

Agenda item: PL 1.2

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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM CAMEROON – THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN REGARD TO
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from **Cameroon**.

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURÉ
Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM CAMEROON

THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN REGARD TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1 Background

ITU has been carrying out activities in the field of climate change for over ten years, and has made this matter an absolute priority and developed strategies to reduce the impact of information and communication technologies on the environment. It is within this perspective that the Union has undertaken a series of activities on the following topics:

- climate monitoring;
- climate-change mitigation;
- adaptation to climate change;
- capacity building, knowledge sharing and awareness raising;
- protection of the environment by treating e-waste.

Regarding this last item above, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, at its session held in Dubai in 2012, adopted Resolution 79 on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it.

With this resolution, the Assembly recognizes "*that large quantities of used, old, obsolete and unserviceable telecommunication/ICT hardware and equipment are exported to developing countries for supposed reuse*".

2 The issue

Resolution 79 deals only with the dispatch of used telecommunication/ICT equipment and products to the developing countries, and fails to take account of waste from other sources such as efforts to ensure the interoperability of networks, which generates the purchase of new equipment and increases the quantity of e-waste.

Moreover, ITU is currently piloting the transition from analogue to digital television, which will result in a significant increase in the quantity of e-waste in all countries of the world, and in the developing countries in particular.

As Cameroon is one of those countries for which the treatment of e-waste is still at the embryonic, artisan stage, this situation will inevitably have a major impact on its environment if no measures are taken.

3 Proposal

Cameroon proposes that the Council ensure the effective implementation of the measures taken for the treatment of e-waste and protection of the environment.