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| **Council 2017Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.6** | **Document C17/15-E** |
| **14 March 2017** |
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| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection |
| OUTCOME OF THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION |

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| SummaryThis report summarizes the main results of the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection, held on 10 October 2016 and on 2 February 2017, in accordance with ITU Council Resolution 1306 and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Rev. Busan, 2014).Action requiredThe Council is invited **to note** the report.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*Resolution 179 (Rev. Busan, 2014*)](http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/conf/S-CONF-ACTF-2014-PDF-E.pdf)[*Council Resolution 1306*](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0109/en) |

**1. Introduction**

The 12th meeting of CWG-COP was held on 10 October 2016, and the 13th meeting was held on 2 February 2017 at the ITU headquarters in Geneva. In both meetings, approximately 100 participants, representing governments, private sector, civil society, academia, international and intergovernmental organizations, participated both physically and remotely in the meeting, as the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection is open to all relevant stakeholders.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The respective agendas were adopted as drafted both in the 12th and 13th meetings.

**3. Welcoming remarks**

Mr Malcolm Johnson, the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU, opened the 12th meeting on behalf of the Secretary-General. Mr Johnson emphasized the importance of Child Online Protection as it is considered as a top priority for many stakeholders, and recalled that the meetings of CWG-COP serve as an important platform that brings together relevant stakeholders from different levels (national, regional and international) in discussing policies and programs related to COP.

The 13th meeting was also opened by Mr Johnson. He underlined the huge number of minors surfing online (1/3 of all the users globally) and the rapid expansion of child sexual abuse offences linked to the development of new technologies. Mr Johnson emphasized the commitment of ITU to ensure online safety for children by working closely with its Member States and partners.

**4. Contributions**

4.1 At these meetings, the Group received many contributions from Member States and from other stakeholders. The contributions are available on the CWG-COP website at: <http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Pages/default.aspx>

**5. Discussions**

5.1 During the 12th meeting, various contributions were discussed. The ITU secretariat gave an update on the ITU COP initiatives, including the updates on the [online consultation with youth on Cyberbullying](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Documents/edit_CWG-COP_online_youth_consultation_Operation_Uncool_ITU.pptx), which was done in partnership with Re-Rights. A demonstration of the platform and lessons learned during the consultation were highlighted, given the low participation rate from the youth (about 20 responses). The presentation was followed by lively discussions among participants. The Chair emphasized the significance of engaging more partners, and suggested carrying out this consultation in relevant events (as a side activity for instance) instead of treating it as an isolated project.

5.2 The ITU-T [Joint Coordination Activity on Child Online Protection (JCA-COP)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Documents/sp15-jca-cop-oLS-00010.docx) Report was presented, and the Chair highlighted the need to link closely the work of the two groups (JCA COP and CWG-COP) to complement each other’s scopes.

5.3 The following Member States and stakeholders presented their contributions: INSAFE, Rwanda, the Russian Federation, and Argentina.

5.4 The representative from Child Helpline International shared a video campaign (launched in November 2016), highlighting the risks faced by children in the digital age, and the important role of child helplines in supporting children. In this regard, the ITU and Child Helpline International joint campaign “[Partnering to Protect Children and Youth](http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/consultation-may2016.aspx)” was highlighted, and members of the CWG-COP were encouraged to contribute. Participants were also informed of the case studies to be presented on 15 November 2016 at [ITU Telecom World 2016](http://telecomworld.itu.int/), in Bangkok, Thailand.

5.5 During the 13th meeting, following the report of the ITU secretariat on progress made by the COP initiative, the Group discussed about the [outcomes](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Documents/CWG-COP_online_youth_consultation_Operation_Uncool_01Feb.pptx) of the Youth Online Consultation presented by the secretariat in coordination with the Re-Rights platform. The first results were very positive, and numerous partners got engaged and participated in the consultation. The CWG-COP members chose a new topic for the next online consultation. The Chair encouraged Member States to be actively involved in the campaign, by encouraging local NGOs and schools to be included in this effort.

5.6 The representative from Child Helpline International presented the ITU-CHI [joint campaign](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Documents/FinalCampaignPresentation.pptx) on Partnering to Protect Children. The collaboration between ITU members and helplines was emphasized. The speaker presented the selected case studies received from the online consultation launched in May 2016, the final results of which were then presented during the ITU Telecom World 2016, and new ways to develop the child helpline services were shared with the participants. The CWG-COP members welcomed the campaign and the chair encouraged the secretariat to continue this effort in order to progress towards SDG 17.

5.7 Many contributions from Member States and other stakeholders were received. Trend Micro, DQ World, the Russian Federation, ONAT and Argentina presented their projects and measures to ensure online safety for children.

**6. Outcomes of the 12th and 13th meetings of the CWG-COP**

6.1 The main outcomes of the 12th meeting were:

a) The Group appreciated the suggestion of involving organizations such as European Union and Council of Europe, among others, as a way to bridge the gaps and harmonize actions at the national, regional and international levels.

b) In this regard, it was suggested that the regional organizations be invited to attend future meetings.

c) It was also recommended to explore ways to have age verification as a work item for the JCA COP. The secretariat will brainstorm on how to inform the JCA COP about this recommendation.

d) In relation to the Youth Online Consultation, the Group agreed on the following:

• Continue to focus on the topic of cyberbullying because the current sample is small.

• Conduct the consultation possibly in the six languages of the UN with the support of Member States, ITU regional offices and partners to extend the outreach of the consultation.

• The results of the consultation will be presented in the 13th CWG-COP meeting.

6.2 The main outcomes of the 13th meeting were:

a) In relation to the outcomes of the online consultation, the Group agreed that the topic of the next consultation will be around digital skills and empowerment - the secretariat will work on the exact wording.

b) It was encouraged to involve the regional offices as well as schools and other local entities to have more successful results and outcomes.

c) Finally, it was encouraged to involve other relevant entities such as IEEE to understand areas of possible collaboration, such as developing standards.

Dr Sherif Hashem (Arab Republic of Egypt)

Chairman, CWG-COP

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