|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-COP-20/6** |
| **5 March 2023** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Chair of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection |
| OUTCOME OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION |
| **Purpose**This report summarizes the main results of the twentieth meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), held on 22-23 January 2024, in accordance with ITU 2010 Council Resolution 1306 and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022).**Action required**The Council Working Group on Child Online Protection is submitting this document to the Council for its approval and adoption of the draft Resolution in Annex.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[CWG-COP website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-cop/Pages/default.aspx) |

**1 Introduction**

1.1 The twentieth meeting of CWG-COP was held on 22-23 January 2024 in a hybrid format. Approximately 100 participants, representing governments, private sector, civil society, academia, international and intergovernmental organizations, participated in the meeting, which was chaired by Mr Abdelaziz Alzarooni (UAE).

**2 Opening remarks**

2.1 The Director of the ITU Development Bureau, Mr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava welcomed participants to the 20th assembly of the ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection. The director emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in tackling challenges within today's technological landscape. Addressing issues such as online child abuse and other risks online, the Director discussed ongoing initiatives and encouraged active involvement. Grateful for the participants' indispensable role, the Director anticipated their active engagement and expressed satisfaction with the number of contributions and engagement from various stakeholders.

2.2 The Chair extended a warm welcome to all participants and conveyed gratitude to the BDT Director for his presence and support. The Chair emphasized the group's growing importance, marked by an unprecedented 30+ contributions, the Chair highlighted this remarkable number as a reflection of the trust placed in this group as a platform for sharing best practices and exchanging experiences on child online protection. It underscored the significance of this theme and demonstrated the strong commitment of the membership to this vital topic. The meeting's agenda items were noted for their compelling nature before proceeding to the first presentation.

**3 Adoption of the agenda**

3.1 The [Agenda](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0001/en) was adopted as drafted.

**4 Contributions and information documents**

* 1. The following documents were presented by membership:
* [Contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0002/en) on ITU's work and activities in Child Online Protection and on the advancement in the implementation of the Child Online Protection Guidelines from the ITU Regional Offices for Africa, the Americas, the Arab Region, Asia and the Pacific, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Region. The Secretariat explained its involvement in two initiatives: Child Online Protection in Sports and the PoP initiative (Protection through online participation). The secretariat also addressed the involvement of children and youth through their initiatives, notably a Youth Consultation.
* [Contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0003/en) by the Republic of the Philippines - Encouraging ITU member states and sectoral members through the ITU to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen child online protection (cop) activities by way of specific programs such as celebration of girls in ICT.
* [Contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0004/en) by the Republic of the Philippines - The Philippines’ initiatives and best practices on child online protection
* [Contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0005/en) by Saudi Arabia - Progress on the Global Initiative for Child Protection in Cyberspace (CPC)
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0018/en) by Australia on Youth engagement and online safety
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0004/en) by the Kingdom of Bahrain on SafeSurf.
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0002/en) by the United Arab Emirates on Online Child Protection in the Curriculum
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0007/en) by Canada on the Programs and initiatives to combat child sexual exploitation
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0016/en) by Malawi on the Training of Trainers for Educators
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0019/en) by Egypt (Arab Republic of) on the role of the digital citizenship initiative in enhancing community awareness with existing national legal protection framework for protecting children online.
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0021/en) by Morocco on the Workshop Trainings on Child Online Protection (ITU Guidelines) for policymakers, ICT industry stakeholders and civil society
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0022/en) by Italy on the digital literacy for child protection
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0005/en) by the Center for Global IT Cooperation on the activities of the Alliance for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment
* [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0009/en) by ECPAT International - Proposal to intervene at the ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection
* [Information documents](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF) on collaborative efforts of ITU and Child Online Protection partners
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0013/en) by UNICEF
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0024/en) by euCONSENT
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0001/en) by SCORT Foundation
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0003/en) by PKPA Foundation Indonesia
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0006/en) by Stairway Foundation
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0008/en) by the Council of Europe
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0010/en) by Voice of Children
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0011/en) by 5Rights Foundation
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0012/en) by SWGfL
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0014/en) by ICMEC
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0015/en) by ICMEC
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0017/en) by Stiftung Digitale Chancen
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0020/en) by UNICRI
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0026/en) by Kaspersky
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0023/en) by Safe Online - Legal measures
* Presentations during the social media panel discussion
	+ [Information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0025/en) by Roblox
1. **Presentations**
	1. The ITU secretariat gave an [update](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0002/en) on the work undertaken between October 2023 and January 2024. The secretariat recalled the dissemination of the Child Online Protection guidelines through translation, localization, and awareness campaigns. In addition, the ITU secretariat recalled the launch of self-paced modules on the ITU Academy, catering to a wide range of stakeholders and the launch of a Web App, "Ask me! Your online safety friend," tailored to children aged 13 to 17, as well as the online game, "Sango’s Adventure: Discover Online Safety," designed for children aged 9 to 12. The secretariat also discussed its role in providing technical assistance to member states for the development and implementation of national Child Online Protection frameworks and strategies. Furthermore, the Secretariat explained its involvement in two initiatives: Child Online Protection in Sports and the PoP initiative (Protection through online participation) which aims to gather evidence on how the online environment can facilitate access to protection and support for children and young people. The secretariat also addressed the involvement of children and youth through their initiatives, notably a Youth Consultation. Additionally, the secretariat highlighted the collaboration with the Equals Global Partnership, an initiative tailored for young girls and women, including the dissemination of the "Her Digital Skills" course and its online safety module across various nations. The program was executed in diverse countries, and the secretariat highlighted specific beneficiaries who have gained from this initiative.
	2. The ITU Regional Offices for Africa, the Americas, the Arab Region, Asia and the Pacific, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Region provided an [overview](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CLCWGCOP19-C-0002/en) of the progress to implement the Child Online Protection Guidelines at the regional and national level, including workshops and events, campaigns, policy-assistance and collaborative efforts with other key stakeholders. The presentation further included the plans for 2024.
	3. After the contribution from the Secretariat and the ITU Regional Offices, the Chair welcomed and highlighted the efforts of the Secretariat and the ITU Regional Offices in advancing efforts in the implementation of the Child Online Protection Guidelines and related materials over the past three months. He encouraged participants to engage in the roll out and implementation of the Guidelines within their countries, either financially or other.
	4. The [contribution](http://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0003/en) presented by the Republic of the Philippines, advocates for prioritizing, mainstreaming, and strengthening Child Online Protection (COP) activities, particularly through initiatives like the celebration of Girls in ICT. The document emphasizes the vulnerability of children in the digital environment, citing statistics from the UNICEF Report on Protecting Children Online. It proposes the implementation of COP programs and policies through regional initiatives and the integration of COP discussions into Girls in ICT celebrations to raise awareness among girls and young women about online risks. Additionally, it recommends continuously assessing the impact of integrating COP discussions into Girls in ICT initiatives and encourages collaboration among Member States. The document includes a draft resolution endorsing these recommendations to the ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection for adoption, highlighting the importance of collective action to combat online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
	5. The [contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0004/en) by the Republic of the Philippines presented their initiatives and best practices on child online protection. The document aims to share insights aligned with Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) with member states and sector members. The Philippines highlighted its legislative framework, including Republic Acts addressing online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, alongside policies like the Child Online Safeguarding Policy. Additionally, the One Government Approach underscored coordinated efforts involving various agencies to combat child exploitation online. The CWG-COP was invited to acknowledge this document.
	6. The [contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-C-0005/en) from Saudi Arabia introduced the GCF Institute, a global non-profit organization based in Riyadh, which highlighted its cybersecurity endeavours, underscoring a dedication to fortifying cyberspace protection and resilience. Through impactful initiatives like "Child Protection in Cyberspace," the institute strives to ensure a secure online environment for children worldwide. This includes identifying cyber threats, raising awareness about risks, and implementing strategies and tools to shield children from diverse forms of online abuse. Collaborating with the ITU, the GCF Institute assessed global cybersecurity, implemented the "Creating a Safe Cyberspace for Children" program, and translated guidelines into 20 languages. Their report, "Why Children Are Unsafe in Cyberspace," underscores early exposure to online threats and the urgent need for action, including safety education and parental controls. The GCF Institute extends an invitation to ITU members to join the program and support the global Child Protection in Cyberspace initiative.
	7. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0018/en) from Australia highlighted the eSafety initiative's focus on youth engagement and online safety. The approach involves three pillars: Partnerships, Protection, and Prevention, aiming for proactive change. The Youth Council, representing ages 13-24, engages with the government, addressing Big Tech and launching initiatives. Positive outcomes include increased confidence, and future efforts target diverse representation and effective communication. Lessons learned emphasize priorities for government and industry, improved reporting processes, collaboration, engagement with parents and youth, and ensuring age-appropriate online access.
	8. The Kingdom of Bahrain's [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0004/en) highlighted the SafeSurf initiative. The purpose was to inform the Council about SafeSurf's strategy, which aims to proactively identify and prevent online threats, foster a cyber safety culture, and build relations with key stakeholders. The presentation outlined SafeSurf's focus on diverse audiences, including educators, children, teens, caregivers, and the general public. SafeSurf's community outreach efforts encompassed collaborations with youths for an online safety TVC, roadshows in schools in partnership with Kaspersky Lab, workshops for blind children, regular contributions from professionals, and ready-to-use projects for children on the Children's Activity Center. Additionally, initiatives such as the Cyberbullying Booklet and the Cyber Safety Program were highlighted, emphasizing the identification of cyberbullies, strategies to deal with them, and practical exercises. The Kingdom of Bahrain underscored SafeSurf's commitment to spreading knowledge through initiatives like the ABTAL AL INTERNET workshop, organized in collaboration with Google, where children engaged in an interactive game about online safety. The comprehensive efforts of SafeSurf were presented as part of Bahrain's commitment to child online protection.
	9. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0002/en) from the United Arab Emirates emphasized the importance of digital literacy, aligning with national and international frameworks. The UAE outlined its Digital Literacy Framework, integrating online safety lessons across various subjects, promoting responsible online practices. Key considerations included digital literacy as a fundamental educational component, education on avoiding online pitfalls, and collaboration among stakeholders for increased protection. The UAE's initiatives encompassed curriculum integration, guides on safe education, anti-cyberbullying measures, and awareness campaigns for parents. The UAE highlighted its commitment to preparing students for the digital landscape while fostering a deep understanding of responsible online behaviour, aligning with the broader goals of the UAE's educational vision. The contribution showcased specific examples of lessons within the curriculum, covering topics like online safety, ethics, digital health, and cyberbullying across various grades and subjects. The UAE's comprehensive approach demonstrated its dedication to ensuring a safe and positive digital environment for young learners.
	10. Canada, through its [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0007/en), has presented three distinct websites offering various national approaches to online child protection. The first is the [Public Safety Department](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/chld-sxl-xplttn-ntrnt/index-en.aspx), the second is the [National Tipline for Reporting](https://www.cybertip.ca/en/), and the third is the [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](https://protectchildren.ca/fr/). Canada's contribution underscored its fight against online Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Actively engaged in the G7 Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Working Group, Canada collaborates internationally to combat CSE through the G7 Action Plan. A key initiative, the Voluntary Principles, involves 19 companies and offers a consistent framework. Canada also participates in the WePROTECT Global Alliance and the Virtual Global Taskforce, emphasizing global cooperation. Endorsing international agreements, Canada commits to safeguarding children globally from sexual exploitation, demonstrating a comprehensive and impactful strategy.
	11. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0016/en) from Malawi underscored its commitment to safeguarding children in the digital realm. Through a collaborative effort between MACRA, CERT, and ITU, Malawi conducted a Training of Trainers for Educators. The training aimed to sensitize and build the capacity of social workers, NGOs, and policymakers on the National Child Online Protection Strategy. Participants, strategically chosen from various regions, including Lilongwe, Mzuzu, and Southern Malawi, have shown promising outcomes, with some achieving certification as trainers. High schools involved have initiated in-school awareness meetings, and media coverage has effectively raised awareness on child online protection. Malawi's action plan includes commemorating Safer Internet Day, school outreach activities, finalizing the National Child Online Strategy, and establishing a youth network project on safe Internet.
	12. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0019/en) from Egypt underscored the Digital Citizenship Initiative's vital role in raising community awareness within the national legal framework for child online protection. Egypt's efforts focus on legislative measures, mapping existing laws, and fostering multisectoral forums. The Digital Citizenship Initiative serves as a national case study, promoting digital literacy, awareness, and partnerships. Pillars include Arabic content, awareness campaigns, capacity building, a single access point portal, and networking.
	13. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0021/en) from Morocco's Digital Development Agency (ADD) highlighted workshop trainings conducted in partnership with ITU on Child Online Protection. Held in Rabat on December 18-20, 2023, the workshops targeted policymakers, ICT industry stakeholders, and civil society. Led by ITU experts, discussions focused on accelerating the implementation of national strategies, enhancing online safety, and addressing the role of public bodies in education. The workshops, attended by over 130 participants, emphasized themes such as legal frameworks, technological solutions, children's rights, and the family's role in raising awareness for online protection.
	14. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0022/en) from Italy emphasized the importance of digital literacy for child protection. The purpose was to encourage media literacy and promote intergovernmental projects fostering digital citizenship. The focus is on empowering young people to become active and responsible citizens capable of protecting themselves from the risks of the digital world. Italy highlighted their efforts in addressing cyber risks through a multidimensional approach, covering technical, economic, legal, and governance aspects of digitalization. Italy explained that European Commission policies on digital literacy and regulations on minors' access to age-inappropriate content are discussed. Italy's initiatives include the Caivano Decree, parental control systems, and the establishment of a fund for educational and media literacy projects. Despite an increase in digital media use among Italian minors, there is an acknowledgement of the need to improve digital skills.
	15. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0009/en) from ECPAT International emphasized the pivotal role of legislation in safeguarding children online. They provided insights, lessons, and recommendations from ongoing civil society advocacy. ECPAT stressed the need for targeted legislative measures to protect children's rights in digital environments. Their presentation highlighted EU initiatives like Project Beacon and the ECLAG Advocacy Coalition's efforts. Lessons learned include the importance of balancing privacy and safety, public support for child protection legislation, and the necessity of legal obligations. Recommendations focus on harmonizing legislation, demystifying technology, ensuring consistent transparency reporting, and sustaining implementation and enforcement.
	16. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0005/en) from the Center for Global IT Cooperation presented the past activities of the Alliance for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment in Russia. Launched in 2021, the Alliance focused on creating a safe digital space through education and positive content. The "Digital Ethics of Childhood Charter" advocated self-regulation, involving over 12,000 organizations globally. The Alliance contributed to digital literacy, actively fought against the spread of harmful content, and initiated the successful "Hash Database" project. It expressed openness to global collaboration with the ITU and other stakeholders for child protection online.

[Information documents](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF) on collaborative efforts from ITU and Child Online Protection partners:

* 1. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0013/en) from UNICEF presented a global guidance on enhancing legislative frameworks to protect children from online sexual abuse and exploitation. Emphasizing a rights-based approach, their presentation covered key aspects, including evidence-based legislation, criminalization, duties and responsibilities in relation to business, investigation procedures, victim support, independent monitoring, and implementation. The comprehensive guide, available on the UNICEF website, aims to assist governments, civil society, businesses, and international organizations in strengthening child protection laws in the digital age.
	2. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0024/en) from euCONSENT summarized recent legislation mandating online age assurance, international standards, methodologies, and interoperability strategies implemented by euCONSENT in collaboration with the UN Safe Online initiative. euConsent highlighted the significance of age assurance in compliance with evolving global regulations, including GDPR, Digital Services Act, and other national laws. It addressed various age assurance methods, and accuracy considerations, emphasizing the need for a competitive interoperable network of third-party providers. Additionally, the contribution showcased euCONSENT's achievements, and the pilot project's success, and outlined future developments, including Phase 2 of the project and adherence to ISO and IEEE standards.
	3. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0001/en) from the SCORT Foundation highlighted the foundation's initiatives aimed at empowering young leaders working with children and youth in sports organizations to address online risks such as grooming, cyberbullying, and privacy violations. The foundation emphasized the importance of integrating online safeguarding policies into child protection frameworks within sports organizations. Their collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union since 2020 has led to the development of recommendations and an upcoming practical toolkit tailored to empower young coaches and social workers in vulnerable communities. The toolkit aims to equip them with the necessary knowledge and tools to ensure child online protection in sport and play-based initiatives, fostering a safe environment for children both online and offline. The foundation called for active participation from Member States, international entities, and partners to contribute their experiences and best practices to enrich the toolkit and collectively safeguard children in the digital age.
	4. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0003/en) from Pusat Kajian Dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA) presented a baseline study report on cybersafety in Medan and Palu, Indonesia. The study aimed to understand the current situation of cybersafety in these provinces, with results shared with the national government in February 2023. Recommendations included the explicit inclusion of online child protection in legislation, the formation of task units to handle complaints related to child online protection, tailored training for child protection actors, engagement in building children's protective skills, and expansion of education efforts using creative media to promote a safe internet.
	5. The Stairway Foundation’s [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0006/en) highlighted the legislative and policy initiatives of the foundation regarding the elaboration of guidelines. It mentioned the passage of Republic Act 11930 in July 2022, which established the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAEM) Law, including provisions for the offenders registry. The foundation collaborated with the National Coordinating Center against OSAEC and CSAEM (NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM) to organize a Round Table Discussion in February 2024 to gather preliminary inputs for the registry guidelines. The discussion focused on aspects like offender tiers, risk assessment, prevention of recidivism, and leveraging the registry for online environment safeguards, considering the high social media penetration rate in the Philippines.
	6. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0008/en) from the Council of Europe outlined the Lanzarote Convention, opened for signature in 2007 with 48 State Parties to date. The Lanzarote Committee monitors the Convention's implementation and facilitates information exchange to combat sexual violence against children, particularly through ICTs. The presentation emphasized key recommendations, promising practices, and challenges identified by the Committee, including the need for legal frameworks to address child sexual abuse material (CSAM), jurisdiction over transnational cases, and support services for child victims of online sexual abuse. It also discussed upcoming themes for awareness raising and ongoing monitoring rounds focusing on sexual exploitation and abuse of children in positions of trust.
	7. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0010/en) from Voice of Children Nepal, presented a study aimed aimed at assessing the situation of online child sexual abuse (OCSA) in Nepal and identifying policy gaps related to it. Key findings regarding the situation of OCSA highlighted issues such as excessive internet access by children without effective monitoring, limited understanding of online sexual abuse among stakeholders, and insufficient legal provisions and complaint handling mechanisms. Recommendations included the incorporation of specific sections on OCSA into relevant legislation, involving child psychologists in hearings related to OCSA cases, implementing awareness and educational programs, establishing complaint handling mechanisms at the district level, and setting up digital forensic labs to support investigations.
	8. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0011/en) from 5Rights Foundation emphasized the urgent need for coherent global legislation to protect children in the digital world. Highlighting the lack of comprehensive protections online compared to offline norms, the presentation stressed the importance of safety by design and effective corporate responsibility. It outlined progress, challenges, opportunities, and best practices, focusing on key principles essential for success. They also provided interactive resources and reports, including case studies and standards such as the Age Appropriate Design Code and the IEEE 2089-2021 Standard, to guide policymakers and practitioners in building a safer digital environment for children.
	9. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0012/en) from SWGfL underscored the necessity for robust legal measures to protect children in the digital age, particularly focusing on emerging technologies like end-to-end encryption. Highlighting the risks children face online, including cyberbullying and explicit content, the report emphasized the importance of global action to safeguard children from online threats. It discussed various legal frameworks, responsibilities of stakeholders, and national initiatives aimed at combating online child exploitation. The report also delved into the challenges posed by end-to-end encryption (E2EE), noting its potential to impede law enforcement efforts in detecting and preventing online threats against children while balancing privacy concerns. SWGfL advocated for collaborative efforts to address these challenges, balancing privacy and child safety effectively. It emphasized the need for nuanced approaches and international cooperation to ensure both privacy and child protection in the digital realm, calling for discussions on setting technical standards for safeguarding children online, including end-to-end encryption, at the ITU COP council.
	10. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0014/en) from the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) provided a comprehensive review of global legislation concerning child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Conducted through The Koons Family on International Law & Policy, ICMEC's research spans 196 countries, analyzing the presence or absence of adequate anti-CSAM laws since 2006. The presentation highlighted the findings of ICMEC's 10th Edition of this research, examining key aspects such as the existence of national legislation specific to CSAM, the definition of CSAM, criminalization of technology-facilitated offenses, and mandates for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to report suspected CSAM. The contribution also addressed the impact of COVID-19 on CSAM, emerging concerns related to generative AI and deepfakes, dark web activities, data retention laws, and the privacy debate surrounding end-to-end encryption (E2EE). It acknowledged ongoing areas of concern while expressing gratitude to the individuals involved in the research.
	11. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0015/en) from ICMEC outlined the efforts of Financial Coalitions Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FCACSE) to disrupt the child sexual abuse material (CSAM) trade. They emphasized the financial industry's role in leading investigations, identifying online exploitation, and supporting related efforts through various methods such as transaction analysis, offender profiling, and partnerships with law enforcement, NGOs, and academia. Additionally, it discussed how Financial Coalition Forums raise awareness of best practices and collaborate on data-driven initiatives to combat online child sexual exploitation. The report also highlights the challenges associated with using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to address child exploitation and legislative support in countries like the Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand.
	12. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0017/en) from Stiftung Digitale Chancen discussed the legislative proceedings of the European Commission's proposal for a CSA-Regulation (CSA-R). It emphasized the need for contributions and addressed crucial points, including age assurance and detection in end-to-end encrypted environments. The presentation aimed to inform discussions on child online protection and legislative measures at the European level.
	13. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0020/en) from UNICRI focused on the responsible use of AI in addressing online child abuse and exploitation. It highlighted initiatives by the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics to combat these issues, emphasizing ethical and legal considerations. The contribution introduced the AI for Safer Children Global Hub, offered insights into specialized trainings, and discusses the value and challenges of AI systems. It concluded by promoting responsible AI innovation through the AI Toolkit and invited stakeholders to join the Global Hub for collaboration.
	14. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0026/en) from Kaspersky discussed progress in protecting children online and expected trends for 2024. It introduced Kaspersky Safe Kids, a comprehensive digital parenting app, and highlighted educational initiatives like the children's fiction book "Midori Kuma and a Very Special Race" published in six languages. The contribution also covered global cybersecurity projects, including free online courses, webinars, and publications aimed at educating children about online safety. Regional initiatives in Russia, Europe, CIS & META, and JAPAC were outlined, focusing on various educational programs and partnerships with organizations like UNICEF and educational institutions. Finally, they identified trends for 2024, including AI-related threats, cyberattacks targeting young gamers, fintech risks, and smart home threats for children.
	15. The [information document](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0023/en) from SafeOnline highlighted the importance of legal measures in safeguarding children online. It discussed various forms of online child exploitation and abuse, including grooming, cyberbullying, and the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). The contribution showcased progress made from 2017 to 2022, such as the identification of child victims and the deployment of technology tools in over 100 countries. Examples of legislative measures and their impact in countries like Kenya and Albania were provided. SafeOnline also identified challenges such as fragmented legal provisions and barriers to accessing justice for victims. Emerging threats like AI-generated CSAM and the need for comprehensive legislation and international cooperation were emphasized. They called for a whole-system approach, proactive investigative capacity, and meaningful child participation to address these challenges. It underscored the importance of globally aligned legislation and standards to ensure online safety for children.

**6. Other agenda items**

**Information session with ICT Industry**

* 1. During the Information session with ICT Industry, Roblox presented an [overview](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CLCWGCOP20-INF-0025/en) of the platform's efforts to ensure safety and civility in its digital community. This included implementing automated chat filters and rules, conducting human and automated image reviews for uploaded content, enforcing special chat restrictions for young users, and promoting player and parental controls to discourage negative behaviour. Roblox also collaborates with research partners and global organizations to gather data, educate users, and advocate for civility by design. Through various initiatives, such as the Roblox Civility Initiative and civility innovation workshops, the platform aims to foster a positive online environment. Additionally, Roblox explained its active participation in events and conferences to promote safety and digital wellness education. The presentation concluded with a hypothesis that online spaces, like Roblox, can become safer and more civil than real life with continued efforts and collaboration.
1. **Any other business**
	1. During the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection, many appreciative remarks were articulated, underscoring the distinctive essence of such gatherings and addressing an issue that seems to be gaining momentum significantly.
	2. The liaison statement from ITU Council Working Group on COP to ITU-D STUDY GROUP 2 was presented during the meeting. Following the 19th and 20th meetings of the CWG COP, the group will send this outcome report to ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 3/2 on child online protection for information.
	3. The liaison statement from ITU Council Working Group on COP to ITU-T STUDY GROUP 17 on Security was presented during the meeting. Following the 20th meeting of the CWG COP and the contributions from euCONSENT - Making the Internet age-aware and Southwest Grid for Learning on online age assurance and overall technical standards on child online protection, the group will send this liaison statement for information.
2. **Discussion**
	1. The draft resolution proposed and coordinated by the Republic of the Philippines to encourage ITU Member States and Sector Members, through the ITU, to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen Child Online Protection (COP) activities by way of specific programs, such as the celebration of girls in ICT, has been supported by Canada, United Arab Emirates, Russia, Thailand and Brazil and has been adopted by the Group and will be sent to Council for approval. Italy and the Bahamas suggested a revision of the resolution document. Following a suggestion from Russia, it was noted that a footnote should be included on the source of the figures presented in the text. The draft resolution is included in this document as an annex.
	2. During the meeting, Saudi Arabia invited member states to join their program on child online protection and support the global Child Protection in Cyberspace initiative.
	3. Mexico has made a request to access the GCF report mentioned in Saudi Arabia's presentation.
	4. Following the presentation by Australia, the Philippines and the DQ Institute expressed their interest in replicating the model that had been presented.
	5. Canada recommended working on a repository mechanism to select filtered and characterized content based on the quality of presentations. South Africa supported Canada's suggestion regarding the strategy for synthesizing information for the CWG on COP.
	6. Following UNICEF's contribution, questions have arisen regarding their 2022 gaming industry guidelines and their implementation. UNICEF has committed to presenting an update on the implementation of the gaming guidelines at the next meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection end of 2024.
	7. During the meeting, Mexico proposed to further emphasize the synergies with the UNICEF Child Rights and Business Guiding Principles.
	8. euCONSENT recommended integrating efforts to make the internet *age aware* into ITU's mandate on child online protection.
	9. Europol has initiated discussions on topics such as law enforcement's role, capacity building, and victim assistance.
	10. During the meeting, South Africa supported the proposal for Member States to review Council Resolution 1306 concerning the establishment of the CWG on COP.
	11. Canada brought the attention of the assembly to the issue of technical standards for end-to-end encryption, emphasizing that this matter falls outside the purview of the CWG on COP, thereby suggesting caution in engaging with it.
	12. During the discussions, multiple member states recommended engaging platform owners or application developers in the event to gain insights into their actions and practices.
	13. Russia proposed that the management team of the Council Working Group should present a concrete proposal on enhancing reporting and raising awareness regarding the group's activities at the next Plenipotentiary Conference in 2026.
3. **Outcomes of the twentieth meeting of the CWG-COP**
	1. The Chair emphasized the significant success of the event, evidenced by the substantial number of contributions received, and conveyed deep appreciation for the highest number of contributions ever received, totalling 30 or more. Furthermore, the Chair highlighted the importance and relevance of extending the duration of the CWG to one and a half days.
	2. The meeting thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their continued commitment to important global issues including though the establishment of the GCF institute to adress major topics such Child Protection in Cyberspace. The meeting recognized the valuable support to the Global program to create a safe and prosperous Cyberspace for Children and the substantial progress on the Child Protection in Cyberspace Global Initiative. All members were invited to join these impactful initiative and program.
	3. The Chair delivered an outline of the procedure for accessing the contributions made to the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection to the participants.
	4. The Chair explained that in the upcoming meetings from 2024 to 2026, the focus will be on various themes related to child online protection, aligning with the ITU Guidelines on child online protection for policymakers from 2020. The first meeting in January 2024 delved into Legal Frameworks and will be followed by discussions on Regulatory Frameworks and Reporting mechanisms in the fourth quarter of 2024. The agenda for the first quarter of 2025 will include topics such as Education, digital literacy, and national awareness, while Research and technical tools will be the focus in the fourth quarter of 2025. Finally, the integration of Child Online Protection in broader initiatives will be addressed in subsequent meetings.
	5. The Chair reiterated information regarding the forthcoming meetings, including deadlines and contact details for communication outreach, to the participants.
	6. The draft resolution proposed and coordinated by the Philippines was adopted by the Group and will be sent to Council for approval. It was noted to include a footnote on the source of the numbers presented in the text.
	7. As per the agreement under agenda item 7: “Any other business” two liaison statements will be sent to:
* ITU-D SG2 on the outcomes of the past two CWG COP meetings (19th and 20th meeting between October 2023- January 2024)
	+ - ITU-T SG17 informing SG17 about the contribution from euCONSENT and SWGfl on making the internet age aware and end-to-end-encryption.
		1. The group further agreed on the following recommendations:
* Recommendation to propose to Council a review of Council Resolution 1306 concerning the mandate of the CWG-COP.
* Recommendation to define mechanisms aimed at increasing access to and usability of the invaluable resources and information shared through the contributions to the group.
* Recommendation to enhance the template to provide better guidance to the contributors.

**Abdelaziz Alzarooni (UAE)
Chair, CWG-COP**

***Annex: 1***

ANNEX

Draft New Resolution [...]

Encouraging ITU Member States and Sector Members through the ITU to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen Child Online Protection (COP) activities by way of specific programs such as celebration of girls in ICT

The ITU Council,

Considering

*a)* Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) ITU's role in child online protection;

*b)* Resolution 67 (WTDC, Kigali, 2022) on the role of the Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection;

*c)* Resolution 1306 (C09 Modified C15) on ITU's role with regard to International Public Policy Issues concerning Creating a Safer Internet Environment for Children,

recalling

Resolution 1306, setting up a child online protection working group,

taking into account

that Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) *resolved*, among others:

*a)* to continue the COP initiative as a platform to raise awareness and share best practices on child online safety issues;

*b)* to continue providing assistance and support to Member States, especially developing countries, in developing and implementing roadmaps for the COP initiative;

*c)* to continue to coordinate the COP initiative, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders,

recognizing

*a)* that there is an imperative need for an urgent collective response to combat Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children;

*b)* that there is a wide acceptance of Girls in ICT among member states with 11,400 International Girls in ICT Day celebrations in 171 countries since 2011 according to the ITU Girls in ICTs Map,

resolves

1 to promote, coordinate and support digital inclusion related programs and other ITU-led programs related to the rights and welfare of children with online safety information and resources;

2 to allocate the necessary resources to ensure that children and young people are empowered and equipped with online safety skills,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen COP strategic activities by way of specific programs such as celebration of Girls in ICT;

2 to pursue collaboration on the matter with other membership through the ITU.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_