Council Working Group and Expert Group Cluster

12-23 January 2026

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Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP)

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Child Online Protection

UPDATE ON THE ITU CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION INITIATIVE AND GLOBAL PROGRAMME

January 2026

Overview

1. Global Program 2021-2026

2. Collaborative actions
   - Joint Statement on child rights in the context of AI
   - Launch of PoP Principles: Protection through Online Participation
   - ITU Industry Connect event series on child online protection
   - GO-SAFER Initiative for global online safety education

Global Program 2021-2026

Global Programme Overview

“Creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children”,
launched in 2021, in collaboration and with the support of the National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ITU

الهيئة الوطنية للأمن السيبراني
National Cybersecurity Authority

Beneficiary Countries

Africa Region:
Malawi, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Djibouti

Americas Region:
Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Caribbean**/+OECS**

Arab Region:
Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan

Asia and the Pacific Region:
Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, Mongolia, Brunei, Micronesia, Nepal, **+ the Maldives**

Commonwealth of Independent States Region:
Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan

Europe Region:
Albania, Malta, Andorra, **+Switzerland**

REGIONAL: African Union

Capacity Building & Awareness Raising

Child Online Protection
Global Program

Maldives:

- Training of Trainers sessions for approx. 60 educators and child protection specialists.

Morocco:

- Two-day (4-5 November 2025) training for parents and educators held in Fes and Tangier.
- 50 educators and 20 parent association representatives participated in training and capacity building workshops.

Switzerland:

- Training sessions for children and youth (November 2025), as part of “Journée Futur en tous genres”.
- Training sessions held during “ITU160 Open Day” (September 2025), in collaboration with the Eduki Foundation.

Capacity Building & Awareness Raising

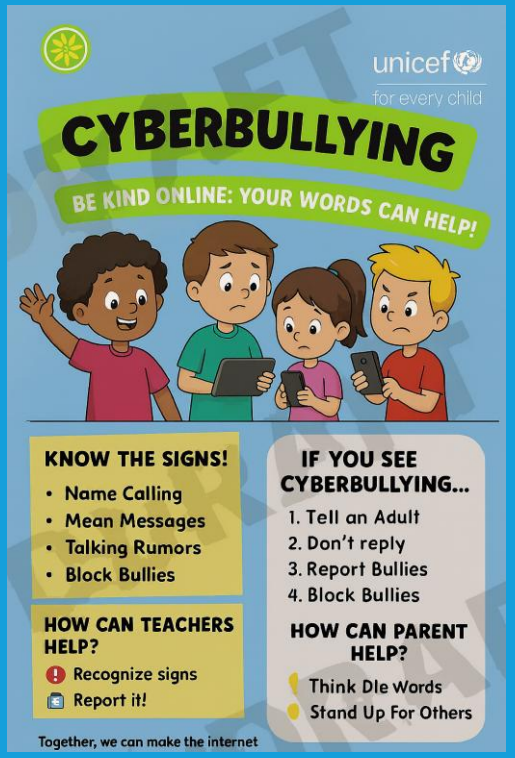
Child Online Protection
Global Program

Brazil:

- Agreement to localise Sango interactive video lessons.

Caribbean/OECS and UNICEF:

- Agreement to localise and develop regional awareness campaign.
- Aimed at children and young people, educators and parents.
- Different flyers designed and culturally relevant characters developed.
- Video content focusing on key COP themes.



National Frameworks

- **Eswatini:** national draft **child online protection strategy** delivered by ITU, including a detailed roadmap for implementation.

- **Lebanon, Malawi, Indonesia: final reports on the national task forces on children's perspectives and experiences in online environments** delivered to national counterparts.

Collaborations

The Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative

The ITU COP initiative, with over 16 years of expertise and a global network of 80+ partners, engages to protect children from online risks, empowering them to benefit from digital opportunities, and supporting governments, industries, and communities in creating safer online environments through policy support, capacity building, and technical tools.

Joint Statement on child rights in the context of AI

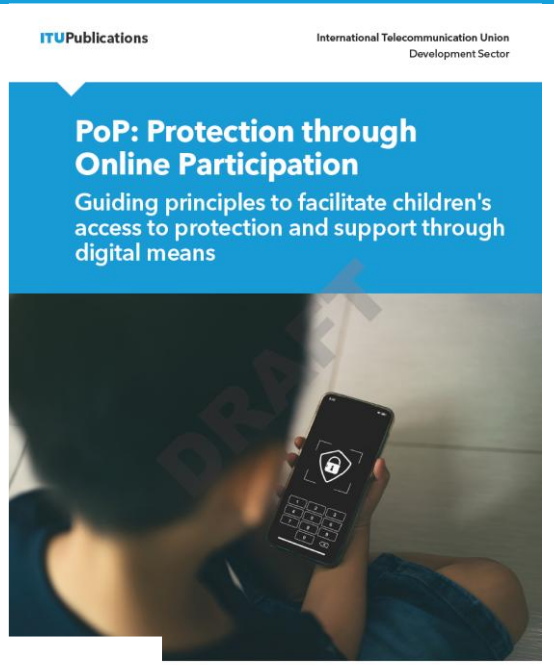
The Roadmap

- Led by **ITU**, with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (**CRC**) and **UNICEF**; engaging **50+** organizations across sectors.
- Defines **key principles** to guide AI development and use that protect and promote children's rights.
- **Multi-stakeholder** drafting since January 2025; consultations included Tbilisi Conference in May 2025 with **youth** from 15+ countries –
- Revised by ITU & CRC into concise, action-oriented document; final validation in progress.
- Adopted in September 2025.
- High-level launch event on **19 January 2026**, ITU Headquarters in Geneva and online.
- Publication in all official UN languages.

PoP: Protection Through Online Participation Launch Event

Guiding Principles to Facilitate Children's Access to Protection and Support through Digital Means

- A global, multi-stakeholder initiative co-led by ITU and the UN SRSG on Violence Against Children.
- Ensures children can safely access protection and support through digital platforms.
- Developed through an inclusive process drawing on global expertise and children’s lived experiences.
- Serves as both a roadmap and a call to action.
- Urges policymakers, tech platforms, and child helplines to work together to make digital spaces safe and empowering for all children.



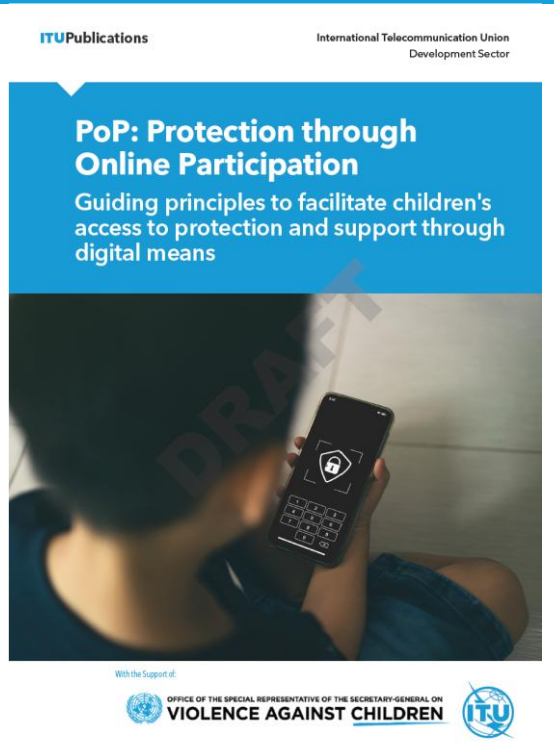
PROTECTION THROUGH ONLINE PARTICIPATION

PoP: Protection Through Online Participation Launch Event

5Ps Guiding Principles –

to help policymakers, technology platforms, and child helplines transform digital spaces into protective infrastructures

1. **Protect** – Prioritize safety, inclusivity, and accessibility in digital services.
2. **Progress** – Expand and diversify digital strategies to support children.
3. **Partner** – Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration for child protection.
4. **Participate** – Engage children meaningfully and safely in shaping digital solutions.
5. **Push** – Advocate, invest, and innovate to strengthen digital protection systems.



PROTECTION THROUGH ONLINE PARTICIPATION

ITU Industry Connect event series on child online protection

Industry Connect:

"Child Online Protection in Action – Industry Perspectives"

Launched **2025** at CWG-COP request as a neutral platform for dialogue between industry and Member States on key COP issues.

- **Session 3 – Gaming & Online Safety (30 October)**

  within Andorra Digital Forum in a hybrid format

  Speakers: UNODC, INCIBE, Andorran Police, ECPAT International, Roblox, Microsoft, Lego.

  Key points: online threats, harm prevention, design evaluation, child-centred design, impact of AI

- **Session 4 – Streaming & EdTech Platforms (17 December)**

  Key points: digital learning, live-streaming, platform accountability, algorithmic bias, regulation, balanced media consumption

GO-SAFER Initiative for global online safety education

GO-SAFER, a 2-year global initiative led by ITU, in collaboration with WHO and the University of New Hampshire (UNH), supported by Safe Online.

- **Goal**: Advance evidence-based prevention education to address OCSEA, leveraging public health approaches & ITU COP frameworks.
- **Focus Areas**: Strengthen global capacity + Expand multisectoral cooperation + Develop evidence-based educational resources.
- **Outputs**: Centralized digital hub with accessible tools for standardized online safety education.
- **Call for Action:** Stakeholders invited to contribute resources & nominate experts for governance and research roles and join the network.

World Health Organization

University of New Hampshire

Safe Online

GO-SAFER Initiative for global online safety education

Latest Developments:

- **Advisory Board & Steering Committee** in place.
- **Steering Committee** first meeting held.
- **100+ resources** compiled.
- **Piloting sample** of 25 programs.
- **Website** launched (December 2025)
- **Visuals & branding.**

World Health Organization

University of New Hampshire

Safe Online

Protected & Empowered Online

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