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| **Council Working Group on Child Online Protection18th meeting – 12 January 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-COP-18/2-E** |
| **9 December 2021** |
| **English only** |
| Contribution by the Secretariat on the activities of the COP Initiative |
| COP: Global Programming |
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| **Summary**Within the framework of the [ITU and NCA Saudi Arabia global programme](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/cm11-2020-ITU-SaudiArabia-partnership-COP-guidelines.aspx) on ‘[*Creating a safe and empowering cyber environment for children*’](https://8a8e3fff-ace4-4a3a-a495-4ea51c5b4a3c.filesusr.com/ugd/9ad503_478d6281e6d34cd7905b9d3ce6d1cc15.pdf) initiated in August 2021, ITU and its partners, aim to develop and implement child online safety measures and policies among governments, industries, and civil society (including children themselves) to increase capacity development and knowledge sharing between all relevant stakeholders. The [global programme](https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/implementation) will allow the implementation of the 2020 COP Guidelines through numerous activities covering two workstream: capacity building and technical assistance. Within the first workstream, ITU and partners developed the Online Safety with Sango Lessons for children. In addition to that, ITU has worked in different regions on a variety of activities including assisting member states in the development of national COP strategies and related frameworks. Furthermore, ITU is also working in collaboration with the SCORT foundation to create a safe online environment for children in sports. ITU also contributed to the adoption of the General Comment 25 on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment by the UN CRC.**References**[www.itu-cop-guidelines.com](http://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com)  |

Within the framework of the GCA, the Child Online Protection ([COP](http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/cybersecurity/gca/cop/)) Initiative was established by ITU as an international collaborative network for action to promote the online protection of children worldwide.

ITU has been raising awareness on COP issues through organizing workshops, strategic dialogues and regional forums, holding several workshops at different international conferences and leading or participating in different projects.

As also recognized by the [G20 Rome Leader's Declaration](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/52732/final-final-g20-rome-declaration.pdf), the work of the Initiative has never been more relevant due to its lending support to all relevant stakeholders in fostering a safe and empowering online environment. Children and young people online face many risks and challenges such as privacy issues, cyberbullying, misinformation, child sexual abuse material (CSAM), and other cybersecurity risks. As COVID-19 has necessitated children to be online more than ever before, it has put them at increased risk of being subject to harm online.

Following the [Global launch of the COP Guidelines](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/2020-COP-Guidelines-launch-webinar.aspx) and the [regional launches](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/2020/Regional-Launches-COP-2020-Guidelines.aspx) led by the ITU regional offices, until December 2020, to support member states in their child online protection related efforts, ITU and its partners published the first [ITU Policy Brief on Child Online Protection](http://web.itu.int/publ/S-GEN-COP.CHILD_PB-2021) in autumn 2021. The Brief provides clear step-by-step guidance for policymakers on the development of a comprehensive national strategy on child online protection.

[The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ITU signed an agreement](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Pages/cm11-2020-ITU-SaudiArabia-partnership-COP-guidelines.aspx) to implement a three-year global programme on ‘Creating a safe and empowering cyber environment for children’, which focuses on both the policy assistance for governments and the development of digital skills and literacy with end-users. The [implementation of the global program](https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/implementation) started in Q3 2021. The ITU-led program, with activities in all ITU regions, focuses on capacity building and policy assistance among others though e-learning trainings, COP related campaigns, children’s participation, as well as the development of distinct national child online protection strategies. The focus of this project – fostering a culture of child online safety – will contribute to the ITU mission of ensuring cybersecurity at the international level.

The implementation of the COP Guidelines was kicked-off the first national implementation projects within the global programme on COP in Africa, the Arab region, CIS and Europe. In the Americas, discussions have started with different countries on the development of localized resources for children on online safety. In the Asia-Pacific region, assistance was provided for the development of national COP strategies and related frameworks to six small island and developing countries, building upon the COP Guidelines, in coordination with other partners, through a joint project with the Department of Communications and Arts (DoCA) in Australia.

ITU has also contributed to the adoption of the General Comment 25 on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: UN Inter-agency working group on child online protection, which was composed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the vibrant community of child online protection experts, both within the UN system and from civil society.

ITU has also signed a collaboration agreement with the SCORT Foundation on COP. ITU has contributed to many discussions such as the 15th European Football for Development Conference.

ITU celebrated Safer Internet Day 2021 through various communications, including a [blog](https://www.itu.int/en/myitu/News/2021/02/08/18/38/Sango-Internet-safety-drawing-child-online-protection-COP) post on the application of the Child Online Protection mascot “Sangophone”, in a national drawing competition in Hungary. The COP mascot, which has been a [great success](https://www.itu.int/en/myitu/News/2021/01/13/09/19/Child-Online-Protection-in-Hungary-Karoly-Solymar-Ministry-of-Innovation-and-Technology) in several ITU member states, is used to work with children on COP related issues. It furthermore [announced a collaborative project with Eni and Deloitte Italia](https://youtu.be/n32PVQRA7PA) to raise awareness and build capacity on online safety with children., This Online Safety course with Sango for young children under 13 years was launched with a [trailer](https://youtu.be/mpxqcV3WHpE) at the [Online Safety Moment](https://www.itu.int/women-and-girls/girls-in-ict/girlsinict-online-safety-moment/) of the Girls in ICT’s 10th anniversary celebration, which is a series of events hosted by the ITU and its partners. Consisting of [video lessons](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HnEOJ4IMrE&list=RDCMUCQdZWRxu7uCjkCay0OCnvWw&start_radio=1&rv=0HnEOJ4IMrE&t=8), [presentations](https://8a8e3fff-ace4-4a3a-a495-4ea51c5b4a3c.filesusr.com/ugd/24bbaa_5caa9d14f1754da1863b3095db87c07a.pptx?dn=489242_cybersecurityforkid_E_%20REV-2%20GOOD.pptx), a [poster](https://8a8e3fff-ace4-4a3a-a495-4ea51c5b4a3c.filesusr.com/ugd/9ad503_fb496dceb1fe4012af0f4624d6683d64.pdf) and a [flyer](https://8a8e3fff-ace4-4a3a-a495-4ea51c5b4a3c.filesusr.com/ugd/9ad503_4ad8d415bfd2475a9c015b3cce9e55a5.pdf), the mascot helps to share monthly online safety tips with children and empower them to develop digital literacy and resilience online.

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