UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

UN environment programme

ITU

ITU-UNEP-UNU
Joint Online Workshop

WEEE: Towards regional harmonization of national WEEE policies, regulations, and standards in the Arab States

02-03 December 2020, Virtual Meeting

The ITU-UNEP-UNU Joint Online Workshop on electronic waste management in the Arab region took place on December 2-3. Organized jointly by UNU, UNEP and ITU, the overall objective of this online workshop was to present activities and progress in the management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), through a harmonized approach to regional WEEE policy development and contextualize it within the Arab states.

The online workshop included presentations from ITU, UNEP, UNU and UNSD on the underlying concepts and the roles that different stakeholders can play in developing WEEE management systems and policy landscapes. On the second day, presentations on Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan along side those on Netherlands, Japan, EACO and Namibia showcased e-waste management case studies from around the world.

Discussions on both days surfaced the importance of data collection and analysis as well as the need for it to be complimented by legislation and government buy-in. Participants highlighted how data collection was impeded in their countries through a robust informal system as well as lack of provisions to record information at regional and municipal levels.

Questions on financing mechanisms and nuances of producer responsibility in e-waste management underscored the need for comprehensive policy articulation and its eventual iteration through enforcement and monitoring. Presenters also reflected on how different stakeholders such as mobile network providers could plug into the e-waste management system within multiple roles like consumers as well as producers.
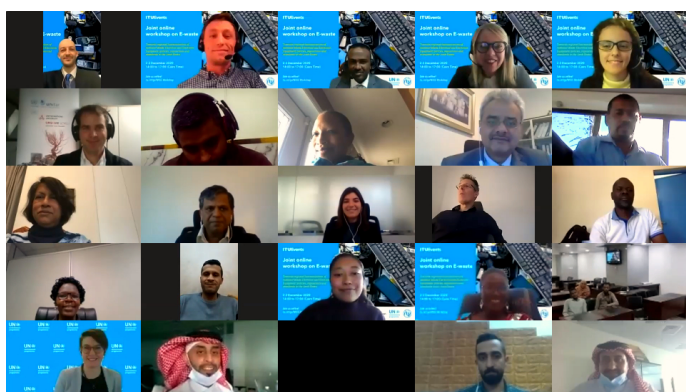
In addition, it was noted that with the prevalence of an informal sector and economic situations in lower income countries, access to proper disposal and its costs are disproportionate, and awareness can also be lower in such areas. Case studies highlighted the different systems and institutions that handle e-waste within the regions, yet how common components such as policy and regulation, established financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships are vital in each regard.

Participants included public and private stakeholders from the Arab region including government officials and producers. The workshop was well received by more than 70 participants on both days, retaining its large attendance till the very end.

We would like to thank our speakers and participants for such their contribution and attention.

Organized by:

Mr. Mustafa Al Mahdi, Programme Officer, ITU
Mr. Iyngarasan Mylvakanam , Programme Officer, UNEP
Dr. Kees Balde, Senior Programme Officer, UNU
Mr. Garam Bel, E-Waste Officer, ITU
Ms. Yondeen Sherpa, E-Waste Policy Consultant, ITU

ITU-UNEP-UNU
Joint Online Workshop

WEEE: Towards regional harmonization of national WEEE policies, regulations, and standards in the Arab States

02-03 December 2020, Virtual Meeting

Moderator:

Ms. Vanessa Gray, Head of Environment and Emergency Telecom Division, ITU

Opening speakers:

Mr. Adel Darwish, Regional Director for Arab States, International Telecommunication Union

Dr. Ruediger Kuehr, Director, Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme, UNITAR & United Nations University

Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP – West Asia Office

Speakers:

Ms. Yondeen Sherpa, E-Waste Policy Consultant, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Garam Bel, E-Waste Policy Officer, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Paolo Gemma, WP2/5 Chairman

Dr. Kees Balde, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations University

Mr. Marcus Newbury. Statistician, United Nations Statistics Division

Ms. Giulia Iattoni, Programme Associate, United Nations University

Mr. Mustafa AI Mahdi, Programme Officer, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Iyngarasan Mylvakanam , Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Mustafa AI Mahdi, Programme Officer, International Telecommunication Union

Dr. Shaimaa El Sayed Mohammed Ali, Director of Final Disposal Department, Waste Management Regulatory Agency (WMRA), Egyptian Ministry of Environment

Dr. Sudki Hamdan, Environmental statistics Expert, Department of Statistics, Jordan

Ms. Safia Ibrahim, Statistian, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Eng. Eiman Farouk, Head of Environmental Effects Division, TPRA , SUDAN

Mr. Shunichi Honda, Programme Officer, International Environmental Technology Centre, Economy Division, UNEP

Mr. Juma Ooro, Chairperson, EACO WG7, E-Waste Management and Green ICT-S.

Mr. René Eijsbouts, Advisor, Wecycle

Ms. Saara Imbili, Chief Policy Analyst, Ministry of ICTs, Namibia