



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Arab Regional Office (ARO)

Ref.: 018973

Cairo, 3 Nov. 2020

- Arab Administrations of ITU Member States
- Arab Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members and Associates
- Academia Institutions in the Arab Region
- Regional and International Organizations concerned
- Regional chairs and vice chairs of the Advisory Groups and Study Groups
- All stakeholders non-members of ITU

Subject: Online Regional Dialogue on the 2020 ITU COP Guidelines and Opportunities for Implementation in the Arab Region

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to invite you to take part in the [Online Regional Dialogue on the 2020 ITU COP Guidelines and Opportunities for Implementation in the Arab Region](#), organized by the International Telecommunication Union and to be held online on Monday **23 Nov. 2020, (11:00-13:00) Cairo Time**.

This event is held within the framework of the ITU Arab Regional Initiative for Arab Region “Confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs”, adopted by the WTDC-17, Buenos Aires.

In today’s world, Internet is evolving at an unbridled speed, becoming an infinitely richer resource for children to play and learn, but exponentially increasing the risks faced by children online. The COVID-19 pandemic plays an undeniable role in accelerating this phenomenon while throwing a sharp spotlight on the need to double any efforts towards supporting children and young people’s lives online and improve the Internet safety ecosystem for children.

Upon the request of the Member States, the [Child Online Protection Guidelines](#), firstly developed in 2009, have been reviewed and officially launched in June 2020. This way, we will continue the significant effort to create a safe and empowering environment for children and young people by providing tools that support children, parents and educators in the development of digital skills and digital literacy, as well as industry and government stakeholders in the development of corporate and national COP policies and strategies.


In this context, the event will provide a platform for the community of Arab stakeholders dealing with COP as well as for all Arab countries that will implement the COP guidelines to present approaches taken related to keeping children and young persons' safe online and to encourage others to implement the Guidelines. It will also offer a unique opportunity to the countries already rolling out the COP guidelines to meet and present progress made so far and exchange their national practices. It will give the opportunity to involve all relevant stakeholders by bringing them together for a common goal – protecting and empowering our children and future generations online and offline. This way throwing light on perspective of improvement while adapting to country-specific cases and together reflect on the future of cybersecurity and child online protection.

The regional launch of the COP Guidelines is open for all the relevant stakeholders, therefore, addressed to government representatives of all relevant ministries, regulators, private sector/ICT industry, academia, NGOs, civil society including children, and their families as well as any other interested stakeholders of the ITU Member States, Sector Members and Associates in the Arab Region.

Detailed information on this online dialogue including [registration](#), which will close in **22 Nov. 2020**, access to Online room and the draft programme details, can be accessed from the event homepage at the following link ([Click here](#))¹. For inquiries or further information, please contact: Eng. Rouda Alamir Ali, Programme Officer (Rouda.alamirali@itu.int).

I look forward to your participation and invaluable contribution towards the success of this important event.

Yours faithfully,



Adel M. Darwish
Regional Director
Arab Regional Office

¹ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2020/COP/COP.aspx>