

StEP Task Force Policy - Terms of Reference (TOR)

1. Objectives

The overall aim of the Task Force is:

- To report and analyze on the status of existing approaches and particular policies for electronic waste and used electronics products and based on this explore recommendations for future developments to solve the e-waste problem.

Specific objectives should include:

- a) To analyze and evaluate national legislation and the international framework for controlling and enforcement of trade and enhancing recycling of electronic waste and used electronics products, in particular how the European WEEE, RoHS and EuP legislation, the Japanese Home Appliance Recycling Law, the Basel convention and other agreements on the national and international level achieve their aims with regard to recycling and the minimization of environmental impacts and contribute to sustainable development;
- b) To include in the analysis and evaluation also Green Purchasing Schemes with regard to e-waste in different countries and how they affect trade of electronic waste and used electronics products;
- c) To analyze and evaluate present approaches of industrializing regions like Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Southeast Asia (including China and India) attempting to channel the e-waste problem;
- d) To engage and link with different key actors in the field of e-waste, identify and characterize their political stances and set up dialogues on the requirements for policy developments to solve the global e-waste problem;
- e) To point out existing business models and to develop further business models to support the sustainable use of ICT (incl. used equipment) in industrializing countries;
- f) To recommend what new types of policy measure could be appropriate to overcome the identified short-comings of the existing situation, taking into account new policies like the Japanese 3Rs approach and the European thematic strategy on natural resources;
- g) To develop, in an iterative way, criteria for projects (formal project quality indicators as well as specific aspects related to sustainable development) that support solving the e-waste problem and check which projects are carried out in line with these criteria.

2. Ongoing or Planned Projects

Ongoing or planned activities of the Task Force are:

- Analysis of existing legal basis;
- Evaluation of European legislation (WEEE, RoHS, EuP);
- Comparative assessment of WEEE legislations & policies;

- Identification of „best practice“ of WEEE legislation;
- Analysis of the impact of national WEEE implementation concerning long-, mid- and long-term solution of the e-waste problem;
- Development of an annotatable online-database for WEEE legislation & policies;
- Evaluation of national and international legislation for controlling trade in waste/used electronics;
- Overview of existing voluntary initiatives on e-waste on the global level;
- Overview of de-materialization achievements in the ICT Sector;
- Legislative and political barriers to re-use.

3. Contact

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