Project "Environmentally sound management of lead acid battery waste and electronic waste, in the Latin American region" - Development of a roadmap document for the environmentally sound management of mobile phones and computer equipment

1. Proposal

This report is developed within the framework of the Project "Environmentally sound management of lead acid battery waste and electronic waste, in the Latin American region", and contains a proposal of seven steps towards environmentally sound management (ESM).

To identify the steps, the *"Manual on steps to establish and implement environmentally sound management for used and waste computer equipment"* prepared by the Partnership for Action on Computer Equipment (PACE) was used as a reference.

Considering that the project includes among its objectives the development of a roadmap document for the environmentally sound management of used mobile phones and computer equipment; modifications were made to the order of the steps, also including new steps aimed at monitoring compliance with the activities.

2- Description of the proposed steps:

Step 1- Collect existing information (obtain an overview of the country's situation):

- Identify available policy and regulation/legislation tools and instruments.
- Identify national laws regarding exports, imports and transits of used mobile phones and computer equipment.
- Identify decisions adopted at the international level related to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, in particular for the distinction of hazardous and non-hazardous waste/waste.
- Identify all actors and stakeholders.
- Provide a detail of types of waste from mobile phones and computer equipment in the national market.
- Identify the composition and concentration of chemicals and hazardous substances in order to identify hazardous and non-hazardous waste/waste streams.
- Prepare inventories or volume estimates (by type of waste and by year).
- Identify existing infrastructure for waste management of mobile phones and computer equipment.
- Determine the sources of waste from mobile phones and computer equipment.
- Provide a breakdown of possible trends in the consumption and disposal of waste from mobile phones and computer equipment.
- Survey environmentally sound management (ESM) schemes from other countries that may be applicable.

Step 2- Assess current realities at the national level:

- Survey sales mechanisms, available collection programs and transportation.
- Identify the characteristics of the tasks performed at each stage of the value chain.
- Compile information on the environmentally sound management (ESM) capacity (storage/ transport/ dismantling/ recovery/ valuation /recycling/ treatment/ final disposal) available at the national level.
- Identify health and safety requirements.
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- Identify the existence of public education and awareness campaigns associated with the risks of waste from mobile phones and computer equipment (aimed at both the industrial sector and the entire population).
- Search information about the consolidation state of informal activity.

Step 3- Identify gaps and needs (between existing realities and national needs):

- Reveal the different challenges that exist at the national level (should emerge from the initial information collection tasks).
- Identify necessary activities that should be implemented to achieve environmentally sound management (ESM).

Step 4- Identify the responsibilities and opportunities for the different actors linked to the sector:

- Identify actors responsible for storage/ transport/ dismantling/ recovery/ valuation/ recycling/ treatment/ final disposal of waste mobile phones and computer equipment; inspection and monitoring authorities; business chambers; civil associations, governmental and intergovernmental organizations; academic sector; informal sector.
- Identify environmental responsibilities of actors who carry out storage/transport/dismantling/recovery/valuation/recycling/treatment/final disposal activities. For example: carry out environmental assessments (soil, air and water assessments; environmental impact studies; strategic and risk assessments).
- Promote and establish dialogue and spaces for joint decision-making between different actors through commissions, committees, periodic meetings, programs and projects; among others.

Step 5- Prioritize the needs and define the regulatory approach including the financial scheme for the internalization of the costs of environmentally sound management, defining the producer responsibility system (EPR and other approaches).

- Define financing systems that support the environmentally sound management (ESM) of waste from mobile phones and computer equipment (for example: implementation of government incentives, extended producer responsibility, shared producer responsibility and other approaches).
- Establish reverse collection systems that consider the progressive formalization of informal sectors (if they exist).

Step 6- Implementation of activities.

- Establish a national action plan that proposes an environmentally sound scheme for collection, storage, transportation and shipping (that can be used at the national level) including, if possible, a national strategy with objectives, targets and indicators.
- Disseminate the environmentally sound management (ESM) scheme for waste mobile phones and computer equipment to the sectors involved; opening the possibility (within pre-established exchange spaces) of receiving suggestions, comments, opportunities for improvement, optimization, etc.
- Develop, if necessary, complementary regulations/regulations that accompany this scheme.

Step 7- Monitor compliance and adjust:

- Establish traceability systems (Qr, Labeling, Electronic Passport, etc.)
- Train technical and administrative personnel (both from the regulated sectors and the competent authorities) for environmental control and monitoring tasks.