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| **Council Working Group on  Child Online Protection**  **Fourteenth meeting – Geneva, 23 January 2018** |  |
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| **23 January 2018** |
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**Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group   
on Child Online Protection**

OUTCOME OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the fourteenth meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), held on 23 January 2018, in accordance with ITU 2010 Council Resolution 1306 and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Rev. Busan, 2014). |

# **1 Introduction**

1.1 The fourteenth meeting of CWG-COP was held on 23 January 2018 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva. Approximately 50 participants, representing governments, private sector, civil society, academia, international and intergovernmental organizations, participated both physically and remotely in the meeting, which was chaired by Mr Ibrahim Al Dabal (UAE).

# **2 Welcoming remarks**

2.1 The Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr. Malcom Johnson opened the meeting: he welcomed all the participants in the room and those online. He stated that the matter of child online protection was high on the political agenda and therefore it was important for all stakeholders to pull together their resources and help each other in addressing this issue. He also expressed how pleased he was about the active participants and contributions and hoped that this meeting would have a significant outcome. The Deputy Secretary-General encouraged suggestions on ways to make the council working group more active and productive and wished all a productive meeting.

2.2 The Chairman welcomed the participants and thanked the Deputy Secretary-General for his presence and support. He expressed his pride in being the new chair of this council. He emphasised on how each child now is isolated and can have independent access to the internet and is therefore vulnerable to all sorts of dangers, not just sexual. It was therefore an honor for all stakeholders and participants to have the opportunity to do something for children’s future and to protect children’s lives.

2.3 The Chairman also presented the idea of giving an identity to the group – he presented the [logo](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/PublishingImages/Pages/Fourtheenth/1%D9%A1%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A9%20%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%82%D9%84%20%D9%85%D9%86%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%86%D8%AA.pdf) and requested participants to give inputs on the proposal.

**3 Adoption of the agenda**

3.1 The [Agenda](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0001) was adopted as drafted.

# **4 Information reports**

* 1. The following documents were presented by the ITU Secretariat:
* [WG-CP/14/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0002): Update on the ITU Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative
* [WG-CP/14/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0010/en): Contribution from BDT: Actions taken by BDT on Child Online Protection

# **5 Contributions**

There were 10 contributions from different stakeholders.

* [CWG-COP-14/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0003/en): Proposal on revision of the Resolution 179 (Rev. Busan, 2014): ITU’s role in child online protection from Russia, Armenia, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan
* [CWG-COP-14/4R1](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0004/en): Contribution from **Argentina**
* [CWG-COP-14/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0005/en): Contribution from UK Safer Internet Centre: *Aqdar eSafe School programme (UAE)*
* [CWG-COP-14/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0006/en): Contribution from Internet Watch Foundation
* [CWG-COP-14/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0007/en): Contribution from Egypt: *National Committee for Child Online Protection*
* [CWG-COP-14/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0008/en): Contribution from Poland on the Educational Campaign *“I click sensibly”*
* [WG-CP/15/](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0009/en)9: Contribution UAE: *Promoting children’s rights in a digital world*
* [WG-CP/15/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0011/en): Contribution from UNICEF
* [WG-COP-14/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0012/en) Contribution from INHOPE Foundation
* [WG-CP/14-13](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0013/en): Updates on the results of the Online Consultation on Digital literacy from RErights

# **Discussions**

* 1. Following the adoption of the agenda, the representative from the UAE [presented](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0009/en) the UAEs activities related to promoting children’s right in a digital world.
  2. ITU Secretariat gave an oral [update](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0002) on the ITU COP’s initiatives, activities, projects, and partnerships related to COP.
  3. The delegate from the UAE then proceeded to enquire on whether there existed a link on the ITU website which had a repository of specific country case studies that could be used for reference later, as well as whether there was a mechanism for reporting regional activities. He further expressed that when organisations are doing their trainings and initiatives it would be helpful if they were aware of what is already out there.
  4. The representative from ITU’s BDT made a [presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0010/en) on BDT’s Child Online Protection activities.
  5. The representative from UK Safer Internet Center [presented](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0005/en) their campaign to promote child online safety in schools. He also presented three research reports done and emphasied the need to develop school safeguarding policies as well as provide outstanding online safety education for all. He further explained how the initiative adapted itself to the UAE context; to its education, culture, language and legislation.
  6. In addition, as requested by Resolution 179, the results of the youth online consultation on digital literacy were [presented](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S18-CLCWGCOP14-C&source=RErights) by the representative from RErights. The results indicated that the most common technological trends were Social media and the Internet of Things. The survey also found that the key challenges impacting children’s literacy were: unequal ICT access, the digital divide and online safety risks. Also critical was the digital literacy of parents and teachers as well as fostering children’s critical thinking and evaluation skills. Main barriers to children’s digital literacy were limited digital literacy of teachers and inadequate access to devices. Most respondents do not think that current strategies are effectively supporting children’s digital literacy. The recommendations coming out from the consultations are: 1. to engage in multi-stakeholder approaches; 2. promotion of investment in infrastructure; 3. affordability and access; development of a digital literacy framework; 4. activation of policy tools; focus on girls and young women; 5. to encourage children to think of their digital futures. At this stage, the Chair stated his agreement and mentioned the importance of not working insolation on such matters.
  7. The representative of the ITU secretariat proceeded to elaborate on the online consultation, stating that it was a requirement before any such Council Working Group meeting. The representative also stated the importance of getting the voice of the youth and therefore the ITU partnered with a key organisation working with young children.
  8. The representative from the Safer Internet Center confirmed that the point on the need to improve the capabilities of teachers is actually crucial. He further pointed to the fact that staff training is consistently a weak part of the education curriculum as schools spend a lot more time in the UK training parents and not members of staff.
  9. The [contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0006/en) from the Internet Watch Foundation focused on eliminating child sexual abuse imagery online. The organization functions as the UKs hotline service for analysing child sexual abuse imagery online, and has campaigns including tackling the sexual behaviours of young men online. IWF establishes a reporting portal and works to equip resource poor countries and territories with a simple solution for reporting child sexual abuse imagery online. The representative mentioned the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to implementation of these portals and then requested participants to engage him later in order to exchange information on how to set up the portals.
  10. The representative from Egypt [presented](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0007/en) the activities of Egypt’s National Committee for Child online protection in the last two years. The major events were the ITU Regional Workshop- COP Regional strategy (2015), the Safer Internet Day in Beheira Governorate (2016) and the Safer Internet Day in Port-Said Governorate (2017). The delegate stated that one major challenge they faces was in bringing on board more NGOs. Another difficulty was in the fact that those NGOs willing to partner tended not focus solely on child online safety. The committee encourages these NGOs to include the element of child online protection into their programmes.
  11. The delegation from the Russian Federation presented the proposal on the revision on the Resolution 179 (Rev. Busan, 2014). The contribution was submitted by the Russian Federation, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus and Kyrgyz Republic.
  12. The [contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0008/en) from UKE in Poland focused on the educational campaign “I click sensibly”, which targets primary school pupils, parents and teachers. Children are taught how to use devices such as smartphones, how to deal with cyberbullying and how to protect their personal information. They are as well taught how to use new technologies. The campaign involved 41,000 children in Poland 2017 and targets 300,000 by the year 2021.
  13. The representative from INHOPE, after [providing](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0012/en) a definition on Child sexual abuse material, stated that their work starts when a child has already been abused. The organization counts on several networks which are distributed globally. The organization has a system called ICCAM which allows hotlines to receive, assess and send reports to Interpol for intervention. It also immediately identifies previously released materials, but tends to focus on providing very new evidence so as to save lives. INHOPE contributes to NCMEC, the largest database of online child abuses. The representative stated that more and more reports of abuse of younger and younger children (infant abuse) were emerging and stressed the importance of creating networks of advocacy and awareness, especially in less development countries.
  14. After the lunch break, the delegate from Argentina [highlighted](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0004/en) the country’s efforts to raise awareness of the dangers of verbal and psychological bullying and cyberbullying. They have had several seminars on cyberbullying. The representative also explained the #TodosSomosUnicos APP Competition and highlighted the results of the competition.
  15. The representative from UNICEF [stated](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CLCWGCOP14-C-0011/en) the need to ensure that the internet is not used to exploit children. The representative also stated that UNICEF recognizes that much needs to be done, especially for those living in marginalized communities. The representative proceeded to explain the key themes of UNICEF’s discussion paper series which were: privacy and data collection, freedom of expression, access to information and participation, as well as access to internet. UNICEF has established an internet working group to discuss the best approaches to protecting children’s rights to online privacy and free expression. This is a UNICEF-led platform for companies and experts. A toolkit on this is to be release in March 2018.

# **Outcomes of the fourteenth meeting of the CWG-COP**

7.1 Participants agreed to send the comments on the logo to the secretariat via email.

7.2 The participants agreed on the need to have an online repository of country efforts. The Secretariat will discuss possible options in agreement with the Chair of the Group.

7.3 The Chair encouraged to provide guidance and ideas on how to improve the number of responses from young people.

7.4 The Chair recommended more involvement and participation of the stakeholders at the meetings as this is a unique platform for information sharing and lessons learned.

7.5 A proposal was put forward requesting that the ITU set up a link on its website that showed case studies or gathered best practices to which stakeholders could refer to when needed.

**Ibrahim Al Dabal (UAE)  
Chair, CWG-COP**