New 2020 Child Online Protection Guidelines

Carla Licciardello
Digital Inclusion Coordinator

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Some of our Partners

Background and scope

According to Resolution 179, ITU in collaboration with COP Initiative partners and COP Partners have been instructed to update the 4 sets of guidelines taking into consideration two main aspects

1. *Technology developments in the telecommunication industry*

The Secretariat is considering including elements related to online gaming, AI technologies – robotics and connected toys as well as different apps and platforms illustrating particular dangers for Children and their well-being such as *over user, CSAM, fake news, issues of privacy, digital citizenship and well-being etc.*

2. Children with disabilities and with special needs

The secretariat is considering including a table/checklist in each set of the Guidelines if relevant material will be provided by relevant organizations.

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https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/

Policy-makers

The new guidelines propose a response to the global challenge of Child Online Protection, which requires a global approach based on harmonized and inclusive national strategies on Child Online Protection. The Guidelines propose concrete recommendations on developing a national strategy on COP, provide tools to identify key stakeholders to engage with and coordinate efforts as well as alignment with existing national frameworks and strategy plans.

Highlighting the clear benefits of a national child online protection strategy:

- development of adequate national legislation,
- the related legal framework, and within this approach,
- harmonisation at the international level, are keys steps in protecting children online.

These frameworks may be self-regulatory, co-regulatory or full regulatory frameworks. The State should promote the use of ICTs in preventing and addressing violence, such as the development of technologies and resources for children to access information, block harmful material and report instances of violence when they occur. To face the global child online safety situation, the States must facilitate the communication between their relevant entities and cooperate openly to eliminate harm to children online.

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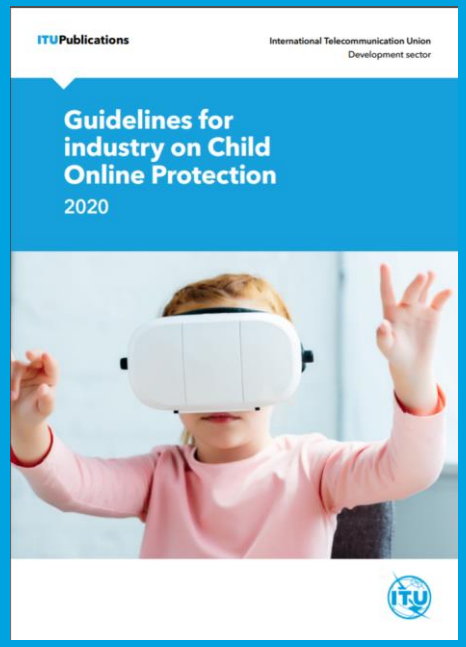
Industry:

The new guidelines focus on protecting children in all areas and against all risks of the digital world and as such, highlight good practice of industry stakeholders that can be considered in the process of drafting, developing and managing businesses child online protection policies. Having a major responsibility not only to help promote awareness of the online and safety agenda to the wider community and to provide a channel of participation and engagement for young people, but even by offering safe and secure online experiences throughout their services, industry plays a key role possessing the technological knowledge that policy makers need to address and understand in order to develop sustainable and effective COP strategies.



Key areas of protecting and promoting children's rights

- Integrating child rights considerations into all appropriate corporate policies and management processes
- Developing standard processes to handle child sexual abuse material (CSAM)
- Creating a safer and age-appropriate online environment
- Educating children, carers and educators about children's safety and the responsible use of ICTs
- Promoting digital technology as a mode for increasing civic engagement

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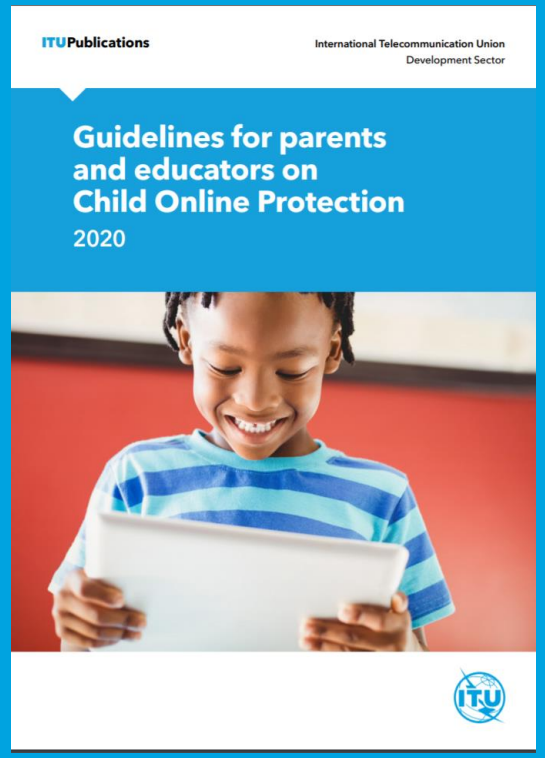
Parents, Educators, Teachers:

The new guidelines aim to sensitize families to the potential risks and threats and help cultivate a healthy and empowering online environment at home and in the classroom. The Guidelines highlight key recommendations for parents and educators and emphasize the importance of open communication and ongoing dialogue with children, creating a safe space where young Internet users feel empowered to raise concerns. Such as:



Guidelines for parents, carers and guardians

- Have a discussion with your children – try and do some online activities with them.
- Identify the technology, devices and services across your family / household.
- Consider whether filtering and blocking or monitoring programmes can help and support your family.
- Agree expectations as a family about using the Internet and personal devices.
- Be aware of the online and mobile services used by your children.

Guidelines for educators

- Ensure that all devices are secure and password protected.
- Install anti-virus software and firewalls.
- Ensure that there is a policy which details how technology can be used.
- Consider how to manage taking and storing images of pupils.
- Ensure that Internet feed provided by the school is filtered and monitored.

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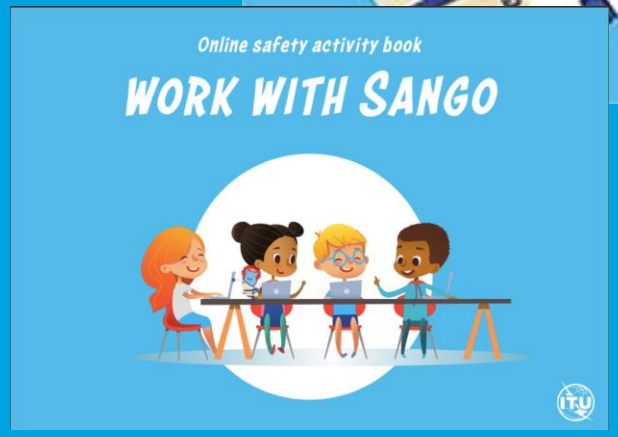
Children:

The new guidelines have been developed in a child friendly format. Adapted to different age groups, the resources create an opportunity to learn about and strengthen young people's digital skills and knowledge, helping them learn ways to manage online risks, while at the same time empowering them to exercise their rights online and engage in opportunities that the internet presents to them. The new resources will depict Sango1 as the main character and will be developed in a child-friendly version.



Storybook

The story book covers six key messages for children

Workbook

The workbook covers seven key messages for children:

Knowing your rights online – helping you to understand your rights in the digital context

Privacy – exploring the importance of online privacy and keeping personal information private

Checking if information online is true – introducing you to check whether what you see or read online is true

Online behavior – encouraging good behavior online and introducing the concept of blocking

Cyberbullying – reinforcing that cyberbullying is never okay and sharing ideas for getting help

Online risks – introducing you to risks you may face online and where to get help

Keeping devices safe from viruses – advising you about how to keep your devices safe from viruses

Social media campaign and microsite

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