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|  | **Document CWG-COP-21/INF/14** |
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| Contribution by Federal Republic of Nigeria | |
| NIGERIA'S REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS, INITIATIVES AND REPORTING MECHANISMS ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION | |
| **Purpose**  The purpose of this document is to share Nigeria's regulatory frameworks, initiatives, reporting mechanisms and best practices on child online protection with Member States and Sector Members in line with Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and based on the Focus theme area for Q4, 2024 contribution.  **Action required**  This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information**.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Resolution* [*179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-179-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference on ITU's role in child online protection;* [*https://ncc.gov.ng/technical-regulation/internet/child-online-protection*](https://ncc.gov.ng/technical-regulation/internet/child-online-protection) | |

Regulatory frameworks

# 1 National Child Online Protection Policy and Strategy (NCOPPS) – 2024

The National Child Online Protection Policy and Strategy (NCOPPS) document aims to further develop the existing child protection mechanism, focusing on harmonizing various efforts to protect children online and measures for addressing critical national priorities on child protection. The NCOPPS sets out a direction for Nigeria, driven by various national goals, policies, existing legislations, and initiatives to ensure harmonization and focus on achieving the mandates of the different government agencies involved in COP. The NCOPPS will serve as a framework for providing guidelines and support to stakeholders.

The focus areas of the NCOPPS are policymakers, parents, guardians, educators, the ICT industry, and security and law enforcement. The objective of the Framework is to provide a set of principles, initiatives, action plan, implementation roadmap, and short-, medium-, and long-term goals that will give overall national direction to the planning and development of the Nigerian Child Online Protection Initiative.

The Action Plan defines a period of 5 years for implementation and assigns roles and responsibilities to various stakeholders. These stakeholders would be coordinated through a National Working Group.

The NCOPPS document comprises a checklist, as specified by the ITU for policy and strategy development, which includes:

*a)* Legal framework

*b)* Regulatory framework

*c)* Reporting-illegal content

*d)* Reporting- user concerns

*e)* Actors and stakeholders

*f)* Research

*g)* Educational digital literacy and competency

*h)* Educational resources

*i)* Child protection

*j)* National awareness

*k)* Tools, services and settings.

The document also presents a framework for evaluating and monitoring the implemented strategies. It suggests developing a matrix to track progress related to the document's objectives. Accountability mechanisms and ongoing evaluation are critical to ensure every element of the NCOPPS improves COP in Nigeria, including regular assessments to measure the plan's success and the flexibility of the strategies against new online threats.

It also recommends creating forums to promote discussion and partnership, allowing stakeholders to collectively share achievements, obstacles, and insights to improve child online protection.

# 2 Standard Operating Procedures for Child Online Protection (SOP4COP) – 2024

The purpose of the Standard Operating Procedure for Child Online Protection (SOP4COP) is to:

*a)* Enumerate the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the Nigerian COP ecosystem

*b)* Define the guidelines and procedures to ensure child online protection in Nigeria

*c)* Provide a guide for notification and reporting of issues on child online protection

*d)* Provide brief insight on the current situational analysis on child online protection in Nigeria.

The SOP is applicable to all stakeholders involved in child online safety, including educational institutions, Internet service providers, law enforcement, parents, guardians, and children themselves. It covers all aspects of online activity, including but not limited to browsing, social media use, online gaming, etc.

*a)* Procedures for SOP

*b)* Education and awareness

*c)* Censorship and protection

*d)* Compliance and enforcement

*e)* Monitoring and auditing

*f)* Reporting.

# 3 Cybercrime Act 2015 as amended on 20 February 2024

The Cybercrime Act provides an effective and unified legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of cybercrimes in Nigeria, ensure the protection of Critical National Information Infrastructure. Section 23 of the act talks about child pornography and other related offences using a computer system or a network.

The Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act 2015 was amended on 20 February 2024 to insert some consequential words that were inadvertently omitted in the Act.

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