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| **COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON**  **CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION** 15th meeting, Geneva, 26 September 2019 |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-COP-15/3-E** |
| **9 October 2019** |
| **English only** |

**Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group
on Child Online Protection**

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

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| **Summary**This report summarizes the main results of the fifteenth meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), held on 26 September 2019, in accordance with ITU 2010 Council Resolution 1306 and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). |

# 1 Introduction

1.1 The fifteenth meeting of CWG-COP was held on 26 September 2019 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva. Approximately 60 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 Abdelaziz Alzarooni (UAE).

# 2 Welcoming remarks

2.1 The Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao 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.

2.2 The Chairman welcomed the participants and thanked the 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 honour for all stakeholders and participants to have the opportunity to do something for children’s future and to protect children’s lives.

**3 Adoption of the agenda**

3.1 The [Agenda](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CLCWGCOP15-C-0001/en) was adopted as drafted.

# 4 Information reports

* 1. The following documents were presented:
* WG-CP/[14](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S19-CLCWGCOP15-INF-0004)/2: Update on the ITU Child Online Protection (COP) Guidelines
* WG-[CP](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S19-CLCWGCOP15-INF-0003)/14/10: Outcome of the Youth Online Consultation

# Discussions

* 1. Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chair proposed a slight amendment to the agenda and asked countries to present their information documents.
	2. The contribution from [India](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CLCWGCOP15-INF-0002/en) presented the legal framework in the country and highlighted the importance of the issue on the national and international level.
	3. The contribution from [Kenya](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S19-CLCWGCOP15-INF-0005) emphasized the importance of the topic in the country presenting previous awareness raising initiatives such as the Safer Internet day and a COP Campaign undertaken on different levels of the country as well as initiatives targeting the development of a national COP Strategy, a process that is on-going. The country further included important aspects of the ITU COP Guidelines in their national policy context.
	4. The contribution from [Greece](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S19-CLCWGCOP15-INF-0001), highlighted the activities of the Safer Internet Center and the several programs adopted at the national level in coordination with other partners.
	5. The oral contribution from Poland, highlighted the efforts undertaken by the country in strong cooperation with UNICEF and other organizations to raise awareness in the country as well as to start developing a national Child Online Protection Strategy.
	6. The oral comment from Ukraine equally highlighted the importance of Child Online Protection in the country mentioning the cases of children’s suicides within the context of the Blue Wale Challenge, strengthening the importance of a national Child Online Protection Strategy and the willingness of the country to continue its effort in the development of such a strategy.
	7. After the Contributions by the Countries, the Chair opened the floor for questions and comments.
	8. The United Kingdom mentioned an initiative and survey on age verification in the country that is only at its beginning but results will be shared with the Working Group at a later stage.
	9. Iran asked for quantitative results on the effectiveness of initiatives in the three contributing countries. Kenya replied to this that the country was planning to establish a research agency but that indeed research was missing as of today. Nigeria highlighted the existence of forums in the country where children evaluate on-going projects on COP.
	10. Iran made the proposal to highlight the importance of measurement of effectiveness of actions and initiatives in the report of the meeting.
	11. Iran further proposed that a liaison statement be sent to ITU-D regarding a discussion on common COP indicators, that could measure in different countries the level of functioning Child Online Protection mecanisms.
	12. ITU secretariat gave an oral update on the ITU COP’s guidelines and the status. Partners participating to this joint effort were also present in the room and supported the presentation of the secretariat.
	13. The oral comment from China supported the work done by the COP Initiative and regarding the Guidelines and highlighted Chinas future engagement on the issue especially focussing on the protection of personal data of children.
	14. The comments from the European Commission as well as from Australia welcomed the Update of the Guidelines considering the efforts done by both stakeholders in this regard, namely the European strategy on Child Online Safety and the e-safety commissioner in Australia, and complimented the Guidelines’ focus on children with disabilities as well as their targeted format.
	15. Following some discussion around the scope of the guidelines and the timeline, as requested by Resolution 179, the results of the youth online consultation on the use of ICTs were presented. The results indicated that the most common technological trends were Social media and the Internet of Things as well as that most of young people were actually aware of online risks. As the number of participants was very small, the secretariat encouraged more countries to be promote the consultation widely.
	16. In this regard, the secretariat informed that ITU website has a repository of specific country case studies that could be used for reference later. Countries need to give permission to upload their documents on the COP website which is now under <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP.aspx>

# Outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the CWG-COP

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

6.4 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.

6.5 The meeting invite the membership to realize and be aware of the importance of evaluating the effectiveness on program.

6.5 A first liaison statement will be sent to ITU Study Group 2 in order to inform delegations on the work of the Guidelines and ensure a more participatory process.

6.6 A second liaison statement will be sent to ITU-D to ask for more information on EG-household Indicators and the related discussion on COP indicators.

**Abdelaziz Alzarooni (UAE)
Chair, CWG-COP**