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## Meeting report

### Child Online Protection Information Session in the Pacific

Pacific, Virtual

30 July 2025

15:00-17:00 GMT+11

**ITUEvents**

**Child Online  
Protection  
Information session  
(virtual)**

**30 July 2025**  
**Virtual (Zoom), Pacific**





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Organized by:



*The event was organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*

*With the support of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, including the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure, as well as the Department of Health and Social Affairs, UNOPS and UNICEF, as part of the UN Joint SDG Fund Programmes*

This meeting report was prepared by:  
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

## Child Online Protection Information Session in the Pacific, virtual:

### 1. Key highlights

- More than 40 participants joined the virtual session, including representatives from governments, UN agencies, academia, educators, and civil society, across nine Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Youth voices from Samoa and Nauru provided firsthand reflections on navigating the digital world, emphasizing the importance of safe online spaces for children and young people.
- High-level speakers and panelists from the ITU, UNICEF, Marshall Islands National Telecommunication Authority, Fiji's Online Safety Commission, Fiji National University, and FSM Department of Education shared good practices and actionable strategies to strengthen national COP frameworks.
- The session introduced ITU's updated Child Online Protection Guidelines and training resources, with a call to integrate these tools in schools, communities, and national policy dialogues.
- An interactive Word Cloud activity via Slido engaged participants in real-time. Words such as "empowering," "informative," and "awareness" emerged as top responses, reflecting the positive and impactful nature of the session.

### 2. Executive summary of the event

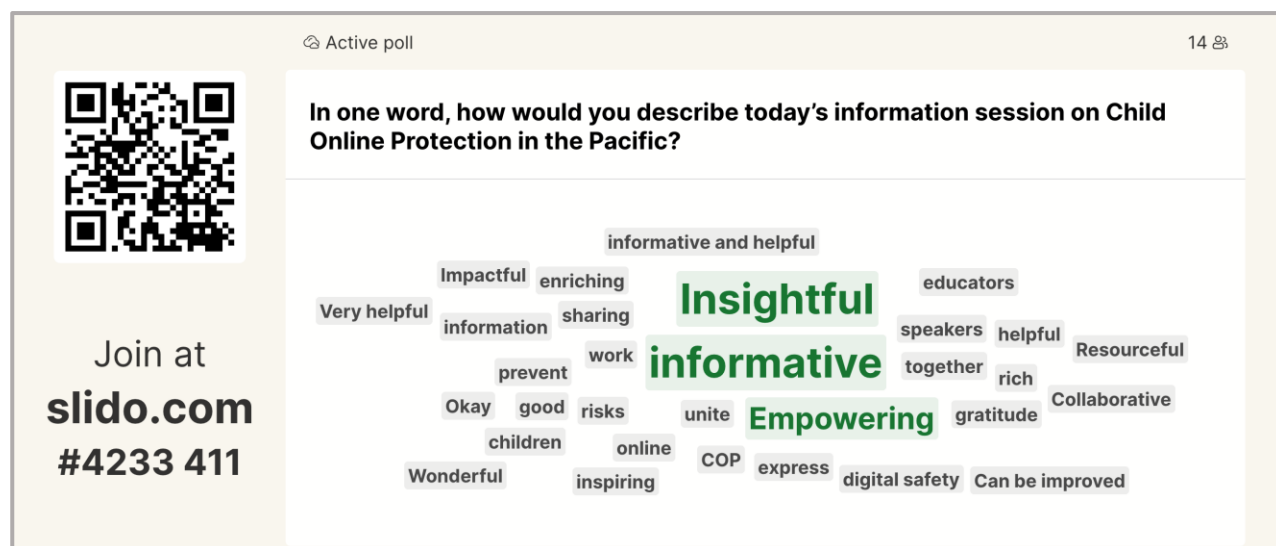


The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), specifically the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure and the Department of Health and Social Affairs, successfully organized a virtual Child Online Protection (COP) Information Session in the Pacific on 30 July 2025. The session was supported by UNOPS and UNICEF as part of the UN Joint SDG Fund Programme: "Accelerating SDG achievement through digital transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia."

Aligned with the broader Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative, the session aimed to raise awareness, share knowledge, and foster dialogue on ensuring safer digital environments for children across the Pacific. It introduced ITU's updated Child Online Protection Guidelines, showcased insights from youth in Samoa and Nauru, and featured a high-level panel discussion involving stakeholders from government, academia, and the UN system.

With over 40 participants representing nine Pacific Island countries including FSM, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Solomon Islands, the event served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collective reflection on child online protection challenges and opportunities in the

region. The interactive Word Cloud session captured key sentiments from attendees, with "empowering," "informative," and "awareness" emerging as common takeaways.



The link to the event recording is available on ITU Webcast (archive) at <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/d2025copasp>

### 3. Background and objectives

Child Online Protection (COP) is a global initiative launched by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in November 2008 as part of its Global Cybersecurity Agenda. Endorsed by the United Nations Secretary-General and supported by Member States and international partners, COP aims to safeguard children from cyber threats by providing legal, technical, and organizational frameworks. These frameworks are designed to help children safely explore the opportunities of the digital world while minimizing associated risks.

To adapt to the rapidly evolving digital landscape, ITU's first set of COP Guidelines (2009) was revised and relaunched in June 2020 in all six official UN languages. These updated guidelines reflect the growing complexities of online risks and the urgent need for coordinated global efforts to protect children in digital spaces.

In the Pacific region, ensuring child online protection is a shared responsibility that involves policymakers, educators, industry leaders, parents, caregivers, and community stakeholders. With increasing digital access and connectivity across remote islands and underserved communities, it has become vital to provide safe and inclusive digital environments for children and youth.

To address this need, ITU, in collaboration with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, including the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure and the Department of Health and Social Affairs—with the support of UNOPS and UNICEF, organized a series of Child Online Protection Information Sessions. These sessions are part of two UN Joint SDG Fund Programmes in the Pacific:

- *"Accelerating SDG achievement through digital transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia", and*

- *“Advancing the SDGs by improving livelihoods and resilience via economic diversification and digital transformation.”*

The COP sessions are designed to align with the broader Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative, which aims to promote digital inclusion, connectivity, and safety in remote and underserved areas of the Pacific.

The session on 30 July 2025 served as the introductory event of the COP Information Session Series, aiming to:

- Raise awareness of child online protection,
- Introduce ITU’s updated COP Guidelines,
- Showcase Pacific perspectives and youth voices,
- Provide concrete recommendations for strengthening COP frameworks tailored to the realities of Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

This session also set the stage for further engagement by fostering dialogue among key stakeholders and emphasizing the critical role of youth participation in shaping a safer and more empowering digital environment.

Objectives:

- To increase stakeholder awareness and understanding of COP and related online safety measures.
- To present and discuss ITU’s COP products and services, particularly in the Asia and the Pacific region, including specific case studies to inspire replication of successful initiatives.
- To facilitate engagement with youth and children’s perspectives on COP and gather insights for developing actionable recommendations to enhance online safety strategies in the Pacific region.
- To provide actionable recommendations to strengthen COP frameworks across Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Expected outcomes:

- Enhanced awareness and knowledge among participants about COP guidelines and training resources.
- Identification of concrete steps and collaborative strategies for improving COP frameworks in the Pacific, driven by regional insights and case studies.
- Align the objectives of the ITU COP initiative with the broader goals of the Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative.

#### 4. Opening remarks

- Mr. Kishore Babu Yerraballa, ITU Area Representative for Southeast Asia and other Member States in Asia and the Pacific



*“Today’s session is not just about awareness, but about strengthening the capacities of communities and institutions to act.”*

Mr. Yerraballa opened the session by warmly welcoming all participants and expressing appreciation for their engagement in a matter of urgent regional importance. He reaffirmed ITU’s long-standing commitment to Child Online Protection (COP) as a pillar of the ITU’s digital inclusion agenda, emphasizing how COP is integral to the broader Smart Villages and Smart Islands programme in the Pacific. He highlighted that as digital transformation accelerates across the Pacific, it must be accompanied by stronger safeguards and collaborative efforts to protect children in cyberspace.

He underlined the need for inclusive and multistakeholder partnerships across governments, the private sector, civil society, and development partners to collectively address the growing online risks facing children. He also spotlighted the updated ITU COP Guidelines, now available in all six UN languages, as an important tool to help countries develop national strategies and local action plans.

- Mr. Dirk Wagener, UN Resident Coordinator to Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu



*“Access alone is not enough. We must also make sure that our children are protected from harm and equipped with the skills to navigate the digital space responsibly.”*

Mr. Wagener began his intervention by expressing concern and solidarity with countries in the Pacific that were under tsunami warnings at the time of the event. He emphasized that the safety of communities was the highest priority and encouraged participants, especially those dialing in from affected areas, to follow national protocols and precautions as issued by local authorities.

Highlighted quote from Mr. Wagener’s statement during the critical condition in the Pacific:

*“I understand that some countries in the region are currently experiencing tsunami warnings and precautionary measures. Please do stay safe and follow the guidance from your national authorities as the situation unfolds. The safety of everyone, including children and families, comes first.”*

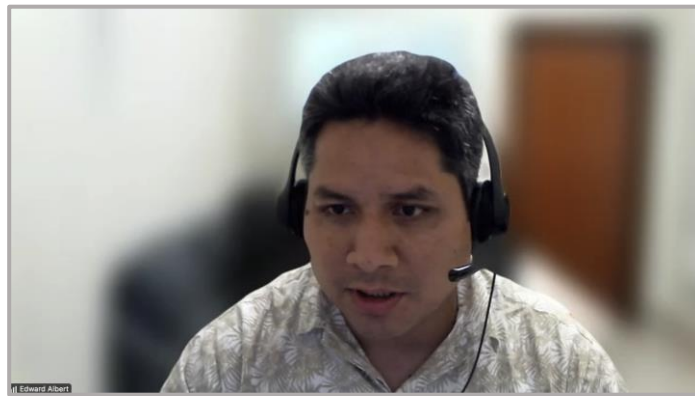
This moment served not only as a demonstration of real-time sensitivity to regional emergencies but also highlighted the interconnectedness of digital safety and physical safety - a critical point of relevance for a session on Child Online Protection in vulnerable island communities.

Mr Wagener also acknowledged the leadership of ITU, the FSM Government, and partner agencies in organizing this timely discussion. He stressed that children and young people are among the most affected

groups in today's digital transformation. While digital access brings opportunity, it also brings risks, especially around online exploitation, abuse, misinformation, and cyberbullying.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring that digital access goes hand in hand with digital protection, and called on all stakeholders especially governments, schools, families, and telecom regulators to collaborate in building safer digital ecosystems for children. He further noted that protecting children online should be considered a shared responsibility embedded in national development strategies and reaffirmed the UN's commitment to advancing these efforts through inter-agency collaboration under the Joint SDG Fund Programme.

- Mr. Edward Albert, Assistant Secretary, FSM Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure



*"The safety of our children in the digital world is not just a policy matter —it is a moral obligation."*

Speaking on behalf of the host government, Mr. Albert warmly welcomed all participants to the session and expressed FSM's pride in supporting the COP initiative alongside the ITU, UNOPS, and UNICEF. He acknowledged the growing presence of digital technology in children's daily lives in the Pacific, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic, and emphasized the need to strengthen policies, awareness, and community readiness to ensure safe online experiences for children in FSM and beyond.

He kindly recognized the importance of multistakeholder partnerships and regional dialogue in addressing these challenges and praised the COP Information Session as an opportunity to share knowledge, highlight best practices, and explore context-specific solutions. Mr. Albert reaffirmed FSM's commitment to advancing COP through the Smart Islands framework, noting its alignment with national ICT development goals.

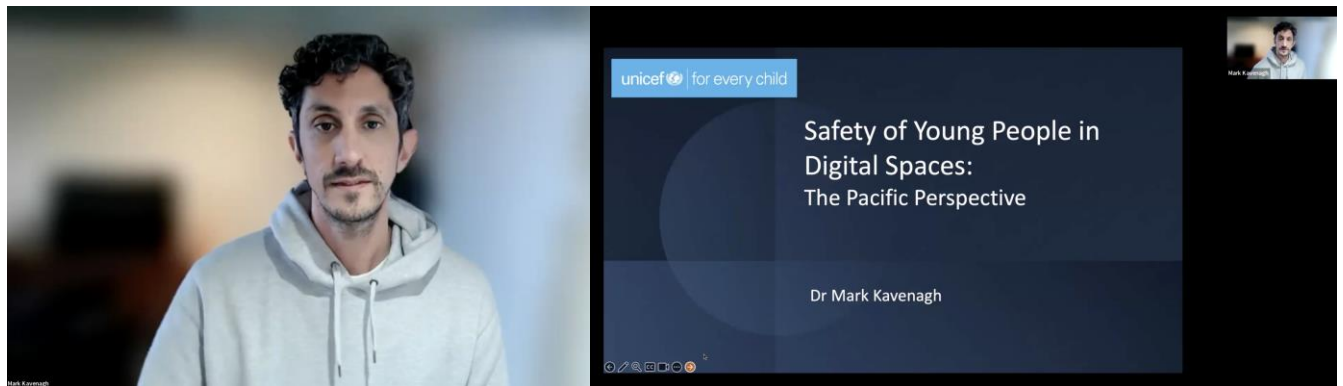
MC of the Child Online Protection Information Session in the Pacific:

- Ms. Rury Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



## 5. Presentation on “Safety of Young People in Digital Spaces: The Pacific Perspective” by UNICEF

- Mr. Mark Kavenagh, Director of Evident and UNICEF Expert



*“We cannot just design protections for children — we must build them with children.”*

Mr. Kavenagh delivered an in-depth and data-informed presentation, emphasizing the unique digital risks faced by children and young people in the Pacific, while offering regional and global insights drawn from UNICEF’s research and work on child online protection.

Key points from his presentation include:

- a) Children in the Pacific are going online earlier and more frequently, with mobile phones and social media being key access points. However, their digital literacy levels vary significantly, and many do not have adequate guidance from adults.
- b) He highlighted the types of online threats Pacific youth face, including:
  - Cyberbullying and harassment
  - Sexual exploitation and abuse online
  - Inappropriate or violent content
  - Misinformation and manipulation
- c) Mr. Kavenagh emphasized that many children don’t report harm because of shame, lack of trust in adults, or fear of punishment. This reflects a critical gap in support systems.
- d) He advocated for:
  - Holistic education for children, parents, and educators to build resilience.
  - Supportive reporting environments where children feel safe coming forward.
  - Localized response mechanisms that understand community-specific norms and language.

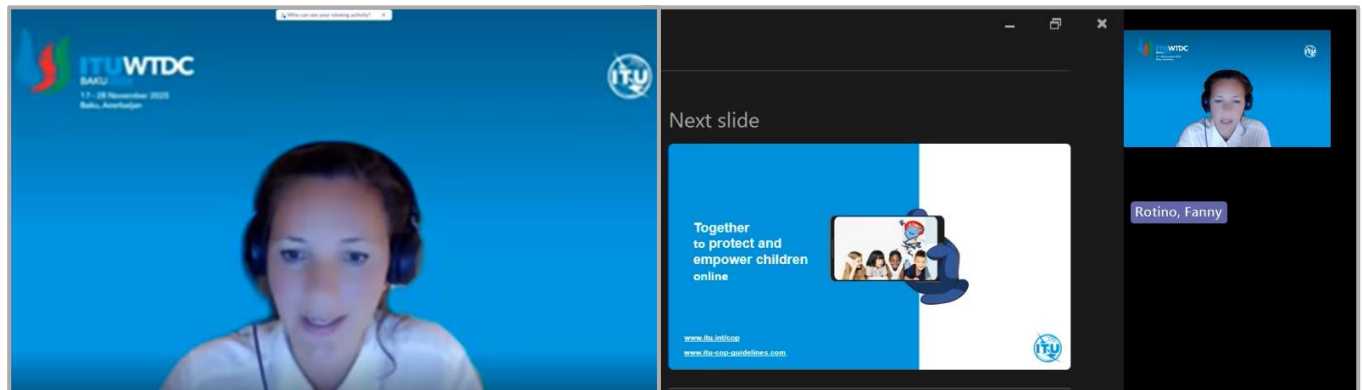
A strong point made was the importance of inter-agency collaboration between governments, civil society, educators, and tech platforms to create safer digital ecosystems for children.

He also highlighted the role of youth voices in shaping solutions, noting how empowering children to be part of the solution leads to better outcomes.

The link to the event recording is available on ITU Webcast (archive) at <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/d2025copasp>

## 6. Introduction to ITU's Child Online Protection Guidelines and Resources Overview

- Ms. Fanny Rotino, Programme Officer, Child Online Protection, ITU (recorded video)



*“Child online protection is not a one-size-fits-all approach—it must be embedded in the social, legal, and digital realities of each country.”*

Ms. Rotino presented ITU's updated COP Guidelines, which serve as a central resource for countries developing or improving child online safety strategies. Her session was particularly aimed at policymakers, educators, and caregivers.

Key highlights:

- a) The COP Guidelines, first introduced in 2009 and updated in 2020, are tailored to four target audiences:
  - Children
  - Parents and educators
  - Industry
  - Policymakers
- b) The 2020 revision included real-time risks children face in today's digital world such as:
  - Deepfakes and AI-generated harmful content
  - Online grooming
  - Invasion of privacy through data exploitation
  - Disinformation
- c) She emphasized the 4 pillars of ITU's COP Framework:
  - 1) Legal measures: Adapting legislation to criminalize and prosecute online harm.
  - 2) Technical and procedural measures – Ensuring platforms have safety features.
  - 3) Organizational structures: Establishing national-level COP task forces or coordinating bodies.
  - 4) Capacity building: Creating accessible training modules for all stakeholders.
- d) Ms. Rotino showcased ITU's training materials and online tools, including:
  - COP Guidelines website (translated in 6 UN languages)
  - Training-of-trainers (ToT) modules for educators
  - Self-learning modules for youth
  - National policy templates and best practice repositories



She encouraged Pacific SIDS to localize the guidelines in their own languages and cultural contexts and welcomed collaborative efforts to pilot the materials in schools and community programs.

The link to the event recording is available on ITU Webcast (archive) at <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/d2025copasp>

## 7. Session 1. Youth Engagement in Child Online Protection

The Youth Engagement session of the Child Online Protection (COP) Information Session in the Pacific was opened by Ms. Rury Demsey, Project Officer at the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. She warmly welcomed participants to this important segment of the event, emphasizing that youth perspectives are essential in shaping safe and inclusive digital environments. She noted that while children and youth are the most active users of digital platforms, they are also among the most vulnerable. Therefore, any policy, programme or initiative on child online protection must center their voices and lived experiences.

### Speakers:

- Ms. Coreen Samuelu, Generation Connect-Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy, Samoa



Ms. Coreen Samuelu delivered a compelling intervention, reflecting on her role as the Generation Connect-Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy. She addressed the growing concerns about online violence, especially targeting young women and girls, and called for increased efforts in educating youth about cyberbullying, digital privacy, and misinformation.

She stressed that youth must not only be seen as beneficiaries of online safety policies but as active contributors and solution creators. Ms. Samuelu advocated for youth-led initiatives and suggested establishing safe spaces for dialogue and mentorship, including partnerships between governments and schools. She also emphasized the importance of digital literacy and intergenerational discussions that bridge gaps between policymakers and young digital citizens.

Her message was both hopeful and action-oriented, encouraging young people to use their digital voices responsibly and to collaborate in fostering safer online communities.

- Ms. Susannah Abouke, a student and youth representative from Nauru Secondary School, Nauru



Ms. Susannah Abouke, a youth representative from Nauru, shared her heartfelt perspective on child online protection from the viewpoint of a student. She reflected on how technology has changed the way children interact, learn, and express themselves. However, she acknowledged that many young people in the Pacific still lack awareness of the risks associated with the internet, such as scams, inappropriate content, and grooming.

Ms. Abouke highlighted the importance of educating both children and their parents or guardians about the dangers and opportunities of digital engagement. She called for more inclusive educational programmes in schools that focus not only on how to use the internet but also how to use it wisely and safely.

Her remarks underscored the importance of trust and open communication within families and schools, stating that when young people feel safe speaking up, they are more likely to report harmful experiences or seek help.

The session concluded with an affirmation of the importance of listening to and learning from youth voices. Ms. Rury Demsey reiterated that the interventions of Ms. Samuelu and Ms. Abouke served as powerful reminders that young people are not passive users of technology but active agents of change. She encouraged all stakeholders present to integrate these insights into policy, programming, and future initiatives, ensuring that the digital future is inclusive, safe, and empowering for all children and youth in the Pacific.

The link to the event recording is available on ITU Webcast (archive) at <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/d2025copasp>

## 8. Session 2. Panel Discussion: Building a Safe Online Environment for Children in the Pacific



Ms. Yukiko Muller, President & CEO of the Marshall Islands National Telecommunication Authority, opened the panel discussion by setting the tone for a collaborative and regionally grounded dialogue. She welcomed the distinguished speakers and highlighted the pressing need for region-specific strategies to protect children online in the Pacific. She emphasized that as digital access expands across Small Island Developing States (SIDS), so do the risks—ranging from cyberbullying and exploitation to misinformation and grooming.

Ms. Muller stressed the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration, involving governments, telecom operators, educators, and child protection agencies, to ensure digital spaces are not only accessible but also safe, inclusive, and empowering for children. She then introduced the panelists, each representing a critical component of the digital protection ecosystem including policy, regulation, education, and community engagement.

She also conveyed apologies on behalf of Mr. Filipe Batiwale, Commissioner of the Fiji Online Safety Commission, who was unable to join the session due to technical issues with his device. Mr. Batiwale extended his regrets and appreciation to the organizers for including his voice in the agenda.

Moderator:

- Ms. Yukiko Muller, President & CEO, Marshall Islands National Telecommunication Authority, Republic of Marshall Islands



Speakers:

- Mr. Michael Copland, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF Pacific, who spoke about UNICEF's holistic approach to child safety in digital environments.



Mr. Copland delivered a powerful and data-driven intervention, focusing on UNICEF's regional approach to Child Online Protection. He began by sharing alarming global statistics regarding online abuse and how those trends are increasingly being reflected in the Pacific. He underscored the limited availability of Pacific-specific data and urged the region to invest in evidence-based programming and surveys to better understand children's digital experiences.

He outlined UNICEF's multi-pillar strategy, which includes:

- Policy and advocacy to integrate online safety into national child protection frameworks;
- Capacity-building for educators, social workers, and law enforcement;
- Child participation, ensuring that young voices help shape safety standards;
- Technical assistance, especially in the rollout of digital helplines and safer content guidelines.

Mr. Copland also stressed the importance of cross-border cooperation in combating online threats, as perpetrators often operate beyond national jurisdictions. He concluded with a call to action: "We must move beyond awareness and start building robust, integrated child protection systems that also work online."

- Mr. Ashutosh Maharaj, Senior Instructor, Fiji National University, who presented on the role of education and teacher preparedness in building digital resilience.



Mr. Ashutosh Maharaj focused on the educational aspect of online safety. He began his remarks by emphasizing how digital literacy should be treated as a core subject, not an optional skill. He discussed how Fiji National University has been working to train future educators to become champions of child online protection.

Key highlights from his presentation included:

- The development of integrated curricula that include online ethics, cyberbullying awareness, and critical thinking;
- The importance of teacher training, as many current educators are not equipped with digital safety knowledge;
- The value of parent-teacher partnerships, where parents are guided to supervise and engage with their children's online activities.

Mr. Maharaj also proposed regional academic exchanges and collaborations, allowing Pacific institutions to learn from each other and share culturally relevant teaching resources. He concluded by reiterating that digital safety is no longer optional—it is a human right and must be embedded into every stage of a child's learning journey.

- Ms. Delihda Waltu Eperiam, School Accreditation Specialist from FSM Department of Education, who discussed national-level strategies for safeguarding children online through the school system.





Representing the Department of Education of the Federated States of Micronesia, Ms. Delihda Waltu Eperiam provided a grassroots and systems-level perspective. She highlighted the challenges and opportunities faced by educators and administrators in FSM when it comes to embedding child online protection into policy and practice.

Her key points included:

- FSM's ongoing curriculum reform, which is gradually incorporating digital safety modules into civic and ICT education;
- The need to develop school-level guidelines that define what constitutes online misconduct and how it should be addressed;
- An emphasis on teacher empowerment, noting that teachers in remote areas often lack tools and training to address emerging digital threats;
- She also pointed out that school principals and district officers need orientation on COP frameworks so they can enforce protections systematically.

Ms. Eperiam concluded by calling for international partners like ITU and UNICEF to support localized teacher training programmes and to help FSM build a COP resource library that reflects local realities, cultures, and languages.

- Mr. Filipe Batiwale, Commissioner, Online Safety Commission Fiji

As informed earlier, Mr. Filipe Batiwale was unable to participate in the panel due to technical difficulties with his device. He conveyed his sincere apologies and reaffirmed his support for the event's objectives. The organizers acknowledged his important role in shaping national-level COP strategies in Fiji and expressed hope that his insights could be included in future engagements.

Closing and summary by Moderator: Ms. Yukiko Muller:

- To conclude the session, Ms. Muller summarized the core takeaways from the panel:
- The importance of data and evidence in driving impactful programming, as emphasized by UNICEF;
- The role of educators and academic institutions in embedding safety skills from an early age;
- The need for institutional frameworks and school-level integration, as shared by FSM's Department of Education;
- The reminder that multi-stakeholder collaboration—between government, academia, private sector, and youth—is not just ideal, but essential.

She thanked all the panelists for their deep insights and affirmed that Pacific nations must work together to adapt global COP tools to local realities. She emphasized that this is not the end of the conversation, but the beginning of an ongoing partnership to build a safer digital Pacific for all children.


The link to the event recording is available on ITU Webcast (archive) at <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/d2025copasp>

## **9. Interactive Session: Word cloud session**

Participants from across the Pacific, ranging from government representatives, youth leaders, educators, UN partners, and civil society, were quick to submit their one-word reflections. The system began populating a real-time animated word cloud, and Ms. Rury actively encouraged continued participation.




Active poll
14



**In one word, how would you describe today's information session on Child Online Protection in the Pacific?**

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As the words flowed in, the word cloud began to take shape. Some of the most frequent and prominent words included:

- “Insightful”: capturing the depth of knowledge shared by panellists and presenters.
- “Empowering”: reflecting how participants felt equipped to take action after the session.
- “Protective”: underscoring the core mission of Child Online Protection.
- “Collaborative” – recognizing the importance of partnership and shared responsibility.
- “Youth-led”: in recognition of the inspiring youth interventions during the session.
- “Educational,” “Timely,” “Inspiring,” “Inclusive,” “Critical,” “Safe,” and “Engaging” also appeared in various sizes.

Ms. Rory paused to highlight some of the bigger words in the cloud, thanking the audience for their inputs and drawing connections to earlier discussions.

She added that this visual would be saved and shared in the event’s outcome report to capture how participants perceived the session in their own words.

## 10. Closing segment and wrap up

**MC:** Ms. Rory Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



At the end of the session, on behalf of the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Ms. Rory Demsey, expressed sincere appreciation to all speakers, participants, and supporting partners for their active involvement and meaningful contributions throughout the event. She recognized the dedication shown by participants across various time zones and acknowledged the spirit of collaboration that made the session a success.

Ms. Demsey highlighted the important role of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, particularly the Departments of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure and Health and Social Affairs, along with the valuable support from UNICEF and UNOPS, through the UN Joint SDG Fund Programme. She also commended the youth speakers for their inspiring interventions and for bravely sharing their lived experiences and perspectives on digital safety.

In her closing remarks, she emphasized that this session marked a starting point for continued collaboration, knowledge sharing, and action. She encouraged all attendees to take the insights and tools gained back to their respective communities and institutions to contribute to building safer digital environments for children. She also reminded participants to make use of the COP Guidelines and other ITU resources introduced during the event, and to stay engaged in future initiatives and dialogues.

## **11. Proposed key takeaways from the session**

The session featured rich insights from government bodies, academia, youth representatives, telecom regulators, and development agencies. Key takeaways included:

### *a) Localized awareness and capacity building are crucial*

Participants consistently emphasized the need for culturally relevant awareness programs on online safety, digital literacy, and responsible internet use in the Pacific. These should be adapted to reflect the unique digital challenges of remote island communities.

### *b) Youth must be central to Child Online Protection initiatives*

Youth should not be passive recipients of online safety programs but active co-creators. Their experiences, digital fluency, and advocacy were seen as key to shaping future policies and training approaches.

### *c) Multisectoral collaboration is essential*

The session underscored the importance of government, educators, telecom providers, regulators, and civil society working together. COP cannot be the sole responsibility of one agency—it requires a whole-of-society approach.

### *d) Utilization and localization of Child Online Protection toolkit*

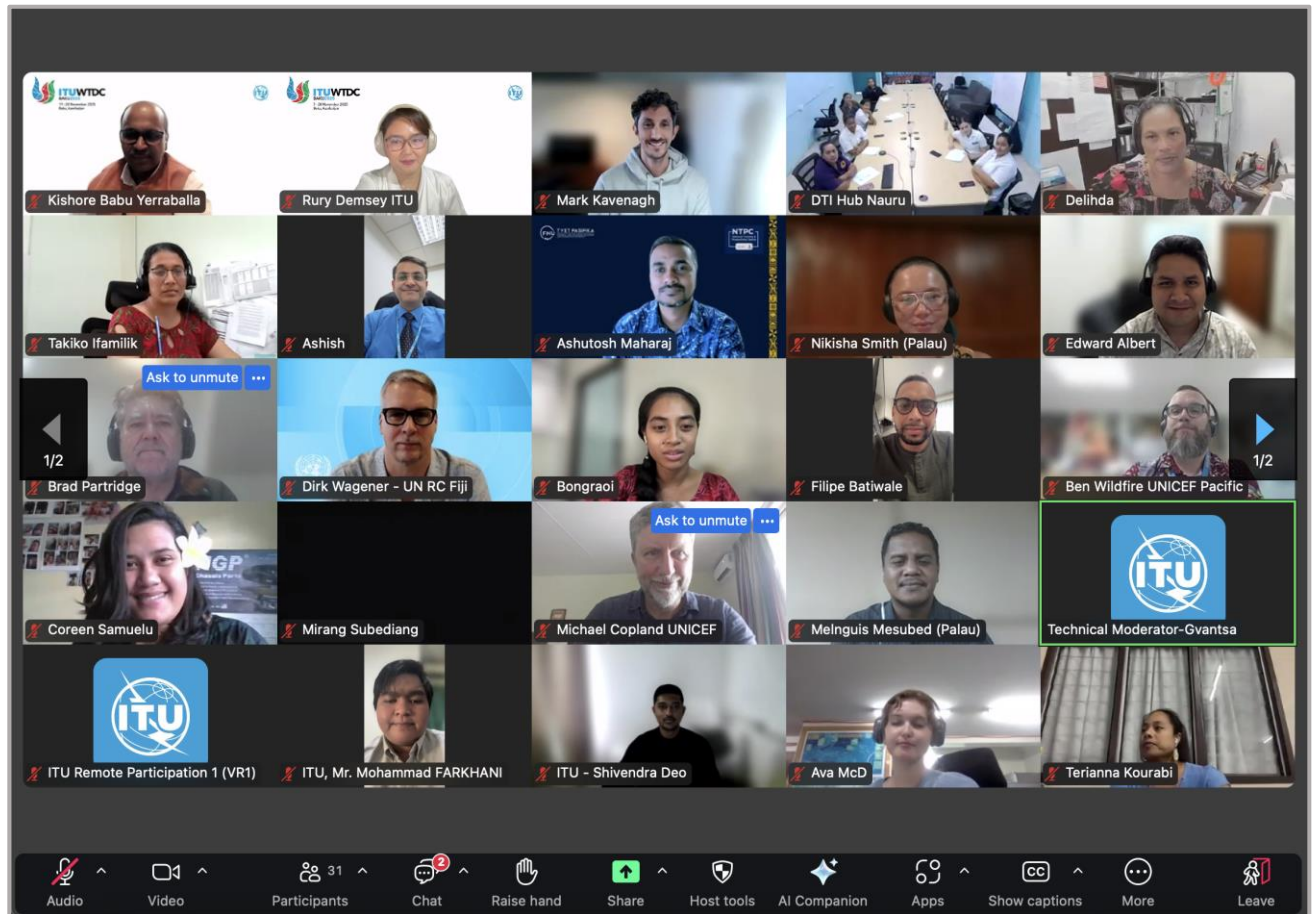
Both ITU and UNICEF offered tools such as:

- COP Guidelines (2020 edition) in all six UN languages
- Youth-oriented training modules
- Resources that can be translated and integrated into national curriculums or digital literacy training programs in schools and smart community hubs.

### *e) Collaboration with the Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative*

The Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiatives were identified as ideal frameworks to implement COP activities, leveraging existing digital hubs to reach the last mile.

## 12. Next steps and conclusion



As the Child Online Protection (COP) Information Session drew to a close, Ms. Rory Demsey, who served as the Master of Ceremony, delivered a warm and heartfelt wrap-up, reflecting the collective spirit and purpose that guided the entire session. She began by sincerely thanking all speakers, participants, and partners who joined from across the Pacific region, many of whom adjusted their schedules despite significant time zone differences to participate in this meaningful exchange. She acknowledged the proactive contributions of each speaker and institution, and expressed deep appreciation for the collaborative energy and engagement demonstrated throughout the event.

Ms. Demsey highlighted the instrumental role played by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, notably the Department of Transportation, Communications & Infrastructure and the Department of Health and Social Affairs, in hosting and co-organizing this virtual session. She also extended her gratitude to UNICEF and UNOPS for their crucial support under the UN Joint SDG Fund Programme, which made the session possible. In particular, she noted how the program aligned closely with the broader Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative to enhance digital resilience and inclusion across Pacific communities.

She paid special tribute to the youth representatives from Samoa and Nauru for their courage and leadership in voicing their concerns and aspirations. Ms. Demsey emphasized how their perspectives injected a sense of

urgency and hope into the discussions, reinforcing the importance of including youth in the design and implementation of Child Online Protection strategies.

To conclude, Ms. Demsey encouraged all participants to bring the learnings from this session back to their communities, institutions, and networks. She reminded them that the resources and tools introduced by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), including the updated COP Guidelines, are available to support concrete actions at national and local levels. Finally, she reaffirmed ITU's commitment to continuing this dialogue in future sessions, encouraging stakeholders to remain connected and active in shaping a safer digital space for children across the Pacific.

## **Annex 1**

### **Programme agenda**

Wednesday, 30 July 2025

<b>Time</b> Micronesia Standard Time (GMT+11)	<b>Child Online Protection Information Session in the Pacific (virtual)</b>
15:00-15:10	<p><b>MC:</b> Ms. Rury Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Kishore Babu Yerraballa, ITU Area Representative for Southeast Asia and other Member States in Asia and the Pacific</li><li>• Mr. Dirk Wagener, UN Resident Coordinator to Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu</li><li>• Mr. Edward Albert, Assistant Secretary, FSM Department of Transportation, Communications &amp; Infrastructure</li></ul>
	<b>Group photo session</b>
15:10-15:25	<p><b>Presentation on “Safety of Young People in Digital Spaces: The Pacific Perspective” by UNICEF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Mark Kavenagh, Director of Evident and Expert of UNICEF</li></ul>
15:25-15:50	<p><b>Introduction to ITU’s Child Online Protection Guidelines and Resources Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Fanny Rotino, Programme Officer, Child Online Protection, ITU (<i>recorded video</i>)</li></ul>
15:50-16:05	<p><b>Youth Engagement in Child Online Protection</b></p> <p><i>Youth perspectives on child online protection and ensuring safe digital environments for children in the Pacific. The session will explore insights from children and youth into COP, focusing on the challenges and opportunities in the digital space.</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Coreen Samuelu, Generation Connect-Asia and the Pacific Youth Envoy, Samoa</li><li>• Ms. Susannah Abouke, a student and youth representative from Nauru Secondary School, Nauru</li></ul> <p><b>Group photo session</b></p>
16:05-16:30	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Building a Safe Online Environment for Children in the Pacific</b></p> <p><i>Key challenges and opportunities in ensuring a safe online environment for children in the Pacific and identifying actionable steps and strategies for moving forward collaboratively.</i></p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Yukiko Muller, President &amp; CEO, Marshall Islands National Telecommunication Authority, Republic of Marshall Islands</li></ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Michael Copland, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Office</li><li>• Mr. Filipe Batiwale, Commissioner, Online Safety Commission, Fiji</li><li>• Mr. Ashutosh Maharaj, Senior Instructor, Fiji National University</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Delihda Waltu Eperiam, School Accreditation Specialist, Department of Education, Federated States of Micronesia National Government</li> </ul> <p><b>Group photo session</b></p>
16:30-16:45	<p><b>Interactive Session</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Rory Demsey, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</li> </ul> <p><b>Word Cloud Session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenter invites participants to share one key takeaway from the ITU workshop</li> <li>Facilitator reads out the words collected for the questions <i><b>“In one word, how would you describe today’s information session conducted on Child Online Protection in the Pacific?”</b></i></li> </ul> <p>Platform: Slido word cloud poll at <a href="https://app.sli.do/event/wMSHvDTRNgd11vTTJqQgcD">https://app.sli.do/event/wMSHvDTRNgd11vTTJqQgcD</a></p> <p>Slido.com code #4233411</p>
16:45-17:00	<b>Closing and wrap up</b>



## **Annex 2**

### **Website and Social Media Posts**

The event was posted on:

- ITU Webcast (archive) for the online event recording is available at <https://www.itu.int/webcast/live/d2025copasp>
- ITU event page at <http://www.itu.int/go/57AD>
- ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific X account @ITUAsiaPacific at <https://x.com/ITUAsiaPacific/status/1953386826938335437>
- ITU Regional Office for Pacific LinkedIn page at [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/itu-regional-office-for-asia-and-the-pacific\\_the-itu-in-collaboration-with-the-government-activity-735915260732515776-T5TC?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop&rcm=ACoAAhEXEBIu8vBUZAc\\_oogYhmqTR3rCD9uM8](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/itu-regional-office-for-asia-and-the-pacific_the-itu-in-collaboration-with-the-government-activity-735915260732515776-T5TC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAhEXEBIu8vBUZAc_oogYhmqTR3rCD9uM8)