

ITU-D Study Group 2
Question 3/2
activities on COP

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ITU-D Study Group 2 activities on COP are covered by **terms of reference item (d) for Question 3/2**, which calls for inter alia:

d) Continue **to gather national experiences** from Member States **relating to** cybersecurity and **child online protection** and **to identify and examine common themes** within those experiences, using that information **to provide input for guidelines to assist** Member States **in developing effective mechanisms for security** in the digital environment.

Q3/2 draft Final Report COP Chapter structure

1. Statement of the situation:

- ✓ current landscape of the relevance of COP, especially during Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ relevance of the issue within the activities of the ITU and ITU-D
- ✓ the ITU 2020 Guidelines on Child Online Protection

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2. **Best practices** of ITU members and **common tendencies** among them:

- ✓ main COP related activities - raising awareness steps, regulation measures and conveying thematic surveys
- ✓ the ITU support for its members on child online protection

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3. Considering that all the efforts on COP have become especially acute in the circumstances caused by the pandemic:
 - ✓ **lessons learned**
 - ✓ **future steps & actions**
 - ✓ **conclusions**

Lessons learned (1)

- o Every country should **acknowledge its responsibility** to act to ensure that the Internet and its associated technologies are safe for children and young people.
- o Countries are increasingly **integrating awareness of online risks into** a broader child protection and parenting **agenda**.
- o The **idea that the Internet can also be a positive factor** in promoting citizenship and learning **is also taking hold**. However, in many instances a **shortage of resources and** locally available **expertise** appears to be acting as a brake on development.

Lessons learned (2)

- o In many countries, the **legislative frameworks are broadly in line with international and regional legal instruments.**

However, it is extremely important for every country to **ensure its legal measures and legislative framework stay in step with technological developments and changes in behavior.**

- o **National focal points** are a key element in effective online protection. All countries should have a well-resourced national focal point that is connected with regional and international initiatives .

Future steps by ITU Member Countries

- o **Raising awareness** and conveying digital literacy trainings for both professional specialists in the field of cybersecurity and for children, parents and teachers.
- o Developing **laws and regulations** to protect children online.
- o Carrying out **representative surveys** to better tailor existing policies, initiatives and actions related to child online protection.

Actions by other stakeholders

- **Reducing fear culture** parents may have about their children going online.
However, this approach **increases the anxiety of parents** who are already worried about a technology they do not understand well, sabotaging the extraordinary learning tool that is the Internet.
- **Encouraging educational programmes** aimed at developing best practices in content management and raising children's awareness of responsible use of the Internet.
- Putting an Internet portal online in order to **provide children, adolescents, parents and teachers with an educational base.**
- Private Internet sector, NGOs, community groups and the general public to **participate in community awareness activities**

General conclusions (1)

- o Role of **international cooperation and state support** for ensuring cybersecurity and child online protection is key.
- o **National policy tools** for developing cybersecurity strategies in developing countries are needed.
- o **Public-private partnership efforts** to increase organizational and technical tools effectiveness for cybersecurity are of a high importance.
- o **Developing** new and **evaluating the efficiency** of existing **strategic** and **regulatory mechanisms** for child online protection are at the peak.

General conclusions (2)

- o There is a high potential in **involving educational institutions and private companies** in implementing projects that create organizational and technical tools for child online protection, including in activities carried out within regional initiatives of the ITU.
- o Need for **developing of educational programs and tools** for child online protection, **taking into account the needs of children with special needs**, is unconditional.
- o It is also important to engage educational institutions, private sector entities and non-governmental organizations in the activities of the ITU-D to **gain and share diverse experience and best practices of multistakeholders.**

Thank you for your attention!

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