Child Online Protection

ITU Global Programme

Children Online Safety and protection worldwide

Guidelines for Policy Makers

Martin Schmalzried
COFACE-Families Europe

> "*Every child everywhere must be Protected online. We must make it our global priority and we must act now. ".*

Her Majesty Queen Slivia of Sweden
at the launch of the COP 2020 Guidelines,
23 June 2020

Guidelines for Policy Makers

1. **Scope of child protection online**

2. **Harm and risks online**

3. **Stakeholders**

4. **Existing legal frameworks**

5. **Key aspects to keep in mind for policy makers**

6. **Checklist for successful policy making**

Child Online Protection

Scope of child online protection

The scope of child online protection extends to any harm that children are exposed to online, covering a broad range of risks.

Classification on online threats to children

	Content Child as receiver (of mass productions)	**Contact** Child as participant (adult-initiated activity)	**Conduct** Child as actor (perpetrator / victim)
Aggressive	Violent / gory content	Harassment, stalking	Bullying, hostile peer activity
Sexual	Pornographic content	'Grooming', sexual abuse on meeting strangers	Sexual harassment, 'sexting'
Values	Racist / hateful content	Ideological persuasion	Potentially harmful user-generated content
Commercial	Advertising, embedded marketing	Personal data exploitation and misuse	Gambling, copyright infringement

Source: EU Kids Online (Livingstone, Haddon, Görzig, and Ólafsson (2011)
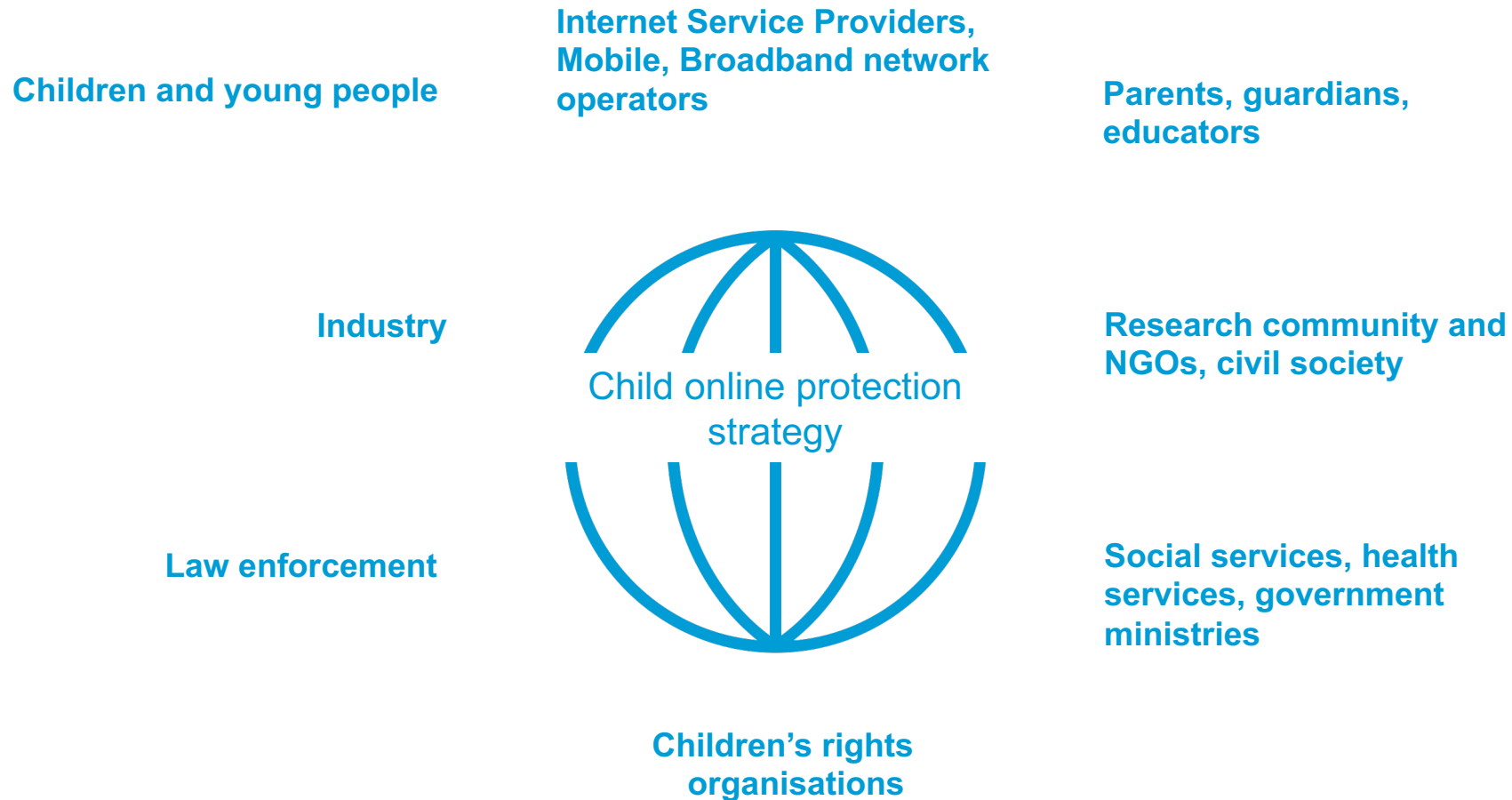
Vulnerable children

Special care needed to look after

- Migrant children

- Children with Autism

- Children with disabilities

- Other (poverty, etc)

At best, vulnerable children receive the same generic online safety advice as all other children and young people.

Existing legal frameworks

Europe

Audio Visual Media Services Directive, General Data Protection Regulation..

National/International

The Age-Appropriate Design Code (2019, UK), The Harmful Digital Communications Act (reviewed 2017, New Zealand), The eSafety Commissioner (2015, Australia), Council of Europe, Child Online Safety Report (OECD), International Child Sexual Exploitation image database …

text

Benefits of National child protection strategy

1. **Global scale of the Internet requires international cooperation**

2. **Self-regulation and co-regulation to keep up with the pace of innovation**

3. **Regulation can also be a legal backstop to prevent roll-back of self-regulation**
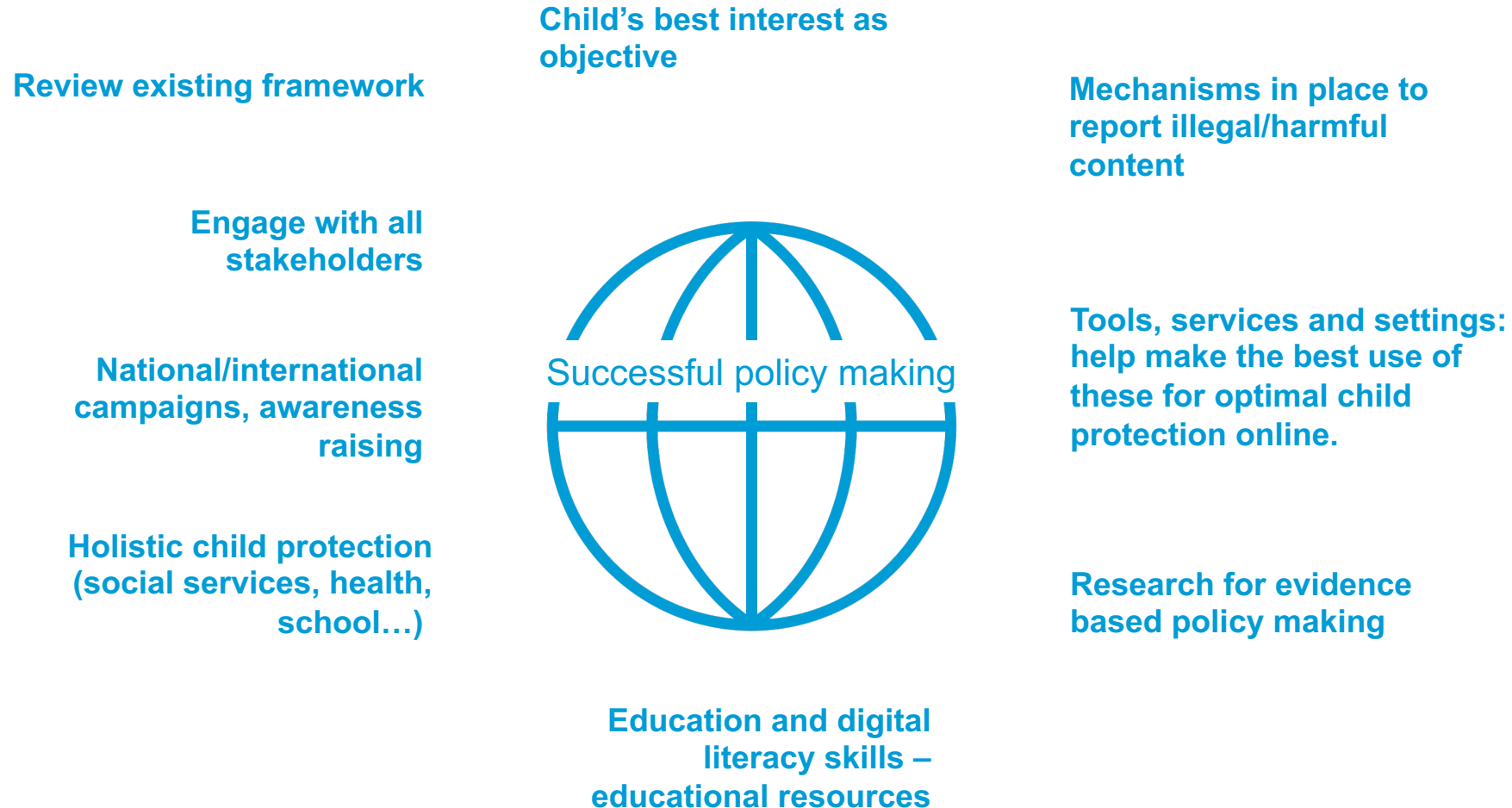
Framework recommendations

Key aspects to consider

- Grooming or other forms of remote enticement, extortion or coercion of children into inappropriate sexual contact or sexual activity;
- Ensuring the possession, production and distribution of CSAM, irrespective of the intent to distribute;
- Harassment, bullying, abuse or hate speech online;
- Online terrorist material;
- Cybersecurity;
- Reflection that what is illegal offline is equally illegal online.

Governments should review and, where necessary, update its legal framework to support the full realization of the rights of the child in the digital environment.

Policy and institutional framework checklist

Child's best interest as objective

Review existing framework

Mechanisms in place to report illegal/harmful content

Engage with all stakeholders

Successful policy making

Tools, services and settings: help make the best use of these for optimal child protection online.

National/international campaigns, awareness raising

Holistic child protection (social services, health, school…)

Research for evidence based policy making

Education and digital literacy skills – educational resources

Together we will protect and empower children

www.itu.int/cop

www.itu-cop-guidelines.com

ITU