**Contribution from the United States of America to the International Telecommunication Union Council Working Group on Child Online Protection**

**Introduction**

The United States looks forward to participating in the upcoming meeting of the ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), which will take place on September 30, 2015 in Geneva. The CWG-COP continues to serve the ITU membership as a place to exchange views and promote work on this very important topic. We appreciate the ITU’s ongoing efforts to make the CWG-COP more inclusive, including the decision from the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference to make all output documents related to child online protection publicly accessible, without password protection, and the efforts made to hold an online consultation for youth prior to its meeting. The United States has reviewed the draft agenda for this meeting and looks forward to the discussion. We propose that the document, *Setting Global Targets on child online protection: towards a result based approach*, be added to the agenda of the September 30th meeting as a topic of discussion.

**Discussion**

The document *Setting Global Targets on child online protection: towards a result based approach* was circulated by the BDT to all COP Partners for review and comment on August 4, 2015, with a response deadline of August 31, 2015. The United States took part in the review and submitted feedback that we hope will be taken into account in the final document. In our review, we identified many areas that we believe would benefit from additional conversation among the members of the CWG-COP. As Resolution 179 (Busan 2014) states, the CWG-COP’s role is to facilitate membership input and guidance on the ITU’s role in child online protection. To fulfill this mandate, the CWG-COP should play a central role in informing and shaping these global targets.

To ensure all members of the working group and Member States benefit from the Partners expertise, the United States requests that the BDT make available the raw feedback that was submitted on the global targets document and that the chairman CWG-COP allow for discussion of its content. The United States appreciates the work that went into compiling the global targets document; the contribution of ITU staff resources to support this compilation is greatly appreciated. However, it is important to assess the next steps and to ensure that the scope of work is within what the ITU and the CWG-COP has the capacity and mandate to address. In reviewing Resolution 179 (Busan 2014), Council Resolution 1306, and Resolution 67 (Dubai 2014), we believe that this framework should focus on raising awareness, promoting best practices, and contributing to the existing body of knowledge (like the INTERPOL and UNICEF databases, for example).  We believe that some of the issues that the framework is trying to address—particularly the law enforcement issues—raise scope questions and would be very difficult for the CWG to measure or make progress on and therefore suggest a more targeted focus.

The United States would also like to better understand the proposed relationship between the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development and these global targets.

**Conclusion**

The United States appreciate the BDT’s willingness to solicit feedback on the *Global Targets* document. We believe that the document would benefit from additional discussion at the September 30th CWG-COP session. We recommend that discussion focus on both the feedback received from the initial consultation as well as overall scope of the global targets document. We also acknowledge and agree that ensuring a safe and productive experience online is a shared commitment among the UN family and the public and private sector.