



Role of Civil Society

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Where we are in the Digital Age



We are at a crossroads.
More than half of the world's
population will be online by the
end of 2018. Now is the time to
redouble our collective efforts to
leave no one offline.

Houlin Zhao
Secretary-General, ITU



Recent researches on Risks & Harms Online

1

In 2018, Center for Missing & Exploited Children received 18.4 million reports of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

A recent study found that 17% of parents talked about their children being victims of Cyberbullying and some countries recorded 37%.

2

3

According to the DQ Impact report, 56% of 8-12yrs olds across 29 countries have been exposed to excessive screen time, cyberbullying, game addiction, sexual behaviours and offline meetings.



Recent researches on Risks & Harms Online

4

One in five children b/n 9 and 17 see unwanted sexual material online and 25% of them reported experiencing extreme fear or distress.

A 2019 study found 99% of online T&C were written in language too complex for children to understand.

5

6

The number of illegal images and videos confirmed by INHOPE's Internet Hotlines increased by 83% from 2016-2018.

INHOPE also reported that the prevalence of pre-pubescent children (3-13yrs olds) depicted in CSEA images and videos increased from 56% in 2016 to 89% in 2018.

7



2018 Figures



51%
of the world population
online by the end of 2018

Measuring the Information Society Report
#ITUdata



24%
of the population
in Africa online by
the end of 2018

Measuring the Information Society Report
#ITUdata





Child Online safety Policy Complexities

Blurred lines:

Physical, digital & biological spheres.

Dealing with the threats associated with children's access to the Internet is a complex policy area.

This complexity demands approaches to policy development which are inclusive, expertise driven and should involve a broad range of stakeholders.

This need has been recognized by the ITU, the UN Expert Group on COP, WePROTECT, and others.



Do we have issues after all the opportunities?

**Inappropriate content,
including age-
inappropriate content
and illegal content.**

Inappropriate contact

**Inappropriate conduct
*Contract**

**Reputational damage
and digital footprint:**

**Commercial issues,
including spam, hidden
costs and
inappropriate
advertising**

**Overuse, which can
interfere with study
and sleep.**



What do children need to participate safely?

The ITU guidelines tackle the issue of Child Online Safety broadly by encouraging stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure child protection in the digital world.



For children to take full advantage of the space, it is important we find a way to address issues of



radicalization
among other
risks



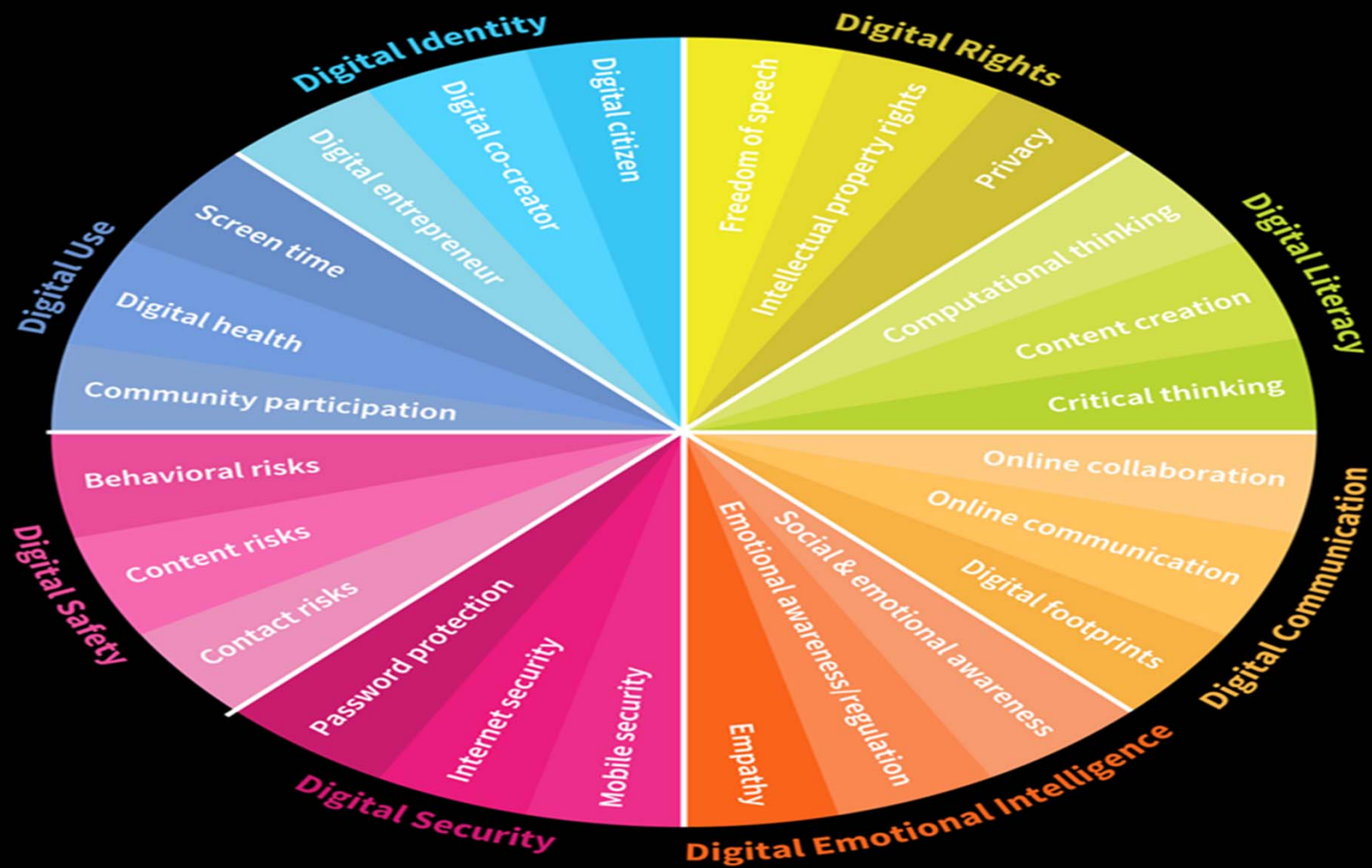
gaming



bullying



The crucial role of Education in Online Safety .





Scope of COP Initiative

**Legal
measures**

Technical and
Procedural
Measures

Organizational
Structures

**Capacity
Building**

International
Cooperation

ITU guidelines: The ITU's guidelines provide a blueprint for countries to inform the development of their own strategies, policies and implementation plans to ensure Children's Online Protection.



How can CSOs be effective in the discussion on COP.

Review of the
ICT4AD policy.

CSO roundtables

ITU Pleniport
18

Meetings with different
stakeholders in the
space.

#NiceNetNovember
#DLWeek
#E-Safety Compet

Position
papers/policy
briefs/Petitions. etc

Inauguration of
NCOPSC

Research

Review of the sch.
Curriculum.

Capacity building
programmes
(Media,Trs,Chn,Parents)

Dev'ment of COP
framework.

Research (Reg/Int
protocols)
Industry name &
shame

#SID (#SIDGhana)
#SIDAfrica

Influence policy on
the inclusion of
COP in CSPS for
Ghana.

FB trusted partner,
Google AdHouse,
ChildLine (IWF/UNICEF)

#OnlineSafety4Agend
a2040
#Kili4TheAfricanChild

Challenges?



How we get people involved.





Child Online Africa.

Vision:

To create a safe and sustainable
Internet space for the African child by
2040.



Child Online Africa.

Goal 1

- Promote the interest of children and young people when it comes to the digital space

Goal 2

- Facilitate the safe access to Internet for children to enable the bridging of the digital divide.

Goal 3

- To inform and address the forms of abuses children and young people are confronted with in the digital space and try to find how they could be addressed through specific countries frameworks.

Goal 4

- The project seeks to make visible provisions in various AU, ECOWAS and other Economic Groups' legislations in favour of protection of young people in the digital environment. (Aspirations 2,7 and 10)

Goal 5

- Ensure the Sustainability of the key results and outcomes emanating from the efforts at promoting child online protection.



Recommendations

Need to take an holistic national approach to safeguarding children both off and online

Promote children's safe use of the Internet as a generic concept rather than focusing on one element of risk.

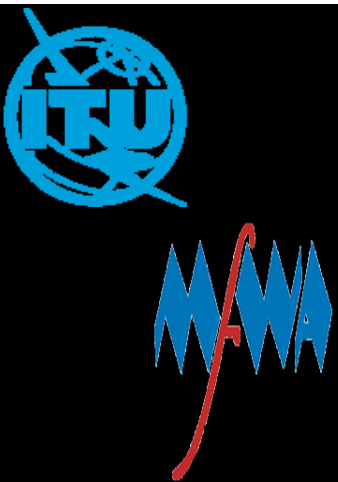
Develop frameworks to implement strategy and policy which seek to ensure safe online environments for all children and young people, enabling them to capitalize on the benefits the Internet has to offer whilst minimizing risks.

There is a need to develop comprehensive strategies which address both the opportunities and the risks that new technologies present for children and young people.

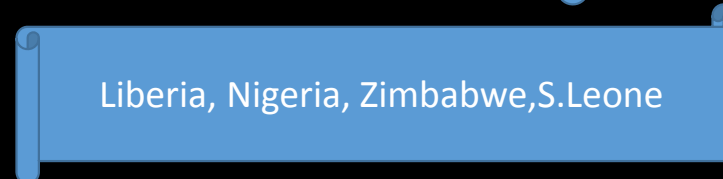
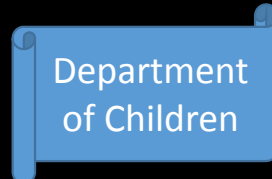
Ensure the provision of support services for children to report online abuse in all its forms and the scope to improve children's awareness of support services for those who are victims of online child sexual exploitation, cyberbullying etc. and other forms of online risks.

While protecting children online must continue to be a priority, this must be carefully balanced with efforts to promote opportunities for children online. In doing so, we can ensure their rights to safety while also creating the conditions under which they can participate in and benefit from the digital world.

It is crucial that children, along with parents and teachers, understand how to use the internet safely and what to do if they have problems online. Child Online Protection remains a global challenge which needs to be undertaken urgently.



PARTNERSHIPS



THANK YOU

For more information:
<http://www.itu.int/cop>