Council Working Group
on child online protection
Twenty-second meeting – From 12 (p.m.) to 13 February 2025

Document CWG-COP-20/INF/12
31 January 2025
English Only

Contribution by 5Rights Foundation

PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

Purpose

Share international best practices for coherent global standards on children's rights in the digital environment.

Action required

This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection **for information.**

Protecting Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

ITU Council Working Group on child online protection, 22nd meeting

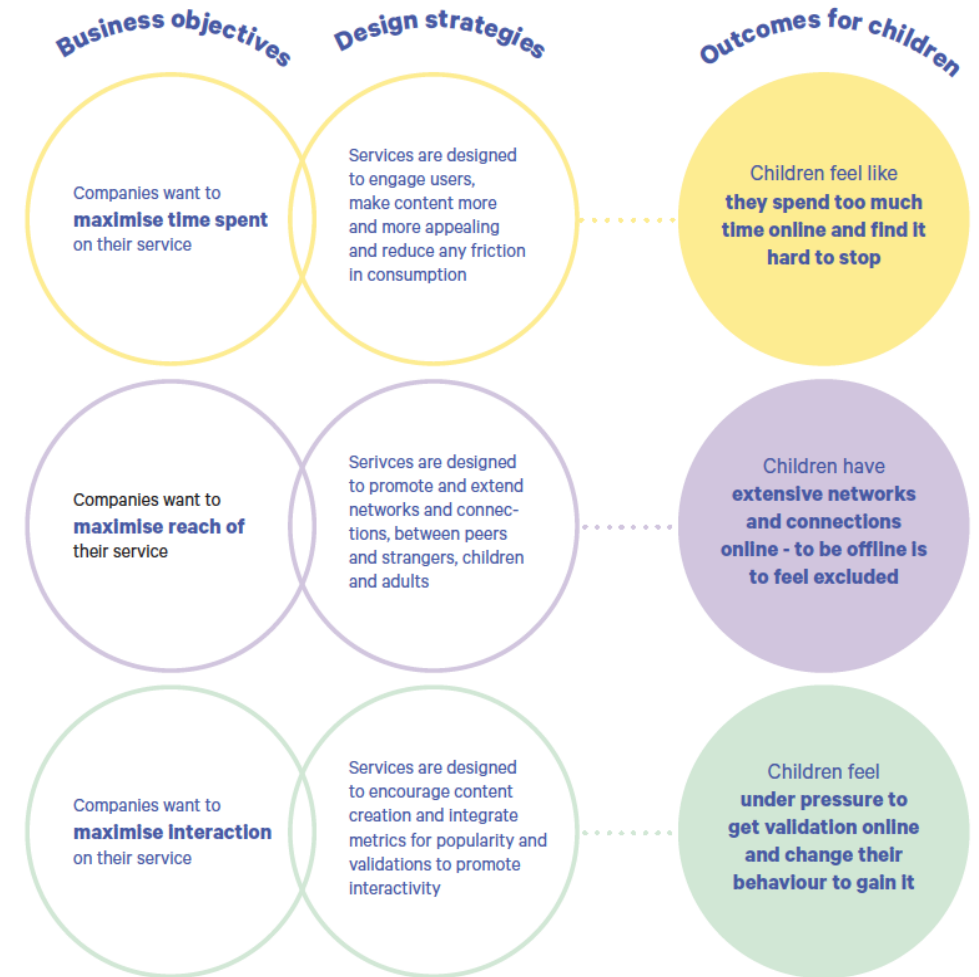13 February 2025

5RIGHTS FOUNDATION

Building the digital world that young people deserve

5Rights is at the forefront of delivering practical change for children so they can access the digital world knowledgeably, creatively and fearlessly.

EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES

Pathways: How digital design puts children at risk

Protecting Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

Business objectives | **Design strategies** | **Outcomes for children**

Companies want to **maximise time spent** on their service

Services are designed to engage users, make content more and more appealing and reduce any friction in consumption

Children feel like **they spend too much time online and find it hard to stop**

Companies want to **maximise reach of** their service

Serivces are designed to promote and extend networks and connections, between peers and strangers, children and adults

Children have **extensive networks and connections online - to be offline is to feel excluded**

Companies want to **maximise interaction** on their service

Services are designed to encourage content creation and integrate metrics for popularity and validations to promote interactivity

Children feel **under pressure to get validation online and change their behaviour to gain it**

Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

https://5rightsfoundation.com/resource/know-your-rights/

International Landscape

- United Nations (2024), Global Digital Compact
- International Telecommunication Union (2020), Guidelines for industry on Child Online Protection
- African Union (2024), Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy
- OECD (2021), Recommendation of the Council on Children in the Digital Environment, and Guidelines for Digital Service Providers
- Global Privacy Assembly (2021), Resolution on Children Digital Rights
- UK (2021) Age-Appropriate Design Code
- IEEE 2089-2021, Standard for an Age Appropriate Digital Services Framework

The Impact of Regulation

50
40
30
20
10
0

2017   2018   2019   2020   2021   2022   2023   2024

3   7   12   10   42   16   30   8

AADC takes effect

DSA passed

OSA Passed

RESEARCH REPORT

Impact of regulation on children's digital lives

Steve Wood, Intangif Consulting

May 2024

Digital Futures For Children
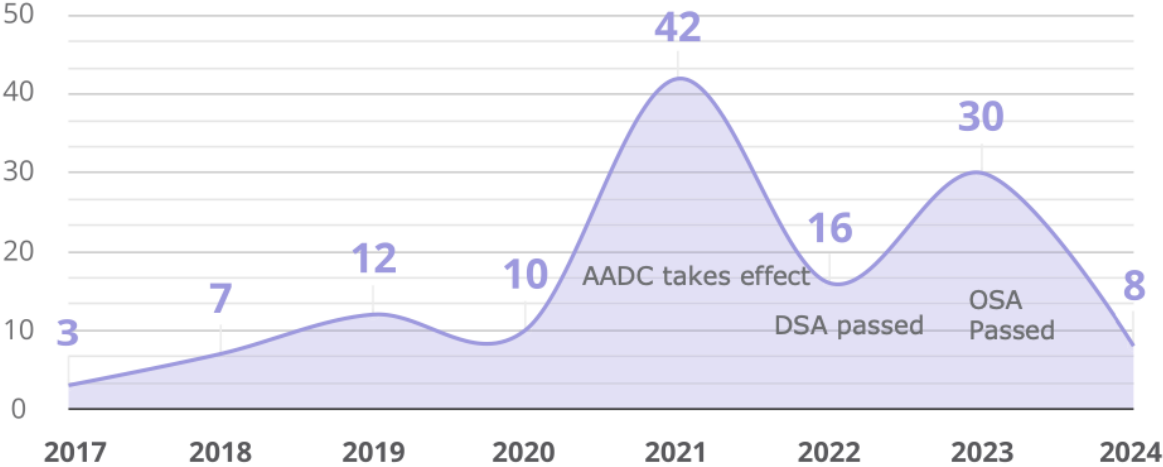
Towards Global Coherence

- Systemic, tech neutral and outcome-based.

- Respect children's rights (based on UNCRC and General comment No. 25) and best interests, including their right to participate.

- Corporate responsibility to design products with children in mind, taking into account their rights, needs, vulnerabilities, and evolving capacities.

- Privacy and safety by design and by default at the heart of product development, including risk assessment and mitigation (based on the 4Cs framework covering content, contact, conduct and consumer/contract risks).

- Accountability, transparency, and oversight.

Thank you!

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