



Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia



## Report

### **National Roundtable on Child Online Protection for policymakers**

The national roundtable on online child protection for policymakers was held on October 18, 2023 in Yerevan (Republic of Armenia).

The event was held as part of the participation of the Republic of Armenia in the ITU Global Program on Child Online Protection and was organized by the Ministry of High-Tech Industry (HTI) of the Republic of Armenia and the ITU Regional Office for the CIS Region with the support and assistance of the Union of Operators of Armenia.

The roundtable was organized with the aim of sharing experience and strengthening cooperation in ensuring the safety of children online in Armenia. The event was attended by representatives of relevant ministries and departments, regulatory authorities, telecommunications operators, and international organizations.

The round table was attended by 22 people, among with representatives of the Ministry of HTI of the Republic of Armenia; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia; National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia; Department of Public Education of the Republic of Armenia; Union of Operators of Armenia; Information Systems Agency of the Republic of Armenia; UNICEF Armenia; ITU Regional Office for the CIS Region.

Avet Poghosyan, Deputy Minister of HTI of the Republic of Armenia, and Natalia Mochu, ITU Regional Director for the CIS Region, welcomed participants; Kristine Gyonjyan, Director of the Union of Operators of Armenia, also addressed the participants with greetings.

During the first session:

- discussed the importance and relevance of the issue of protecting children on the Internet;
- presented the results of the implementation of the ITU Global Program on COP in Armenia;
- presented the results of the ITU study, prepared on the basis of a survey among children aged 7-18 years in Armenia;
- presented the programs of the UNICEF Armenia on the protection of children online.

The second session was held in a discussion format and covered to the following issues:

- Measures of policymakers in terms of creating a national strategy and legislation frameworks on COP;
- Cooperation with industry, educational organizations and organizations defending children's rights in terms of developing digital skills and information security skills;
- Recommendations and next steps.

The roundtable received a great response and high feedback from the participants. The participants presented their work on ensuring the safety of children online, what steps have already been done and what challenges they have faced in this work. It was proposed to hold an additional meeting with



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representatives of telecom operators. It was supported to continue to organize such events that would contribute to the dialogue among all interested stakeholders.