

**CONCEPT PAPER**

**5TH EACO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT, 20TH – 22ND MARCH 2023, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

1. **Introduction**

The East African Communications Organization (EACO) has held four regional workshops in an effort to create awareness geared towards achieving sustainable e-waste management in the East African region. The 1st workshop was held in March 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, the 2nd Workshop was held July 2017 in Kampala, Uganda, the 3rd Workshop was held in Kigali, Rwanda in May 2018, while the 4th workshop was held in Bujumbura, Burundi in March 2019.

The objective of the 1st workshop was to bring together key stakeholders from the East African Community (EAC) region to address the growing challenge of e-waste. As a result of this workshop, an e-waste management action plan was developed, and the regional and national steering committees on e-waste management were established. The committees were designed to include a diverse range of key stakeholders in the e-waste management eco-system, beyond the national ICT regulators to create a comprehensive and coordinated approach to managing e-waste.

The focus of the 2nd workshop was to create a roadmap towards zero negative impact of e-waste in the EACO region by 2030, by creating a platform for collaboration and sharing of best practices among the member states. The main outcome of this workshop was the validation and endorsement of the 1st regional strategy for the EACO member states [2017-2022], aimed at providing a solid foundation for harmonizing regional efforts in sustainable e-waste management keeping in view of global developments.

The theme of the 3rd workshop was focused on the practical implementation of the regional e-waste management strategy as well as identifying strategies for financing the e-waste management initiative and projects in the region, while the 4th workshop was centered on the benefits of a regional approach in tackling e-waste management. The objective of the workshop was to evaluate the progress of the implementation of the regional strategy on e-waste management, and to identify areas where improvement was needed.

The 5th regional workshop is planned to take place in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania from 20th – 22nd March 2023, under the theme: is: **“From awareness to action: Sustainable E-waste management as a priority towards achieving 2030 SDGs”.**

1. **Objectives**

The workshop will focus on the transition from raising awareness to taking concrete actions in implementing strategies and measures towards sustainable e-waste management. Emphasizing the importance of making e-waste management a priority in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Specifically, this workshop will:

1. Validate the regional strategy on e-waste management within the EACO member states [2023-2028]
2. Provide an evaluation on the status on the current projects under EACO WG7: ReDUCE-waste and the E-waste Data Harmonization Projects.
3. Facilitate mechanisms to guide extended producer responsibility (EPR) implementation as a tool for effective e-waste management,
4. Promote the adoption of other sustainable e-waste management practices by various stakeholders.
5. Provide a synopsis on the global trends including best practice and successful case studies from around the world.
6. Devise mechanisms of enhancing collaboration among governments, industry, and civil society in addressing e-waste management challenges.
7. Highlight the role of e-waste management in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,
8. Identify and addressing barriers to sustainable e-waste management.
9. **Workshop program**

The 3-day workshop will feature interactive panel discussions on taking tangible steps in executing the regional e-waste management strategy, best practices, challenges and needs in e-waste management, as well as effective awareness strategies. The sessions will be moderated and led by selected speakers/presenters. A panel of experts will also discuss related topics and issues. **The draft program is attached here with.**

1. **Speakers and presenters**

Speakers for the different sessions will be drawn from a pool of national, regional, and international experts and stakeholders. Selections will be made based on the speaker's expertise and experience in a specific topic. Efforts will be made to include a diverse group of players and EACO stakeholders as moderators or panelists. The workshop will also accept submissions from interested presenters on various aspects of e-waste management.

1. **Participation**

The target audience at this workshop would likely include:

1. The national ICT Regulators, government officials and policy makers from national and regional levels,
2. Representatives from the private sector, including manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers,
3. The environmental protection agencies and e-waste handlers, collectors and recyclers,
4. Researchers and academics specializing in e-waste management and sustainability,
5. Civil society organizations and advocacy groups,
6. International organizations and development agencies,
7. Other stakeholders involved in the e-waste management eco-system,
8. Consumers and users.

The workshop will be physical. Remote participation will also be possible for individuals who are unable to attend in person. The estimated attendance for the workshop is 150 participants

1. **Sponsoring Organizations**

The EACO Secretariat seeks support from the various member organization to support the event, including: internet coverage, workshop venue, providing refreshments, organizing social events, promoting the event, etc.

The EACO Secretariat proposes that TCRA, as a key player in regulating and developing the ICT sector in Tanzania and with the support of relevant stakeholders including the National E-waste Management Steering Committee, take the lead in organizing and hosting the workshop. This is due to the significance of the workshop and the large number of stakeholders involved in Tanzania.