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| Contribution by Pakistan (Islamic Republic of) |
| PTA’s AWARENESS AND DIGITAL LITERACY INITIATIVES AND REPORTING MECHANISMS ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION |
| **Purpose**The purpose of this document is to share PTA’s regulatory framework, awareness initiatives, digital literacy programs at schools on child online protection & reporting mechanism with members of the CWG-COP.**Action required**This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information**. |

 **Legal Frame Work- Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (“PECA”)**

Pakistan is having Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (“PECA”), Under the Act Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is empowered to remove or block unlawful content under various categories including Child Pornography, the Act covers Hate Speech, Online Grooming and Cyberbullying along with related punishments and fines. In addition, PTA, under Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguards) Rules 2021, is mandated to run public awareness campaign.

**2 Awareness and Digital Literacy Initiatives on Child Online Protection in Collaboration of Partners**

Recognizing that the menace of online risks to children cannot be effectively controlled by a single organization, PTA decided to collaborate with both international and national organizations. Over the span of 2 years, PTA initiated numerous awareness and digital literacy programs in partnership with following organizations.

 **2.1 Cross-sectoral Collaboration**

 **2.1.1 UNICEF**MoU signed with UNICEF for collaboration on various areas of “Child Online Protection” in the year 2023. Following initiatives have been undertaken:

* Conducting Knowledge Attitude Practices survey (KAP) survey to find out issues being faced by children under UNICEF’s global **“Disrupting Harm” project.** Pakistan has become 12th Country having KAP survey.
* Short Code **1121** for Child Protection helpline has been allocated to provisional and Federal departments dealing in child abuse.
* Launched a guidebook for parents and caregivers having title **“Safeguarding your children in digital age”** and is available over PTA & UNICEF Pakistan website for download.
* Launched comprehensive **Training of Trainer (ToT)** capacity building program for parents, caregivers and adolescents. Master Trainers have been trained who will further train facilitators to be engaged in schools and community centres for imparting trainings.

 **2.1.2 TikTok**

 Through MoU signed with TikTok in 2023 following initiatives are being undertaken:

* Digital Literacy Program trainings are being imparted to parents, teachers, and students in 100 government schools. 40 schools have been covered so far.
* Developed training manual/resources in English and local language.
* Developed awareness videos on various online safety topics.
* To keep children and youngsters engaged in productive activities, a nationwide competition on TikTok for developing awareness videos on various online safety topics is being organized. Winners against each category will be awarded prizes.

 **2.1.3 GSMA**

Child Online Protection (COP) was incorporated in MoU signed between PTA and GSMA at the Mobile World Congress 2024 held in Barcelona. Through the collaboration, GSMA will share knowledge, organize capacity-building programmes, and jointly advocate for the development and enforcement of best practices so that children can navigate the digital world with greater security. Two (02) days capacity building program is being organized in collaboration of GSMA in the month of November, 2024. In event various regional policy makers and regulators will be invited at PTA’s Centre of Excellence.

 **2.1.4 META**

Closely working with META for raising awareness among masses regarding safe and responsible use of Social Media & Internet. Following steps have been taken collaboratively so far:

* Developed short awareness videos focusing on important topics related to online safety.
* Launched Urdu version of the **TakeItDown** portal in Pakistan.

 **2.2 Other Initiatives**

 **2.2.1 Consultations on Use of Parental Control Services over ISPs**

PTA is exploring the feasibility of introducing customized Network Level Parental Control Services through Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Pakistan. Consultation paper has been floated for industry feedback/comments. After incorporating feedback, the same will be presented to Authority for approval. The initiative would help parents in supervising their children’s online activities by implementing reasonable restriction while allowing them to use internet for educational and useful activities.

 **2.2.2 Urdu Translation of ITU Mascot**

 ITU created the mascot ‘Online Safety with Sango’ to empower children to safely explore the digital world. PTA has translated the Sango guidebook into local language (Urdu). The same is going to be published over PTA’s website for public guidance.

 **2.2.3 Awareness Initiatives**

To raise public awareness a series of articles were published in more than 250 newspapers and news blogs, conducted awareness sessions/seminars for students at schools and Universities, participated in various TV Shows, Radio programs and Podcasts.

 **2.2.4 Engaging with Religious Scholars**

Religious scholars are considered respectful personalities and their voices have powerful impact over society.In October, 2023, PTA organised a conference of renowned religious scholars to join hands with PTA in raising public awareness about safe and responsible use of digital space through speeches especially, among parents about how they can prevent their children from online risks.

**3 Reporting Mechanism: Blocking and Removal of CSAM**

PTA launched state-of-the-art Complaint Management System (CMS) enabling individuals to instantly lodge complaints across various categories including Child Abuse. In its relentless fight against CSAM, over **5,000** websites identified by Interpol have been blocked.

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