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| **The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group****for WTSA-20 (APT WTSA20-3)** | **APT WTSA20-3/****OUT-15** |
| 13-17 July 2020, Virtual Meeting | 17 July 2020 |

Chairman, WG3

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**Proposed modification TO WTSA-16 Resolution 79:**

**THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN HANDLING AND CONTROLLING E-WASTE FROM TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND METHODS OF TREATING IT**

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| **Abstract:** |  |

Effective coordination and cooperation among governments, businesses and all other stakeholders including ICT vendors in order to help protect the environment from e-waste is crucial. Certain edits to the Resolution are proposed in this document in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the colloboration and cooperation among administrations in order to reduce the impact of e-waste from ICT products on the environment. To strengthen the e-waste management policies, members states have been requested to take adequate legislative measures.

Introduction

Most of the re-cycled e-waste in many regions of the world is in unorganized units, which engage significant number of manpower. A suitable mechanism which includes small units in unorganized sector and large units in organized sector into a single value chain for effective e-waste management should be promoted.

In view of above, minor edits to Resolution 79 have been proposed in order to address and strengthen the legislative principles and procedures for prevention of environment and human health from e-waste, strengthening coordination and cooperation among authorized bodies.

Proposal

Certain light-touch revisions to sharpen the focus of this Resolution on the core issues impacting collaboration have been made. The edits suggest changes to current text that appears moot because of the changed technology environment and progress made since WTSA 2012. The proposal also streamlines existing references.

**Annex:**Proposed modification of Resolution 79

**Annex**

MOD

Resolution 79 (Hyderabad 2020)

The role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it

(Hyderabad 2020)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly ( Hyderabad 2020)),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 182 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICT) in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*b)* Resolution 66 (Buenos Aires 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on information and communication technology and climate change;

*c)* § 19 of the Hyderabad Declaration (2010), stating that the formulation and implementation of policies for proper disposal of e-waste are of great importance;

*d)* the Basel Convention (March, 1989) on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which characterizes certain wastes resulting from electrical and electronic assemblies as hazardous;

*e)* § 20 of Action Line C7 (E-environment) of the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003), calling for governments, civil society and the private sector to be encouraged to initiate actions and implement projects and programmes for sustainable production and consumption and the environmentally safe disposal and recycling of discarded hardware and components used in ICT;

*f)* the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, and the adoption by the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention of the Work Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste, focusing on the needs of developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1,

considering

*a)* that, owing to the progress in telecommunications and information technology, consumption of and demand for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) has been continuously increasing and this in turn has led to a marked increase in the amount of e-waste, which has had a negative impact on the environment and health, particularly in the developing countries;*b)* that ITU and relevant stakeholders (such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the Basel Convention) have a key role in strengthening coordination between interested parties to study the effects of e-waste;

*c)* Recommendation ITU-T L.1000 of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), on the universal power adapter and charger solution for mobile terminals and other handheld ICT devices, and Recommendation ITU-T L.1100, on the procedure for recycling rare metals in ICT goods,

recognizing

*a)* that governments have an important role to play in limiting e-waste by formulating appropriate strategies, policies and legislation;

b) that most of the e-waste from ICT sector, particularly obsolete user devices like mobile phones, end up in the informal sector without formal disposal procedures;

*c)* that telecommunications/ICT can make a major contribution to alleviating the impact of e-waste;

*d)* ongoing work and studies in ITU-T Study Group 5 under Question 7/5, on Circular economy including e-waste which deals with environmental protection and recycling of ICT equipment/facilities;

*e)* ongoing work and studies in Study Group 1 of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) under Question 24/1, on strategies and policies for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT waste material,

f) the urgent need for preparing necessary guide lines by administrations for environmentally-sound e-waste management policies that include inventorisation of e-waste, registration, grant and authorisation of recyclers, and channelization of e-waste by the governments;

recognizing further

*a)* that large quantities of used, old, obsolete and unserviceable telecommunication/ICT hardware and equipment are exported to developing countries for supposed reuse;

*b)* that many developing countries are suffering from severe environmental hazards, such as water pollution and health risks, one of the reasons of these being rapid obsolescence of ICT products,which is forcing consumers to discard old products and in turn accumulate huge e-waste, for which they may not be responsible,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, in collaboration with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to pursue and strengthen the development of ITU activities in regard to handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

2 to assist developing countries to undertake proper assessment of the size of e-waste;

3 to address the handling and controlling of e‑waste and to contribute to global efforts designed to deal with the increasing hazards which arise therefrom;

4 to work in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, including academia, manufacturers of ICT equipment, e-waste collectors, e-waste aggregators, authorized dismantlers, etc., and to coordinate activities relating to e-waste among the ITU study groups, focus groups and other relevant groups;

5 to organize seminars and workshops to enhance awareness of the hazards of e-waste and the methods of treating it, particularly in developing countries, and gauge the needs of the developing countries, which are the countries that suffer most from the hazards of e-waste,

instructs ITU-T Study Group 5, in collaboration with the relevant ITU study groups

1 to develop and document examples of best practice for handling and controlling e-waste resulting from telecommunications/ICT and methods of treating and recycling it, for dissemination among ITU Member States and Sector Members;

2 to develop Recommendations, methodologies and other publications relating to handling and controlling e-waste resulting from telecommunications/ICT and methods of treating it, within the relevant study groups, focus groups and other relevant groups in ITU, in order, in particular, to foster awareness of the environmental hazards of e-waste;

3 to study the impact of used telecommunication/ICT equipment and products brought into developing countries and give appropriate guidance, taking into account *recognizing further* above, to assist developing countries,

invites Member States

1 to take all necessary measures to handle and control e-waste in order to mitigate the hazards which can arise from used telecommunication/ICT equipment;

2 to cooperate with each other in this area;

3 to include e-waste management policies including their tracking, collection and disposal in their national ICT strategies and take adequate legislative measures in this regard.

encourages Member States, Sector Members and academia

to participate actively in ITU-T studies on e-waste, through the submission of contributions and by other appropriate means.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)