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|  | **Revision 1 to**  **Document CWG-COP-20/3** |
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| **English only** |
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| Contribution by the Philippines | |
| ENHANCING CHILD ONLINE SAFETY: STRATEGIC INTEGRATION OF PLANS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS ACROSS ITU MEMBERS | |
| **Purpose**  The purpose of this document is to encourage Member States and Sector Members through the ITU to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen Child Online Protection (COP) strategic plans, policies, and programs and integrate COP initiatives by way of specific programs such as celebration of Girls in ICT, and others and to pursue collaboration with other Member States pursuant to ITU Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), WTDC Resolution 67 (Rev. Kigali, 2022); and Council Resolution 1306 (C09 modified C15), and other related ITU resolutions.  **Action required**  The CWG-COP is invited to **consider** this document and **endorse** [Annex A](#Annex) of this document to ITU Secretariat as Committee Resolution.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [Resolution 179](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-179-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP)- ITU's role in child online protection  [Resolution 67](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf) (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) - The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection  [Resolution 1306](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0109/en) (C09, last amended Modified C15) of Council - Council Working Group on Child Online Protection | |

**Introduction**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) recognizes that children are an especially vulnerable group and upholds children’s rights in the digital environment as per the principles set by the UN CRC General Comment No. 25 (2021) on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment.

Meanwhile, the 2020 UNICEF Report on Protecting Children Online shows that at the global level, one-in-three Internet users is a child under 18 years of age. In addition, an 80 percent of children in 25 countries report feeling in danger of sexual abuse or exploitation online.

**Proposal**

To ensure the protection of children from all risks and potential harms, collective efforts must be achieved to create a safe, inclusive, and empowering digital environment through:

1. *encouragement of the implementation of programs and policies on COP through the regional initiatives and discussion at the Regional Development Forums;*

To effectively respond to online risks and harms for children, an inclusive multi-stakeholder COP strategy should include the review of existing initiatives and legal framework as well as the development of new plans, programs, and policies to be implemented as part of the regional initiative and align efforts with the global standards in coordination with relevant UN organizations.

1. *maximize use of the Girls in ICT celebrations as platforms to promote awareness among girls and young women about the risks of online abuse and exploitation through:*
2. *the integration of COP discussions in all Girls in ICT celebrations of ITU Member States;*

With over 377,000 girls and young women who have taken part in more than 11,400 International Girls in ICT Day celebrations in 171 countries, the Girls in ICT is an effective global campaign to promote gender equality and uphold the rights of children against online sexual abuse and exploitation since its institutionalization has already reached a significant number of girls and young women since its inception in 2011.

1. *continuous assessment of the impact of integrating COP discussions into Girls in ICT initiatives and include the report to be presented at CWG-COP.*

To maximize the potential of Girls in ICT as an effective advocacy strategy to make a cybersafe community for children, a periodic review shall be made which result shall be presented at the CWG-COP meetings.

**Recommendation**

The CWG-COP is invited to:

1. endorse the attached resolution in Annex A as CWG-COP Committee Resolution that can be adopted by ITU Council in its next meeting subject to discussion of the Member States;
2. encourage Member States and Sector Members through the ITU secretariat to:
   1. prioritize, mainstream and strengthen COP strategic plans, policies, and programs through the regional initiatives;
   2. continuous assessment of the impact of integrating COP discussions into Girls in ICT initiatives and include the report to be presented at CWG-COP.

ANNEX A

Draft New Resolution [...]

Enhancing child online safety:   
Strategic integration of plans, policies, and programs across ITU members

The ITU Council,

Considering

*a)* Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on ITU's role in child online protection;

*b)* Resolution 67 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection;

*c)* Resolution 1306 (C09, last amended C15) on ITU's role with regard to International Public Policy Issues concerning Creating a Safer Internet Environment for Children,

recalling

Resolution 1306, setting up a child online protection (COP) working group,

taking into account

that Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) resolved, among others:

*a)* to continue the COP initiative as a platform to raise awareness and share best practices on child online safety issues;

*b)* to continue providing assistance and support to Member States, especially developing countries, in developing and implementing roadmaps for the COP initiative;

*c)* to continue to coordinate the COP initiative, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders,

recognizing

*a)* that there is an imperative need for an urgent collective response to combat Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children;

*b)* that there is a wide acceptance of Girls in ICT among Member States with 11,400 International Girls in ICT Day celebrations in 171 countries since 2011,

resolves

1 to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen COP strategic plans, policies, and programs through the regional initiatives;

2 to maximize use of the Girls in ICT celebrations as platforms to promote awareness among girls and young women about the risks of online abuse and exploitation through:

a. the integration of COP discussions in all Girls in ICT celebrations

b. continuous assessment of the impact of integrating COP discussions into Girls in ICT initiatives

c. include the report to be presented at CWG-COP.

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