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| **COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION (RESOLUTION 179)** 9th meeting, Geneva, 23 January 2015 |  |
| INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION |  |
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| **Update on the ITU Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative**  1. In line with Res. 179 (Busan, 2014), ITU is continuing to implement COP activities worldwide together with the partners of the COP Initiative.  2. In September 2014, on the occasion of the Open Forum held at the IGF in Istanbul, ITU and UNICEF, launched the updated version of the [COP Guidelines on Industry](http://www.itu.int/en/cop/Pages/guidelines.aspx). Some of the key contributing organizations such as GSMA --- also participated in the launch. The new version provides advice on how the ICT industry can help promote safety for children using the Internet or any technologies or devices that can connect to it, as well as guidance on how to enable responsible digital citizenship, learning and civic participation. The updated version provides guidance specifically aimed at companies that develop, provide or make use of information and communication technologies.  3. In addition, ITU and UNICEF published an [online platform](http://www.itu.int/en/cop/case-studies/Pages/default.aspx) of case studies: this platform hosts a variety of case studies providing detailed information on policies, best practices, as well as other actions and processes that the broader ICT Industry has implemented to ensure that children enjoy the benefits of the digital technology within a safe online environment.  4. The guidelines are already at its implementation stage: For example, GSMA together with UNICEF are working with national mobile operators and other relevant stakeholders in various countries in Latin America with the aim to translate the guidelines into practice.  5. Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ITU and Trend Micro, ITU is distributing regular infographics and reports to Member States on issues related to child online safety. In addition, ITU and Trend Micro organized an online training for different stakeholders during the 2014 WSIS Forum.  6. With the goal to set global targets on child online protection, ITU organized a COP partners meeting during the 2014 WSIS Forum. Participants agreed on the need to work towards global targets to maximize the impact of COP activities at the international level. Discussion on the elaboration of specific indicators along with measurement procedures is ongoing with the several members of the initiative.  7. In the last quarter of 2014, ITU continued to provide assistance to countries such as Oman, Zambia, Bahrain and Vanuatu, with the aim to support national stakeholders in planning and deploying an effective and practical approach to COP that can be implemented in the respective countries.  8. Furthermore, with the aim to harmonize regional approaches on Child Online Protection, ITU organized two major regional events in the South Pacific Islands and African countries:  - In September 2014, ITU together with CTO, in collaboration with the International Multilateral Partnership against Cyberthreats (IMPACT) and the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator of Vanuatu (TRR), Office of the Government Chief Information Officer of Vanuatu (OGCIO), and with support from the Department of Communications, Australia, organised the First Pacific Islands Capacity Building Workshop on Child Online Protection. Almost 100 participants, to include delegates from the Pacific Islands states comprising of policymakers, business leaders and representatives from civil society, attended the event to share information on existing activities within the Pacific Islands states and define a way forward to consolidate the activities towards a regional framework for cooperation. The workshop aimed to raise awareness on COP at the regional level and identified strategies/policies that can help the Pacific Islands to build a harmonized framework related to child online safety; addressed human and technical capacity challenges and identified strategic partnerships; and identified efficient reporting mechanisms.  - ITU together with the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) organized the Regional Conference on Africa Child Online Protection (ACOP): Empowering the Future Digital citizens which took place from 15-16 December 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. Several sessions were co-organized by Facebook, UNICEF, UNODC and ECPAT International. The Regional Workshop was the first international event of its nature, focusing on Child Online Protection in the African region. More than 200 participants from 21 African countries, comprising of policymakers, business leaders and representatives from civil society, attended the event to share information on existing activities within the African countries and define a way forward to consolidate the activities towards a regional framework for cooperation. In addition, the workshop helped regional stakeholders to further discuss the risks and points of weakness, and evaluate appropriate tools and approaches to promote growth of a safe and responsible young population online.  9. On the occasion of the celebration of the Convention of Children’s Rights, ITU and IMPACT organized the [Child Online Protection Challenge](http://www.cert.gov.om/media_news_details.aspx?news=42#.VL-tH9LF_Ak) in Bahrain to address the issue of educating children by presenting an interactive platform where children, parents and educators can engage in fun activities to learn more about the risks the children face on the Internet and how these risks can be averted.  10. Finally, this week, ITU released individual [country profiles](http://www.itu.int/cop/countryprofile) that describe the current status  of Child Online Protection frameworks and policies at the national level. During the last two sessions of the Council Working Group on COP, countries were asked to validate and approve their profile. The Secretariat remains available to amend/revise the profiles as necessary. | |
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