



Council Working Group  
on child online protection

Twenty-fourth meeting – 19 January 2026

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English only

# **Contribution from the Council of Europe LANZAROTE COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT – RECENT ACTIVITIES**

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## **Action required**

This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information**.

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## **References**

Presentation by Mireya García de Murcia, Legal Advisor, Lanzarote Committee Secretariat, Council of Europe



Established on  
5 May 1949



Intergovernmental  
organisation promoting:



46 member  
States

Human Rights

Democracy

Rule of Law

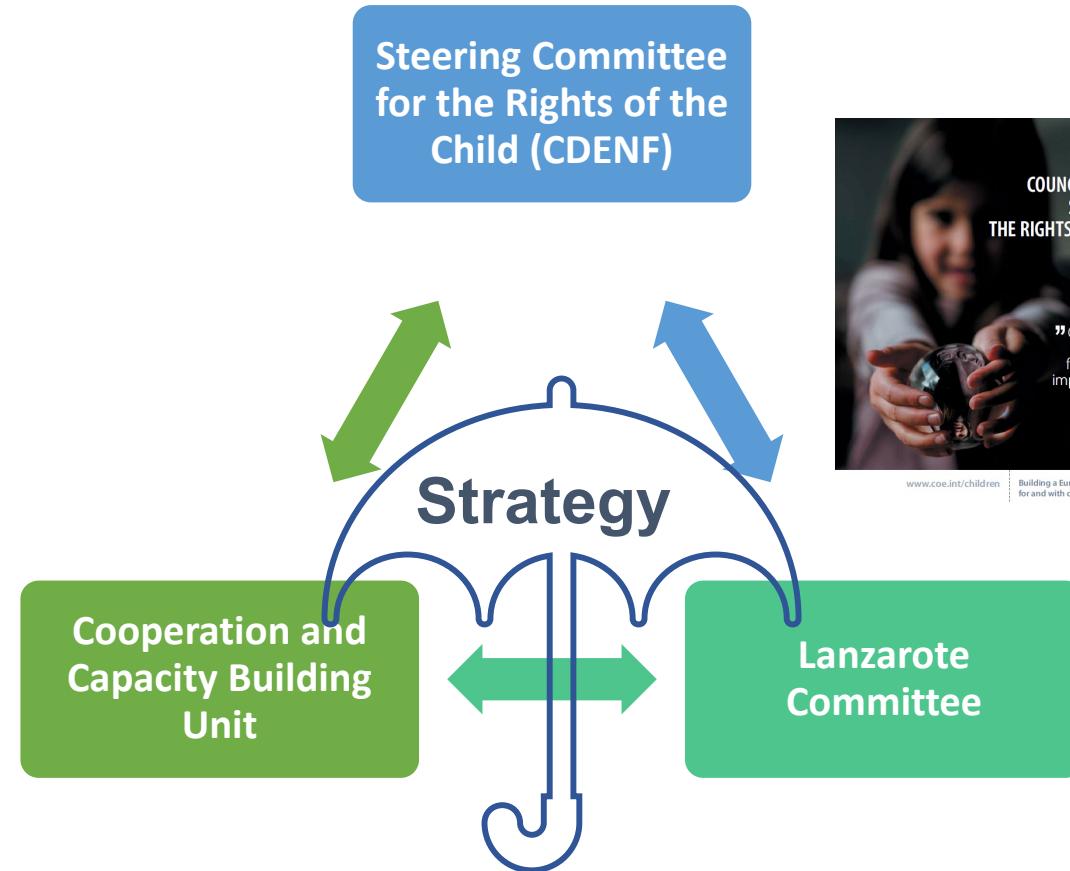
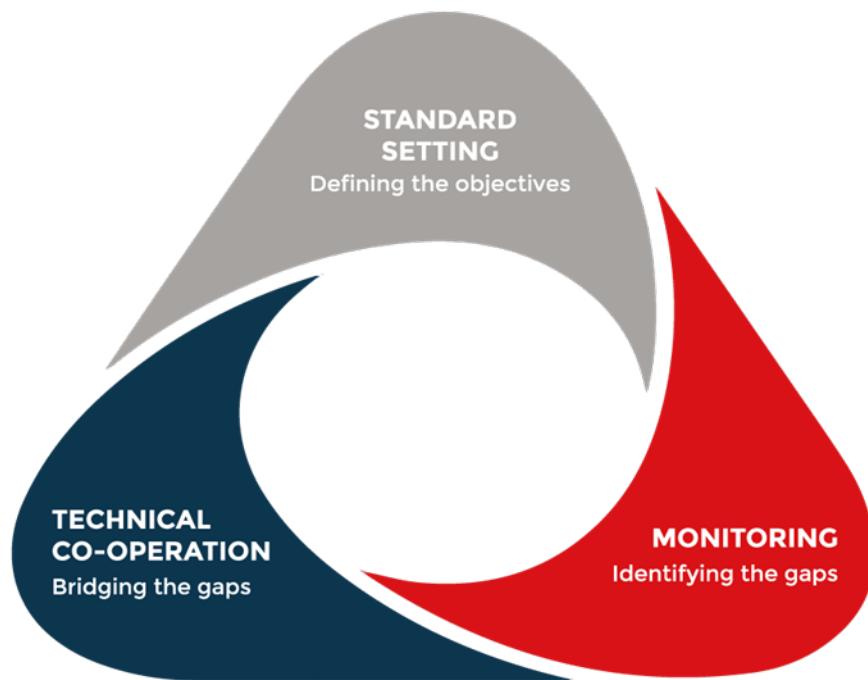


Based in  
Strasbourg  
(France)



MoU  
ITU and  
CoE 2025

# Children's rights at the Council of Europe



# The Lanzarote Convention



**2007**  
opened for signature

**2010**  
entry into force

**2026**  
48 State parties

The **most holistic international treaty** for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Open for accession globally



[Link to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#)

[Link to Explanatory report to the Lanzarote Convention](#)

# Role of the Committee of the Parties



- ❖ 48 State Parties
- ❖ Participants (states having participated in the drafting of the convention, state invited by the committee of ministers to accede to the convention, international organisations)
- ❖ Observers (civil society organisations)



Monitoring the implementation of the Convention by State Parties using information provided by national authorities and other sources in their replies to both a General Overview Questionnaire and Thematic Questionnaires.



Capacity building through the collection, analysis and exchange of information, experience and good practices at capacity building activities, exchanges of information and thematic hearings.



Interpreting the Convention through opinions, statements and declarations and raising awareness about child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

# Thematic Monitoring Rounds

All State Parties are monitored at the same time according to a thematic focus. This allows for in-depth exchange among Parties about the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in relation to the theme. This facilitates the identification of common challenges and promising practices, sometimes giving rise to additional interpretative opinions and declarations on the theme.

- ✓ Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in the **circle of trust** (2012-2018) and (2023-2025)
- ✓ Protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse **facilitated by information and communication technologies**: Addressing the challenges raised by child-self-generated sexual images and/or videos (2017-2022)
- ✓ Protecting children affected by the **refugee crisis** from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (2016-2017)
- ✓ Protecting **asylum-seeking children in the transit zones** at the Serbian/Hungarian border (2017-2018)
- ✓ **Data collection mechanisms** on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (2024-2025)
- ✓ **General Overview Questionnaire** (completed within 6 months of ratifying)

# Update on recent activities

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- **Thematic monitoring round on the circle of trust** - Protection of children against sexual abuse in the **circle of trust** (2023-2025): implementation report

Several Parties have amended their law in relation to solicitation of children in line with the Lanzarote Committee's opinion on Article 23 to extend criminalisation of solicitation to sexual offences committed online, even where there is no proposal to meet the child

## Recommendation 10

The Lanzarote Committee requests **Parties that have not yet done so**,<sup>25</sup> to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (grooming) is criminalised even when there is no proposal to meet followed by material acts leading to such a meeting, in line with the Lanzarote Committee's opinion on Article 23.

- **Thematic monitoring round on ICTs** - The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by **information and communication technologies (ICTs)**: compliance procedure (2024-2026)
- **Thematic monitoring round on data collection** – **Data collection mechanisms** concerning child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (2024-2025): implementation report

# Update on recent activities

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- **Opinion on Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention (2015):** Solicitation of children for sexual purposes through information and communication technologies (Grooming) - Art. 15 United Nations Convention against Cybercrime
- **Declaration on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies (2024)** - Upcoming work 2026
- **Declaration on the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Lanzarote Convention (2025)**

## Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child - CDENF:

- **Thematic guidance note** - Safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content (2025)
- **Updated study** on Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children (2024)
- Draft Recommendation on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter alia preventing and combatting violence against children
- **Concept note** for future CDENF action in view of the feasibility, timeliness and pertinence of elaborating a Child rights impact assessment tool on artificial intelligence (2024) and possible Child rights Impact Assessment tool on AI.



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Facebook:** Council of Europe Children

**X (Twitter):** @CoE\_children

**Contact us:** [lanzarote.committee@coe.int](mailto:lanzarote.committee@coe.int)