

RESOLUTION 67 (Rev. Dubai, 2014)

**The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector
in child online protection**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014),

recognizing

a) that there is an urgent need and global demand for the protection of children from exploitation and exposure to danger and deception when using the Internet or information and communication technology (ICT);

b) that many of them will participate in the youth programmes of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and will become active members in the development of coordination mechanisms with youth forums,

recalling

a) the memorandum of understanding between the secretariat of the Union and Child Helpline International (CHI);

b) Resolution 1306 adopted by the ITU Council at its 2009 session, under which a child online protection working group was set up, with the participation of Member States and Sector Members, and the group's mandate defined by the ITU members in close collaboration with the secretariat of the Union;

c) Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in child online protection;

d) the outcomes of the work accomplished by the ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), most importantly the development of its terms of reference (which were agreed by the 2010 session of the Council) and the description of BDT's activity in this regard, given that it is part of the initiatives of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D);

e) that the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), bearing in mind that the need to extend particular care to the child has been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1959 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (in particular in Articles 23 and 24), in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular in Article 10) and in the statutes and relevant instruments of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children;

f) that, within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the States Parties undertook to protect the child from all forms of exploitation and sexual abuse, and for that purpose, in particular, to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials (Article 34);

g) that pursuant to Article 10 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 2000) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the States Parties shall take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism; and shall also promote international cooperation and coordination between their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations;

h) that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), in the Tunis Commitment of 2005 (§ 24), recognized the role of ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children, urging Member States to strengthen action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration; accordingly, the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (§ 90 q) set forth the commitment to using ICTs as a tool to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, by, *inter alia*, incorporating regulatory, self-regulatory and other effective policies and frameworks to protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation through ICTs into national plans of action and e-strategies;

i) that, by Resolution 45 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, on the establishment of mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including countering and combating spam, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) recognized the role of ICTs in the protection of children and in enhancing their development and that action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICTs should be strengthened, emphasizing that the best interests of the child are a key consideration;

j) that, during the 2012 WSIS Forum in Geneva, a meeting was organized with partners in the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative, which achieved an important outcome, namely the agreement to work closely with the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) in order to provide the necessary assistance to Member States;

k) that, in 2012, ITU-D started to develop a national case study to demonstrate best practices, and aims to replicate this exercise in other countries as a way of developing global policies for protecting children online;

l) Resolution 17 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of this conference, which invites nations to pursue regional initiatives;

m) the work under way in Question 3/2 of Study Group 2, on cybersecurity, which includes child online protection, as well as the current work of the Joint Coordination Activity on Child Online Protection (JCA-COP), established by ITU-T Study Group 17,

taking into account

a) that there are threats that children are exposed to on the Internet, which have diversified and multiplied with the rapid development of information technology and telecommunication devices;

b) the growing development, diversification and spread of access to ICTs worldwide, in particular the Internet, and the increasingly widespread use thereof by children, at times with no control or guidance;

c) the importance of empowering children in the use of telecommunications/ICTs so as to improve their capacity and skills to stay safe and secure online;

- d) the need for children to use telecommunication/ICT tools, with emphasis on the importance of protecting them online;
- e) the requirement for a multistakeholder approach, as envisaged by WSIS, in order to promote social responsibility in the ICT sector so as to effectively make use of the variety of tools available to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs, reducing the risks identified for children;
- f) that, in order to address the issue of cybersecurity for children, it is critical that proactive measures be taken in order to protect children online at an international level;
- g) the technical difficulties involved in establishing a single harmonized global child helpline number;
- h) that, in 2013, there were almost as many mobile-cellular subscriptions as people in the world, and cellular-mobile penetration rates stood at 128 per cent in the developed countries and 89 per cent in the developing countries¹;
- i) that the number of children between the ages of eight and eighteen who possess mobile phones is constantly increasing;
- j) the need to continue working at global and regional levels to find available technological solutions to protect children online, as well as innovative applications to make it easier for children to communicate with child online protection helplines;
- k) the activities undertaken by ITU in the area of child online protection at the regional and international levels;
- l) the activities undertaken by many countries in recent years,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue with the activities of the COP initiative through the programme under Output 3.1 of Objective 3, encouraging collaboration with relevant study group Questions, with a view to providing guidance to Member States on strategies, best practices and cooperative efforts that can be promoted for the benefit of children;
- 2 to collaborate closely with CWG-COP, as well as relevant study group Questions, and encourage coordination among them, with the aim of avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing outputs relevant to protecting children online;
- 3 to coordinate with other similar initiatives being undertaken at national, regional and international level, with the objective of establishing partnerships to maximize efforts in this important area;
- 4 to encourage regional coordination in addressing the issue of child online protection, such as through the development of guiding principles, in cooperation with ITU regional offices and relevant entities;
- 5 to disseminate these guiding principles, in cooperation with ITU regional offices and relevant entities;

¹ Source: "The World in 2013 – ICT facts and figures", ITU, 2013.

- 6 to investigate suitable ways of encouraging developing and least developed countries to participate in the work of CWG-COP;
- 7 to coordinate with the ITU regional offices on the submission of quarterly reports to CWG-COP and on ways of progressing work on child online protection;
- 8 to support the work of CWG-COP by organizing orientation sessions for experts in connection with meetings of the group;
- 9 to identify the most appropriate opportunities for ITU to ensure that as much attention as possible is drawn to the issue of child online protection in developing countries;
- 10 to submit a report on the results of implementation of this resolution to the next WTDC,

invites Member States

- 1 to join and continue participating actively in CWG-COP and in related ITU activities, for the purposes of comprehensive discussion and exchange of information on legal, technical, organizational and procedural issues as well as capacity building and international cooperation for protecting children online;
- 2 to develop information, to educate and to create consumer-awareness campaigns targeting parents, teachers, industry and the population in general in order to make children aware of the risks to be found online;
- 3 to promote the allocation of regional telephone numbers for child online protection;
- 4 to foster the development of tools that contribute to enhancing child online protection;
- 5 to support the collection and analysis of data and statistics on child online protection that will contribute to public policy design and implementation, as well as enabling cross-country comparisons;
- 6 to consider establishing national child online protection frameworks;
- 7 to work closely with CHI and relevant non-governmental organizations;
- 8 to develop self-regulatory approaches in cooperation with the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations,

invites Sector Members

- 1 to participate actively in all relevant ITU activities, including CWG-COP, Question 3/2 of Study Group 2 and relevant programmes within ITU-D, and in other ITU activities, in particular in ITU-D, with the aim of informing the ITU membership about technological solutions for protecting children online, through various mechanisms such as workshops;
- 2 to develop innovative solutions and applications to make it easier for children to communicate with child online protection helplines;
- 3 to formulate guiding principles for informing Member States of modern technological solutions for protecting children online, taking into account best practices for industry and other relevant interested parties.