ICT Regulators can turn the challenge of e-waste into an e-opportunity

Thank you for your attention

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