WSIS Forum 2011: Open Consultations on Thematic Aspects and New Innovative Format

Review Meeting: Action Line C7 – e-Environment

Suggested topic: Environmentally safe disposal and recycling of discarded hardware and components used in ICTs

The interactive facilitation meeting on electronic waste (e-waste) at the WSIS Forum 2010 highlighted that uncontrolled dumping of obsolete e-products and material recovery processes without adequate protective measures have resulted in environmental pollution while exposing millions of people to toxic substances and emissions. The technology for environmentally sound dismantling and disposal of e-waste exists, but it has to be linked to the product life-cycle to become economically viable.

A thematic workshop on environmentally sound management of e-waste could focus on the question how efforts to bridge the digital divide can follow the life-cycle approach to avoid problems for the health of workers and the general public as well as for the environment.

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