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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.5** | **Document C19/103-E** |
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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND  THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA  Updating the child online protection guidelines | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Houlin ZHAO

Secretary-General

Contribution from the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Updating the child online protection guidelines

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| Summary  This document provides an overview of ITU efforts on Child Online Protection including the guidelines that were developed couple of years ago, and the safe listening initiative.  Action required  To request BDT to update the guidelines to include challenges related to new technologies, including the “Safe Listening” topic.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-179-E.pdf), [Council Resolution 1306 (MOD 2015)](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0109/en), and [WTDC Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_final_report_en.pdf), [ITU-T H.870](https://www.itu.int/ITU-T/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=13686) |

**Introduction**

The ITU plays a key role in protecting children online. Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), Council Resolution 1306 (Mod. 2015), and WTDC Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) clearly show how ITU is committed to protect children from risks related to their usage of ICT. ITU launched the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative in 2008 to bring together partners from around the globe with the aim of creating a safer online environment and experience for the children. This initiative resulted in four international guidelines being created on child online protection that are directed to children, parents & educators, industry, and policy makers, most of which are in the six official languages.

**Discussion**

Technology advanced enormously during the last decade. People were introduced to new technologies like augmented and virtual reality, and some of the other new ones become common like drones. These technologies and services brought to the world many opportunities and risks as well for adults and children alike. While the COP guidelines developed by ITU are comprehensive, only the guidelines for children and parents were last updated in 2016, and in English only, whereas the other languages as well as the guidelines for industry and policy makers are dated at 2009. With the challenges that came with the new technologies and services, we believe that the guidelines should be updated to capture those challenges, in all six languages.

In addition to the technologies mentioned above, one of the challenges that could be included is the risk of hearing loss due to the unsafe listening practices. The increasing accessibility to smart devices by children and the long time they spend listening to music or watching videos at a high volume poses a physical risk on children, that is hearing loss. The WHO estimates that this risk could affect over one billion young people worldwide. In an effort to counter this, the ITU, in close collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO), developed a new recommendation “Guidelines for safe listening devices/systems”, [H.870](https://www.itu.int/ITU-T/recommendations/rec.aspx?rec=13686), that “describes requirements on safe-listening devices and systems, called personal/portable audio systems, especially those for playing music, to protect people from hearing loss”.

**Proposal**

The UAE and Saudi Arabia propose that the Council requests the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to update the child online protection guidelines for children, parents & educators, industry, and policy makers, as appropriate, to capture the new risks that surfaced with new technologies and services, as well as unsafe behaviour that are affecting children, to raise awareness of them.

The UAE being chair of the Council Working group on Child online protection looks forward to further contributions in this regard and will work together with all stakeholders in updating the relevant guidelines while considering the innovations accordingly.

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