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|  | **Document CWG-COP-21/3** |
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| **English only** |
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| Contribution by Office of the Special Representative of the UN-Secretary General on Violence Against Children | |
| PoP – PROTECTION THROUGH ONLINE PARTICIPATION – CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS | |
| **Purpose**  The purpose of this action is to invite governments to answer a short online form that looks to collect good practices on **how governments are incorporating digital platforms as part of a country's child protection systems. This does not refer to the actions taken by Governments to make the Internet safer, but to how the Internet is one of the tools used by Governments to help protect children.**  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on child online protection is requested to **note** the document and **respond** to an online form looking to collect information on how governments incorporate digital platforms as part of national child protection system. | |

PoP —Protection through Online Participation— is a global initiative co-led by ITU and the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children, in collaboration with the wider UN system, the protection community and Technology companies. PoP is focused on understanding how children and young people use the Internet to access safety, support and protection, when experiencing —or at risk of experiencing— any form of harms: both in person and online.

A child might be experiencing in-person violence (like physical abuse, child labour, harmful practices, bullying, sexual violence, etc.), and may find help online: they might connect to a child helpline or similar service functioning online, to a violence reporting system, or to a community of support, to name a few. The online world is not just addressing online problems.

Driven by the vision of a world where every child and young person who has access to the Internet can connect in a timely manner with the help and safety they need, PoP is in the process of outlining principles and recommendations for different stakeholders (Child helplines and similar services; Technology platforms; Policy makers) so children and youth can effectively access safety, protection and support through online channels.

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**Link to the form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/hApDUu31hC>.

Questions asked in the form:

PoP (Protection through online participation) has seen that when children need to access protection and support —very often because of in-person harms— **they access help through online means through interactive ways**. They may connect to a child helpline, similar services to ask for help or report harm, the police, social workers, mental health counselors, or others.

Does your national child protection framework (like laws, programs, policies, etc) support or encourage the use of digital means for children to **connect** with safety, protection and support when experiencing —or when at risk of experiencing— risks and harm (whether they happen in person or online)? (Yes / No, I do not know.)

If you selected YES, in no more than 10 lines please describe how your national child protection framework encourages or supports the use of digital platforms (or means) for children to connect with safety and protection. (For example, who or what they connect with, through which means, etc.)

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