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***Communications for all in East Africa***

**REPORT OF THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL E-WASTE DAY VIRTUAL CELEBRATIONS HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2020**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The celebrations to mark the 3rd International E-waste Day was celebrated for the first time by EACO virtually with a theme being “Education”. The event was attended by members and partners from the East African region and globally. The virtual event attracted over 100 participants. The programme of the event is attached as **Annex I.**

* 1. **Introductory Remarks**

The virtual event commenced at 10.12 a.m (EAT) with a word of welcome from the Moderator, Dr. Virginia Onyara from Multimedia University of Kenya and Mr. Juma Ooro (Chairperson, EACO Working Group 7: E-waste Management and Green ICTs). The participants were taken through the programme of the day and urged to contribute and share their experience during the sessions using features which were available in the zoom tool. They were also advised to post questions in the chat box to be handled at the end after the presentations and raise hands whenever they needed attention.

**1.2 Opening Remarks by Dr. Ally Simba - Executive Secretary, EACO**

The Executive Secretary welcomed all the participants and thanked the Guest of Honour, Hon. Keriako Tobiko,  the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Kenya, for agreeing to officiate the celebration. He also extended his appreciation to Safaricom PLC for their partnership in this event, not only for accepting to give a keynote address, but also, for their commitment and support to EACO’s programmes and activities. He further acknowledged other  organizations, various speakers and presenters, who agreed to associate themselves with EACO in the virtual celebrations.

He reiterated the virtual celebrations were meant to raise the public profile of e-waste recycling and encourage consumers to recycle their e-waste with the resulting increase in e-waste recycling rates on the day itself and into the future.Further, he invited the Ag. Director General of the Communications Authority of Kenya to give a few remarks and thereafter invite the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Republic of Kenya. Full speech is attached as **Annex II.**

**1.3 Opening Remarks by Mrs. Mercy Wanjau, Acting Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya.**

The Ag. Director General, Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), Mrs Mercy Wanjau stated that the annual celebrations of the International e-waste day continued to call on everyone to re-evaluate the measures they have put in place to manage the ever-growing e-waste menace and explore new opportunities to better address this concern. She reiterated that e-waste still remained a least understood concept and continuous awareness was vital to enhance understanding and combating thee*-*wasteproblem*.* She further stated that stakeholders should pull in one direction for synergy and quick gains.

Finally, the Director General invited Hon. Joe Mucheru, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Republic of Kenya, to make a few remarks and thereafter invite the Chief Guest to open the virtual celebrations. Full speech is attached as **Annex III**

**1.4 Opening  Remarks by Hon. Joe Mucheru, the Cabinet Secretary, EGH, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youh Affairs, Republic of Kenya**

The Cabinet Secretary thanked EACO for organizing this important event to mark the 3rd International E-waste Day. He said that E-waste was an important subject that countries all over the world are grappling with. As the ICT industry continues to grow, and more people get increasingly connected, the number of ICT devices continues to increase, and with it, the e-waste burden. He stated that his Ministry had placed a high premium on the e-waste issue especially the National ICT Policy. He further said that they were committed to prudently regulate the disposal of e-waste, promote the use of ICT to mitigate the impact of climate change and broaden the use of technologies for natural disaster and emergency monitoring, prevention, mitigation and response.

He reiterated that they would work with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to institute measures to minimize the effect of ICT infrastructure, appliances, machines, devices and tools on the environment as well as necessary policies on electrical and electronic waste management. His Ministry also encouraged and supported local innovators with ICT solutions which can be used to better manage E-waste in the country and fully exploit the existing business opportunities of turning e-waste into wealth.

He ended his remarks by welcoming the Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Kenya, Hon. Keriako Tobiko to preside over this event, Full speech is attached as **Annex IV.**

**1.5 Speech by the Chief Guest, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Kenya**

The Cabinet Secretary expressed his great pleasure to preside over the 3rd International E-Waste Day, guided by the theme “Education” to create awareness on dangers and opportunities of e-waste. E-waste is a fast growing stream of waste due to the increasing access to affordable information, communication and technology equipment. Kenya has identified ICT as one of the drivers to economic growth and development.  ICT industry has been growing exponentially through initiatives such as e-government, e-education, e-medicine and e-commerce.

E-waste management is guided by a number of legal and regulatory frameworks both international and local. Kenya has ratified and signed a number of international conventions that offer guidelines on e-waste movement between countries, handling and safe disposal. Such conventions include but not limited to: the Basel Convention, Bamako Convention, Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, Agenda 2063 (Africa we want), and the Durban Declaration, just to mention a few.

Within the East African region, the Cabinet Secretary stated that, he was aware that the East African Communications Organisation (EACO) in 2017 developed the Regional E-Waste Management Strategy, to guide the region on E-Waste management. Each member country was required to develop a national E-waste Strategy by 2019. He announced that Kenya had complied to this requirement and had developed a national e-waste strategy.

The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 assures every Kenyan of the right to clean and safe environment. Kenya has several regulations that guide management of e-waste which include Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999, Waste Management Regulations (2006) and the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2015.

He reteirated that his Ministry had just finalized development of the Sustainable Waste Management Policy, Bill and E-waste strategy. The policy and bill will be soon tabled for approval by the Cabinet and Parliament. We have also finalized development of a stand-alone E-waste Regulations which will be signed into law soon. The E-waste Regulations stipulates that the EEE producers will be responsible for their waste through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. The government had also committed to provide incentives in e-waste management.

These documents buttress the need for sound e-waste management and roots for the development of extended producer responsibility schemes for all waste streams. The Ministry was also finalizing development of a stand-alone Regulations to operationalize the extended producer responsibility schemes. He invited all the original equipment manufacturers of EEE (Electronic and Electrical equipment) to initiate the development of Producer Responsibility Organizations to manage their EPR obligations.

The Cabinet Secretary also noted and appreciated several organizations in Kenya that worked extremely hard to ensure that the country sustainably manages its e-waste. He acknowledged organizations such as WEEE Centre, Simonet Kenya, Sintmund, EWIK and Safaricom PLC partnership with WEEE Centre. He urged all Kenyans to get in touch with these institutions since they are the only ones licensed by NEMA at the moment to handle e-waste. He also recognized other regional initiatives like: Enviroserve Rwanda, Chilambo Trading Company of Tanzania, GLICE of Burundi and NEMA (Uganda). He also thanked EACO for organizing the virtual celebration of the International e-waste day. Full speech is attached as **Annex V**

**2.0 PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 Key Note Address - *Formalizing the Informal Sector,* by Steve Chege, Chief Corporate Affairs Ofiicer, Safaricom PLC .**

Safaricom provided an elaborate plan the company has to train the informal sector and provide capacity to formalize their current e-waste management activities. He also reiterated the fact that they will continue with the EEE take-back schemes to assist in the collection of EEE which has reached their end-of-life.

The link for the audio presentation is found **here – link:** [**https://we.tl/t-CLRaVZQQrQ**](https://we.tl/t-CLRaVZQQrQ)

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**2.2: E-waste as a Resource and Management Initiatives**

The following panellists provided their presentations and gave their insights into the matter of e-waste management:

1. Mr Sebastian Frisch, Managing Director, Black Forest Solutions (Germany)
2. Mr Olivier Vanden Eynde, Managing Director, Close the Gap (Belgium)
3. Shaun Mamford, Enviroserve (Kenya)
4. GSMA (Ruweyda Stillhart)

Below are some of the presentations attached.



**3.0  Virtual Tour of E-Waste Initiatives and Facilities in East Africa.**

The following companies provided their e-waste initiatives in video presentations:-

1. Chilambo Trading Company (Tanzania), **Mr. Gideon Chilambo, Managing Director**
2. WEEE Centre (Kenya), **Dr. Tom Musili, Executive Director**
3. NEMA Uganda (National collection facility)(Uganda), **Nancy Allimadi**
4. EnviroServe (Rwanda), **Olivier Mbera**
5. Waste collection and recycling by E-waste Initiative Kenya (EWIK),

(Kenya), **Mr. Lawrence Thuo**

1. GLICE-Burundi (Burundi), **Mr. Roger Ouedraogo**

The videos are attached below.

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**4.0 Open  Discussions**

Discussions, questions and answers were handled in between the presentations.

**5.0 Recommendations**

* The Government to put in place necessary laws and regulations aimed at sustainable e-waste management
* The E-waste Stakeholders, especially private sector players should strive to explore business opportunitirs in E-waste by setting up recycling facilities
* Consumers/members of the public were urged to release EEE which has reached their end-of-life for recycling

**Closure**

The virtual event came to a close at 12.40 EAT with closing remarks from the Executive Secretary of EACO and Chairperson of WG7 who thanked all for participating in the event and also urged all to continue sharing knowledge on e-waste issues in different forums.

**Annex I**



**Annex II**



**Annex III**

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**Annex IV**



**Annex V**

