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|  | **Document CWG-COP-23/2** |
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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 January and September 2025.**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)*;* [*Child Online Protection*](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 a global leadership platform with a multi-stakeholder community with proven expertise and a successful technical assistance record of more than 16 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

– The language versions of the trainings on online safety for children were released in all six official UN languages.

– In Morocco, an awareness campaigns with localised resources was started.

– ITU COP Guidelines for parents, educators, policymakers, and industry were translated into Armenian and existing *onlinesafety.am* training materials (developed with ITU support in previous years) were further promoted. The *onlinesafety.am* platform was successfully migrated to Armenian servers to enhance local accessibility and sustainability.

## 1.2 Capacity building and awareness raising

– In Brunei, Micronesia and Nepal, capacity building activities for policymakers and educators were delivered.

– In the Bahamas and Morocco, Training of Trainers for Educators were held.

– In Armenia, Morocco and Switzerland, training sessions for children and young people and their educators were conducted over several days.

– As part of the 15th CyberDrill for the Americas Region held on 10 June 2025, in San José, Costa Rica, a dedicated Child Online Protection training session on “Fighting against Grooming” was delivered by PANI, contributing to enhanced regional cybersecurity collaboration and maturity, as reflected in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI).

– On Safer Internet Day 2025, a high-level roundtable titled “Online Safety Through Children’s Eyes” was held in Armenia, co-organized by ITU, the Union of Operators, and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry. Children actively shared their views on digital risks and stakeholder responsibilities, culminating in a youth-informed declaration presented to the government with key challenges and proposed solutions.

## 1.3 National COP frameworks

– ITU delivered national assessment reports or frameworks in 13 countries, including Albania, Armenia, Bahamas, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Pakistan, Suriname and Thailand

– In Andorra, Eswatini, and Lebanon, ITU provided ongoing technical assistance for the national frameworks.

– In Armenia, ITU, supported by the Union of Operators and key stakeholders, advanced efforts to implement a national COP framework.

– The draft Global PoP Principles are under finalization and will be released on 20 November 2025.

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

## 2.1 Joint Statement on child protection and in the context of AI

**–** In collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Vice-Chair, and UNICEF, ITU initiated and leads the drafting of a *Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child*, bringing together over 40 international organizations, civil society, academia, and private sector partners.

**–** The Joint Statement outlines key principles to guide the development and use of AI in ways that uphold and promote children’s rights, and aims to inform policy, industry practices, and UN-level coordination.

**–** The multi-stakeholder process began in early 2025 with the circulation of a draft outline and evolved through several rounds of consultation, including hybrid discussions during the Conference on Child Rights and the Digital Environment held in Tbilisi in March 2025.

**–** The Conference included strong participation from children and youth across 15+ countries, reinforcing the central role of child voices in shaping the document.

**–** The draft was subsequently reviewed and revised by ITU and CRC towards a more concise and action-oriented document. As of July 2025, the third revision is undergoing final validation by co-signatories and contributors. Formal adoption is expected during the CRC session in September 2025, with an official launch planned for early 2026.

## 2.2 ITU Industry Connect event series on child online protection

– In response to the request of the Council Working Group on child online protection (CWG-COP), ITU launched in 2025 the *Industry Connect* event series as a neutral platform to facilitate dialogue between industry stakeholders and Member States on key child online protection issues.

– The first session of the quarterly event series, held in June, focused on AI and Emerging Technologies, highlighting opportunities and risks linked to generative AI, synthetic content, and algorithms. Industry representatives from Meta and Resolver, as well as experts from UNICEF and the WeProtect Global Alliance, emphasized the importance of child-centered design, anticipatory regulation, and transparency. Youth and child speakers called for inclusive governance and ethical AI development.

– The second session, in July, explored Social Media and Child Protection, with platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, and k-ID presenting on tools and strategies for safer and more inclusive online social spaces. Discussions underscored the need for safety-by-default measures, youth empowerment, and shared responsibility among stakeholders.

– A third session, in a hybrid and open format, is scheduled for 30 October 2025 and will take place as a segment of the Andorra Digital Forum, focusing on Gaming and Online Safety.

## 2.3 AI4Good Global Summit and WSIS+20

– As part of the AI for Good Global Summit 2025, organized by ITU in Geneva and co-convened with Switzerland and over 40 UN agencies, the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative participated in the high-level AI Governance Day on 10 July. In a dedicated 15‑minute stage session titled “How to protect and empower children in an AI world?”, ITU, together with UNICEF and a youth representative, engaged in a dynamic intergenerational dialogue.

– Through a Q&A format led by a youth interviewer, the session explored how AI governance can be strengthened to uphold children's rights and promote safe digital environments. The session stood out for its dynamic, youth-led interview format, using ten simple questions to make complex AI and child rights issues engaging and accessible.

– On 11 July 2025, the ITU Child Online Protection (COP) initiative featured in Session 344 of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event in Geneva, co-organized with SWGfL. The hybrid session, titled “Global Strategies for Child Online Protection and Tackling Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence”, brought together experts from ITU, SWGfL, and UNODC to examine scalable, rights-based solutions to online harms affecting children and women.

– The session highlighted real-world initiatives such as the application of the ITU COP Guidelines in five European countries and the development of StopNCII.org, a survivor-led platform to prevent non-consensual image abuse. Discussions emphasized cross-sector cooperation, platform accountability, and the need for ethical responses to emerging threats like AI-generated abuse.

– Framed by the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs 4, 5, and 16, the session underscored the urgency of embedding child protection and digital safety in global digital policy agendas, while calling for stronger global alignment on responses to technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

## 2.4 GO-SAFER Initiative for global online safety education

– In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the University of New Hampshire (UNH), and supported by Safe Online, ITU-BDT leads a two-year global initiative running through the end of 2026, entitled GO-SAFER –Global Online Safety Alliance for Educational Resources.

– The initiative aims to advance evidence-based prevention education to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA), drawing on proven public health approaches and ITU’s global COP frameworks.

– GO-SAFER focuses on strengthening global capacity, expanding multisectoral cooperation, and developing evidence-based educational resources. A centralized digital hub will be created to provide accessible tools to support standardized, effective online safety education worldwide.

– Stakeholders are currently being invited to contribute educational resources and nominate experts to join the initiative’s governance and research structures.

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