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| Contribution by Tanzania (The United Republic of) |
| TANZANIA’S INITIATIVES AND PLANS ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION |
| **Purpose**The purpose of this document is to share the Tanzania initiatives and best practices in Child Online Protection (COP) to Member States and Sector Members in line with Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)**Action required**This document is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information**.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References** [*Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - ITU's role in child online protection*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-179-E.pdf)[*National Advisory Committee on COP*](https://dailynews.co.tz/campaign-to-protect-children-online-launched/)[*Advice to Parents/Guardians to Protect Children when using Social Networks*](https://www.tcra.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1626958917-Ushauri%20kwa%20Wazazi%20Kuwalinda%20Watoto%20Mtandaoni.pdf)[*Tips for Online Safety and Security to Children*](https://www.tcra.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1626958246-Vidokezo%20vya%20Usalama%20Mtandaoni%20kwa%20Watoto.pdf) |

1. **Introduction**

In today’s digital era, where Information and Communication technology is deeply integrated into every aspect of life, Tanzania gives a due consideration to protecting children online.

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups and The Ministry Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) have been working closely with various stakeholders to develop robust policies and initiatives to protect children online, recognizing the increasing vulnerability of these young Internet users.

Tanzania has implemented various initiatives ranging from establishing legal frameworks, to awareness creation, technological interventions, reporting mechanisms and capacitating institutions. Furthermore, a number of initiatives are going on to further enhance child online protection.

1. **Initiatives by Tanzania on child online protection**
2. **Establishment of National Advisory Committee on Child Online Safety**

The committee, under the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, comprises members from the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Parliament, UNICEF, Media Houses, Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF), Prime Minister's Office, and the National Prosecution Office has been established. Among its responsibilities are advising the Minister on COP issues and conducting awareness campaigns for children and parents nationwide.

1. **Instituting Legal framework to cater for Child Online Protection**

Tanzania in 2015 instituted the Cybercrimes Act to criminalize offenses related to computer systems and Information and Communication Technologies. However, recognizing gaps related to child online protection, amendments were made in 2024 to address child online abuse comprehensively and ensure complete protection.

1. **Issuance of Publications relating to Child Online Protection**

These publications are targeted to children and parents and they include:

* Safety guidelines for children – Advice for parents and guardians on protecting children when using social networks.
* Publication of tips- specifically designed for children to help them navigate the internet safely.
* Be Safe Online booklet - aiming at informing and guiding children on how to enjoy and be safe online. The booklet has been issued by the Ministry responsible for Children.

These resources aim to raise awareness and promote responsible internet use among families.

1. **Establishment of Digital Clubs in Schools**

To further support digital literacy and online safety, the Government through TCRA is championing the establishment of [Digital Clubs](https://digitalclubs.tz/) in primary and secondary schools in Tanzania. These clubs serve as forums where children can gather and be taught about the safe use of the internet.

1. **Introduction of a child helpline, 116**

The helpline is available 24/7 and is completely confidential to assist children and provide them with support they need. It is a free service, available across all networks in Tanzania. Depending on the matter reported, callers are linked to a network of frontline service providers (mostly Social Welfare Officers, Police’s Gender & Children Desk, etc.) within the caller’s locality for further steps to ensure safety and welfare of children. Concerns reported are also voiced to policy and decision-makers.

1. **Awareness and Public Education**

The Government through different arms from both Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups and The Ministry Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) conducts public education campaigns to raise awareness about online safety for children, targeting parents, guardians, and the wider community.

1. **International Collaboration**

Tanzania benefits from participation in the CWG-COP, gaining best practices from other Member States. Through experience sharing, Tanzania has improved its threat identification and child protection mechanisms.

1. **Ongoing Initiatives**
* **Development of a Strategy for Child Online Protection**

The strategy to protect children from online abuse is currently under development and in advanced stage. The preparation process is participatory, drawing inputs from stakeholders on child-related matters, from public and private sectors.

* **Introduction of Child SIM Card**

The Government through TCRA plans to explore the possibility of introducing a Child SIM Card. This SIM card would filter inappropriate content and only allow access to essential and age-appropriate information. The initiative underscores the Government’s commitment to safeguarding children in the digital space while ensuring they benefit from technological advancements.

1. **Conclusion**

Tanzania’s initiatives on Child Online Protection reflect a growing recognition of the need to protect children in this digital age. Tanzania’s approach is based on implementing proactive and multi-faceted interventions in a holistic manner in addressing the challenges of child online safety in the country.

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