Connecting the world responsibly

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ITU and WSIS
Multi-stakeholder policy forums

Action Line C10 of WSIS

The ethical dimension of the Internet society

All actors in the Information Society should promote the common good, protect privacy and personal data and take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of ICTs such as illegal and other acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, hatred, violence, **all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings**

ITU and COP

- ITU has taken great strides in advancing the cause of protection of children online
- Efforts to bridge the different practices and bring best practices together
- Sharing of initiatives and learning from each other
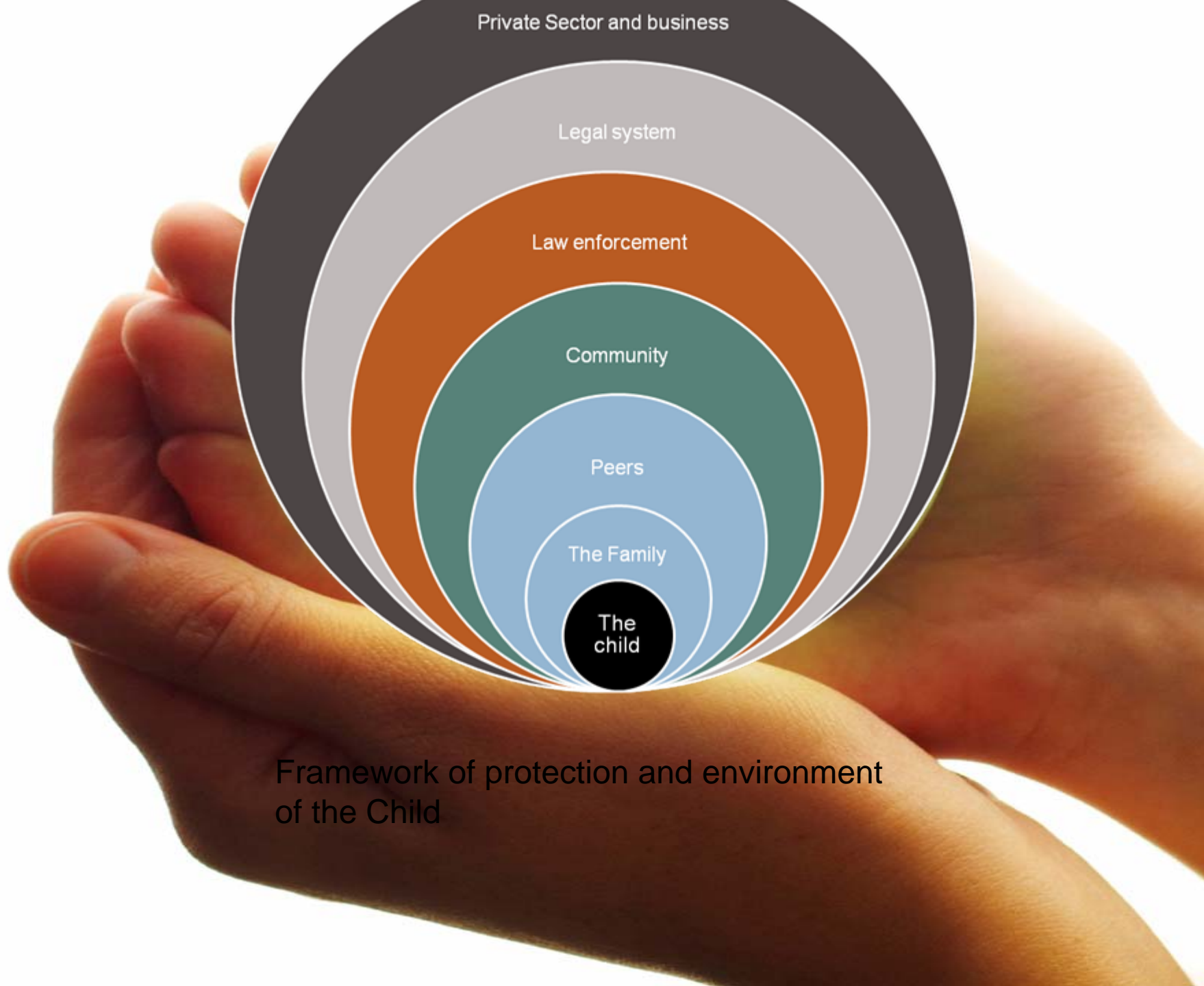
Concepts of child online protection
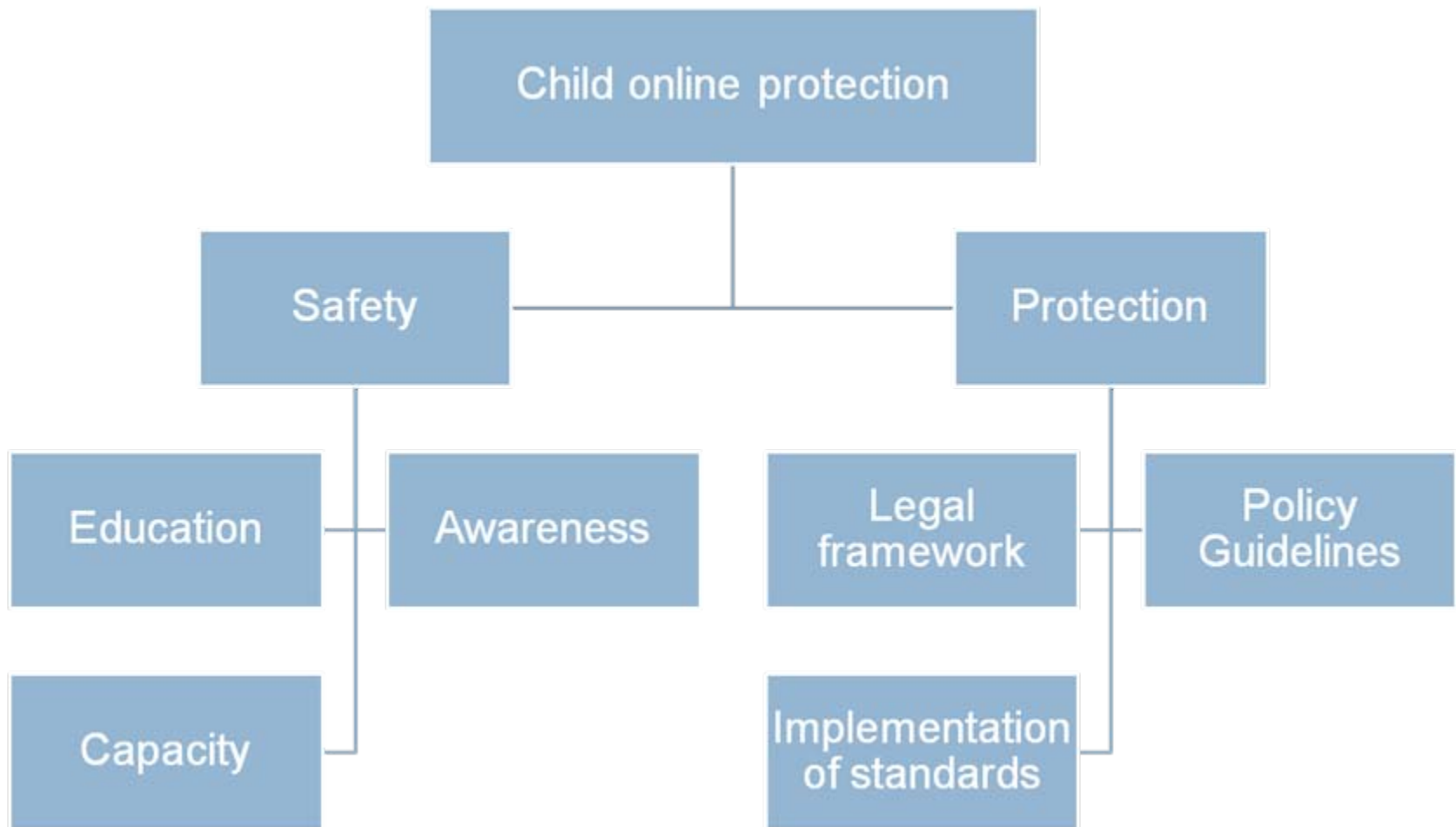
Internet safety issues

What do we need to look at?

Framework of Rights of the Child: Bringing the child in focus.

- Prevention
- Protection
- Care and protection services
- Research
- Legal framework
- Corporate social responsibility

Framework of protection and environment of the Child
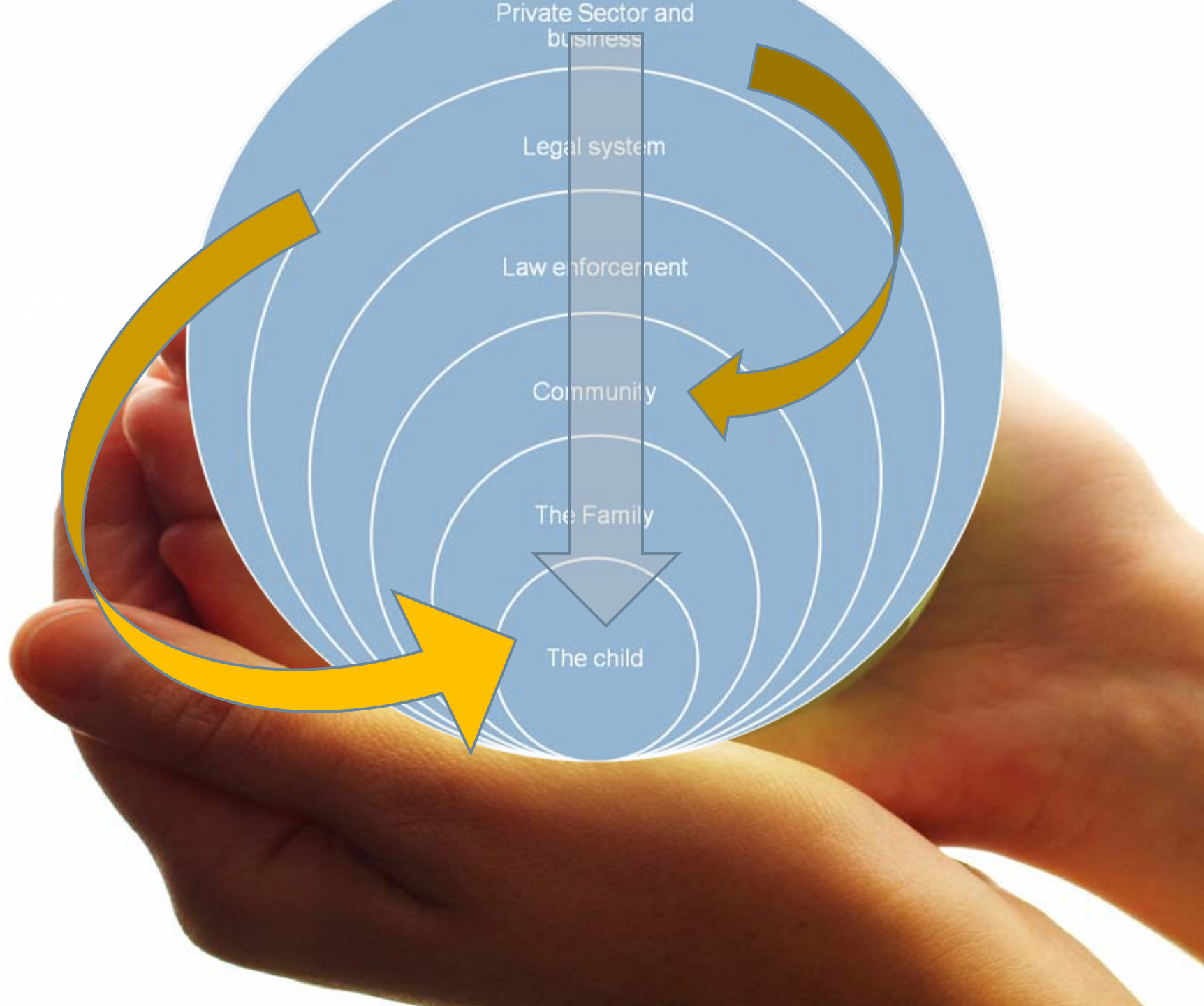
How well prepared are we to safeguard the rights of children in this changing virtual space?

- Public education and awareness
- Legislation
- Law enforcement
- Social service and support
- Knowledge building
- Youth participation
- Industry policy and technological response

Prevention

Education and Awareness programs

- E-safety curriculum in schools

  Well grounded resource materials

  - To be developed in consultation process with the young people so it has acceptability and is based on reality.

- Training of teachers and parents

  - Getting them to know the issues better
  - Empower the children

- Community awareness

  - Role of ICT providers such as cybercafes
  - Media, Campaigns

Policy and implementation

- Family settings
- School settings
- Community settings (such as Internet Cafes)

Children and youth as ambassadors of ICT

- This group constitutes a big section of users of ICT enabled applications and services
- It is their right to be protected from exploitation in this space that is apparently virtual but with real consequences

Young people and ICT

- The access to ICT for young people is growing everyday.
- Mobile phones play an increasingly important role in the life of a child.
- The transactions of child abuse images is a hugely profitable business
- Children are also being harassed online and some of them had committed suicide

Changing forms of web enabled services

- Power to create
- Power to share
- Power to reinvent oneself
- Power of communications

Internet applications Appealing to young generation

- Social networks
- Blogging websites
- Online games
- File sharing activities

HOW CHILDREN BECOME VULNERABLE TO HARM IN CYBER SPACE

- Harm against children through cyberspace-generated actions and ideas may be intentional or inadvertent.

- In both instances the harm experienced is real in its immediate or potential impact on the child

- It affects the child individually and collectively.

Some distinct risks to children in cyberspace

- Commercial transactions involving child abuse images
- Access to inappropriate content such as pornography, hate sites, sites encouraging suicides, etc
- Access to adults intent in exploiting a child
- Cyber bullying and harassment
- Young people exhibiting inappropriate behaviour towards other young people (even consumption of child abuse materials and online virtual sex etc.)
- Circulation of compromised images through various online channels (social networks , mms etc)

Some issues with child protection online

- Lack of adequate law criminalising all forms of child pornography
- Inconsistent practices in the use of ICT
- Lack of clear understanding related to exploitation and vulnerabilities of a child online

Child pornography and Freedom of Expression

- Freedom of expression is not an absolute right.

- The interest of protecting children from sexual exploitation can and should take precedence.

- Defenses based on freedom of expression must be narrowly defined.

Violence against children in cyberspace

All actions related to depictions of child sexual abuse (child pornography):

- ☐ Production
- ☐ Distribution
- ☐ Accessing
- ☐ Downloading
- ☐ Possession
- ☐ Incitement to abuse and trade

Facilitated by new technologies

- Higher bandwidth and higher compression techniques
- Encryption and anonymisation of data
- Better ways of hiding data, such as remote image storage
- Unauthorized access by mobile WiFi clients
- Botmalware allowing remote control
- Prepaid and smart cards reducing traceability of payment
- Increased use of distributed peer2peer networks

- Violence perpetrated against children in Cyberspace is a global issue
- We have learnt from our researches around the world that no children is out of harms ways when it comes to using ICTs even if they have minimal access to it.

Case examples:

Adaptive policy making

- Different regions and countries have different local needs
- Existence of different cultural norms and practices

-Nothing must violate the rights of the child

We spend millions of dollars on securing and saving our national assets – how much attention do we pay in protecting children –our biggest assets

Services vary from country to country

Examples of some grass root initiatives that compliment policy making

- Make –IT-Safe campaign
    - In some western African countries
    - In the Philippines
    - In Thailand

Campaigner training the café owner

Make-IT-safe in Philippines

Some food for thought

- Do we do enough to protect our children?

- Are the services offered by the ICT industry cognizant of the needs of the child and is enough being done to make those services safer for children?

- What role does the government and the ICT sector play to actively promote online safety and at the same time take measures to ensure protection of children and young people?

For example:

- How easy it is for a parent to subscribe to a clean Internet service? Are parents even made aware of the risks and dangers that their children may be exposed to while using online technologies?

- Is reporting to an Internet hotline or care services an integral part of the online services that is currently being provided? Is there a national guideline currently present in this regard?

- How well prepared are the special cyber-crime units in the law enforcement to deal with child abuse images? What is the nature of collaboration with the International law enforcement in terms of sharing information related to

- What are the different strategies adopted by the government to combat the misuse of ICTs not only for the safeguarding national security and fight economic crimes but also to safeguard the rights of the child

Policy-making

- National plans of action a priority
- Regulation: government & industry
- Global industry standards
- Mechanism to monitor standards
- Development planning & impact assessments

Legal reforms and harmonisation of International laws

Key elements of a good law against child pornography

- Protection of **children under 18 years of age**.

- Criminalises production, distribution and simple possession.

- Criminalizes simulated and virtual child pornography (pseudo-pornography).

- Strong penalties reflecting the severity of the offence.

- Has extraterritorial jurisdiction

Criminalising possession

- Viewing child pornography is sexual abuse in itself.

- The <u>demand</u> for these images continues to fuel production of child pornography.

- Tool to "groom" children for sexual abuse.

- Link to actual sexual abuse of children.

Some International Initiatives
How many of them relate to you?

- Virtual global taskforce
- Financial coalition against child pornography
- International hotline network
- Websites that has online safety resources for young people and parents
- Dynamic coalition at the Internet governance forum on Child Online Safety

Existing challenges

- Differentiation of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children in online settings
- Understanding the relationship between commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation online
- Lack of critical understanding of the harms posed by the new technologies
- Lack of training, expertise and capacity to investigate such crimes against children, to protect them from harm and assist in their recovery.

Some of the ECPATs work in different regions

ASIA

- Legislations against child pornography in Japan
- Signing of the code of conduct for cybercafes in the Philippines
- Gaming restriction in cybercafes in Thailand.

EUROPE

- Hotlines working in collaboration with Law enforcement
- Working with the financial institutes to stop payment for commercial transactions of child abuse images

Some of the ECPATs work in different regions (Contd.)

- Research on use of ICT among young people
  - Argentina: Study on the impact of internet on young people
  - Literature review of the situation of child abuse images in the CIS region
  - Training conducted on Internet safety in schools in Ukraine and Russia.
- Online course for teachers on Internet safety in Latin America

Some of the ECPATs work in different regions (Contd.)

- Africa
  - Working with cybercafes and schools on Make-IT-Safe campaign.
  - Distribution of posters, brochures, stickers through young people targeting cybercafes who act as the main gateway to the Internet for most part.

Findings

- Consultative process with children works very well for developing materials on E-safety
- Using peer education to effectively reach children
- Adapt the guidelines and standards according to the region specific needs
- Include all the relevant duty-bearers in designing e-safety programmes for young people

Recommendations

- Adapt local interventions depending on local needs

- Conduct further educational campaigns and evaluate their impact on behaviour

- Prioritise victim identification and support

- Work with children and young people to determine factors that protect and promote resilience

- Amend existing legislation to clear definitions of all sexually abusive and exploitative behaviour and materials related to the new technologies.

Thank you for your attention

ECPAT International

A global network of organisations working to fight against all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children