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|  | **Document CWG-COP-22/2** |
| **10 January 2025** |
| **English only** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| UPDATE ON THE ITU CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION INITIATIVE AND THE COP GLOBAL PROGRAMME | |
| **Purpose**  This report is intended to provide an overview on the status of the COP Initiative and the implementation of the COP Guidelines between October and December 2024.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on child online protection is invited to **note** this report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*CWG-COP website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*ITU-D Cybersecurity - COP*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/COP.aspx) | |

The Child Online Protection initiative aims to protect children from online risks and potential harm and empower them to fully benefit from online opportunities through research, in-country policy support, capacity building and technical tools.

ITU Child Online Protection, serves as global leadership platform with a multi-stakeholder community with proven expertise and successful technical assistance record of more than 15 years on child online protection activities worldwide. Through a strong network of more than 80 knowledge partners from leading institutions active in the ICT and child rights sectors, the Child Online Protection initiative provides both resources and tools that support children’s and their entourage’s digital skills development as well as support to industry and government stakeholders in the development of corporate and national child online protection strategies and frameworks, allowing countries to contribute to a safer online environment for children.

# 1 As part of [ITU’s global programme (2021-2025)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/COP.aspx) the following activities were undertaken:

## 1.1 Translation of the COP Guidelines

– In Malta a national event was held, where stakeholders discussed the national child online protection effort, and the translated guidelines were officially presented.

## 1.2 Capacity building

– In the Maldives, the Training of Trainers for Educators was held.

– In Malta, ITU supported the capacity building of national police force.

## 1.3 National COP frameworks

– In the Bahamas and Suriname, ITU delivered a draft national framework.

– In Andorra and Eswatini, ITU initiated the technical assistance.

## 1.4 Child participation

– The collaboration with the Western Sydney University to set up national child taskforces continued.

– Within this context, consultation workshops with the established child taskforces were completed in Indonesia, Lebanon and Malawi and further consultation workshops with newly established child taskforces in Ecuador are planned for Q1 2025.

# 2 Collaborating across sectors, the ITU COP Initiative took further actions:

## 2.1 Child online protection in Sports

– In Ecuador, in collaboration with the Scort Foundation, and in the context of ITU’s efforts in building the capacity of relevant stakeholders on child online protection, a training webinar for young coaches was held.

## [2.2 PoP: Protection through online participation](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/POP.aspx)

– This [multistakeholder partnership,](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/POP.aspx) led by ITU and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, brings together 30+ partners from different sectors including the UN, big technology platforms, CSOs and academia.

– It aims to provide insights and recommendations on the development, implementation, and improvement of support systems that function through online means and that address violence against children – both online and offline.

– Draft guiding principles were shared for consultation with the partnership addressing child helplines and similar services functioning online, and technology platforms.

– In Q1 2025 the final guiding principles will be released in a publication for child helplines, tech platforms, and policy makers.

– In 2025, PoP will:

• Collect and publish good practices of online functioning support systems for children.

• Further engage the ICT industry to increase the understanding of how emerging technologies (including AI) are used to facilitate children’s access to protection and support as well as collect insights and lessons learned on how children and youth connect with protection and support through gaming.

• Further engage with children and youth to map child and youth-led solutions.

## [2.3 Joint](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/COP/POP.aspx) Statement on child protection and in the context of AI

– In a collaborative effort with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and its vice-chair, bringing together different international organisations, ITU has initiated the drafting process of a Joint Statement on child protection in the context of AI. The statement will be presented for consultation and adoption to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2025.

## 2.4 ITU’s engagement in UN Inter-Agency Processes:

– As member of the [Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)](https://icat.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl461/files/publications/icat_issue_brief_12_vulnerability_to_tip.pdf), established in 2007 and coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), ITU contributed and endorsed the [ICAT Principles Joint Statement](https://icat.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl461/files/publications/icat_principals_statement_2024.pdf) on the rising threats for children in the trafficking in persons.

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