



PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

NATIONAL POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IN MALAWI

What is WEEE?

WEEE stands for Waste Electrical and Electronics Equipment and includes almost any household or business item with circuitry or electrical components with a power or battery supply. WEEE is also known as e-waste.

Rate of technological turnover has become astonishing: some of the electrical items being manufactured today are less durable than they used to be and gadgets such as mobiles and tablets quickly become obsolete when newer, slicker models become available. As a result, more products are being disposed of, with a staggering impact on the environment. According to the Global E-waste Monitor, WEEE is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world.

Categories of Electrical and Electronics Equipment (EEE):

Broadly e-waste, or WEEE is generated from equipment in the following categories:

1. Large Equipment such as washing machines, cookers, refrigerators, photovoltaic cells etc.
2. Small Equipment such as kettles, blenders, blowers etc.
3. Small IT equipment such as mobile phones, cameras, radios, printers
4. Temperature Exchange Equipment such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners
5. Lamps- electrical or solar lights, bulbs etc.
6. Screens and Monitors such as televisions, computers, etc.

EEE Producer:

An EEE Producer refers to anyone who manufactures, distributes, or sells electrical and electronic equipment. Broadly, international laws require that an EEE Producer contributes to ensuring that EEE is disposed of and treated properly. This means:

1. registering with the responsible national authorities in each country where you distribute or sell equipment
2. filing a regular report on the amount of sold electrical and electronic equipment,
3. organizing or financing the collection, treatment, recycling, and recovery of your products
4. as a distributor, providing a take-back service, whereby your customers can return electric and electronic waste free of charge



5. as a manufacturer, complying with the directive on the restriction of hazardous substances

Malawi is currently in consultations with different players, including EEE producers, to formulate a national policy that is in context with the present and future and WEEE in the country, and is in alignment with the country's development goals.

Risks and Opportunities of WEEE:

The main risks to the environment from WEEE are the depletion of natural resources and the release of dangerous substances into the environment:

1. If we send electrical and electronic equipment to landfill sites, an opportunity is missed to recover and reuse significant amounts of materials. Recovery of these materials would mean we need to extract less raw material to manufacture new products.
2. Some electronic equipment and its components contain substances that are considered dangerous to the environment and human health if they are disposed of carelessly. Although these dangerous substances are usually present in only small amounts, they may leak into the soil, water or air and can cause serious environmental damage.

Along with its clear challenges however, if treated through appropriate recycling methods, e-waste could offer economic returns worth over \$62.5 billion per year globally.

Objectives of the WEEE Policy:

The context is that E-waste in Malawi is disposed of in an improper manner (mostly in open dumpsites as most waste), a fact which poses risks to the environment and human health. There is also the loss of monetary value obtainable in recycling or reusing some components of e-waste.

The overall goal of WEEE policy for Malawi is to ensure an effective, efficient, equitable and responsible management of e-waste in that protects human health and environment for socio-economic development of Malawi. Below are some of the objectives to be pursued:

1. Guide establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for e-waste management.
2. Establish a national system to collect, transport, process, and export e-waste consistent with Malawi's international obligations.
3. Create and implement awareness and education programmes to sensitize the people of Malawi of the importance of responsible life-cycle management of EEE.
4. Build capacity of all relevant stakeholders in the EEE value chain to create quality jobs in the waste management sector.
5. Strengthen legal and institutional framework for e-waste management.
6. Strengthen quality assurance mechanisms for EEE.
7. Improve capturing, processing, storage and sharing of data and information on EEE and e-waste.

The formulation of the policy is being championed by the Environmental Affairs Department and the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) with technical support from the International Telecommunications Union, a UN agency a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies.



Timeline of WEEE Policy development in Malawi:

2020

- Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) requests assistance from ITU for the development of a national WEEE management policy.
- Assessment of the WEEE situation in Malawi
- Literature and regulatory review of Malawi to build a country profile, covering relevant environmental, societal, and economic aspects, the existing regulatory landscape and WEEE management infrastructure by ITU
- Establishment of a task team dedicated to WEEE policy development team made up of representatives from MACRA, Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, and the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology

April 2021

First Public Sector Consultation Workshop on WEEE policy development.

August 2021

Policy drafting commences.

September 2021

First Private Sector Consultation Workshop on WEEE policy development. Workshop includes producers, civil society, business associations and the academia.

October 2021

Continuation of Policy drafting, inputting insights from the private sector consultation.

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, 28th September 2021, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel, 28 Glyn Jones Rd - Blantyre

Thursday, 30th September 2021, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Walmont President's Hotel, Presidential Way - Lilongwe



PROGRAMME

Time	Title	Speaker
09:00 - 09:15	Registration of participants Testing of Audio/Video	
09:15 - 09:30	Opening remarks	MACRA EAD ITU
09:30 - 10:00	General introduction: - The issue of e-waste - The policymaking process - Objectives of the workshop	ITU
10:00 - 11:00	The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): - Basic principles - Implementation (5 pillars) - Financial mechanism - Status of producers - Questions & Answers	SOFIES
11:00 - 11:15	Group photo & coffee break	
11:15 - 12:00	Presentation & Overview of the draft National WEEE Policy: - Vision - Objectives - Policy Areas	EAD
12:00 - 12:30	Questions & Answers	Moderator
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 14:00	Roles & Responsibilities of WEEE value chain stakeholders: Examples of WEEE regulation applications in the African Region.	SOFIES



14:00 - 15:00	<p>Breakout Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- GROUP 1: Application of the EPR concept in Malawi.- GROUP 2: Financing mechanisms and Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO).- GROUP 3: Current e-waste disposal practices and/or recycling efforts in the industry.	Moderator
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15 - 16:00	Report of results from each Group & Discussion	Moderator
16:00 - 16:15	Next steps & timeline of action	MACRA
16:15 - 16:30	Wrap-up and closing remarks	ITU MACRA EAD