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| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** | |  |
| Descrição: Description: ITU globe2 | **Council Working Group on Child Online Protection** |  |
| Date: 14 February, 2014 |
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| **NIGERIA CONTRIBUTION TO ITU COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION**  **Source: Federal Republic of Nigeria**  **8th  Meeting – Geneva, 21 February 2014** | | |

1. **PREAMBLE**

Nigeria is committed to ensuring a safe Cyber space for children, young people as well as adults. It is very well known today, that young people traverse the Cyber space like no other group of people as a result of wide spread access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The productive uses of ICTs become a very veritable approach to unleash the potentials and benefits of ICTs for the young people, who are our tomorrow.

Accordingly, the vulnerabilities and threats associated with the cyber space become key concern which must be addressed by Governments, Policy Makers, Key stakeholders and the Private Sector at National, Regional and International Level, working in collaboration and partnership.

Nigeria has very strong political commitment for COP transcending the Ministry of Communication Technology, Nigerian Communications Commission to the Presidential level.

1. **INITIATIVES**

The following initiatives has been embarked upon:

* 1. National Conference on Child Online Protection – 2010

In 2010 a National Conference was organized by NCC to provide an initial sensitisation and awareness for Child Online Protection in Nigeria. Key stakeholders including industry partners, Government agencies and the private sectors, gathered together to proffer solution to address the emerging threats in the Cyber space.

* 1. An Industry Working Group was established by NCC to drive the process, as an outcome of the National conference to come up with a policy frame work for Nigeria.
  2. A draft Child Online Protection Policy framework was produced in 2012.
  3. There is an ongoing CERT initiative by National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
  4. **Child Online Protection Champion - Dame Dr. Patience Faka Jonathan’s Vision For COP**

Nigeria’s First Lady, **Dame Dr. Patience Faka Jonathan** is unique in many respects, in history, in view of her visible contribution to national politics and development, particularly in the area of boosting women and youth empowerment, care for the underprivileged and contributing to peace advocacy in Nigeria and Africa. She has exhibited uncommon passion for the ordinary folk and zeal for the empowerment of the Nigerian woman, since inception of administration of President Goodluck Jonathan. Patience Jonathan is a foremost champion for the well being of children as well as women's rights and empowerment. A trait that has become recognised in Africa and globally. This earned her an appointment by the ITU as Child Online Protection Champion.

Since that appointment she had made deliberate and continuous effort towards a sustainable strategic thrust for Child Online Protection. A vision she hopes to share with the key global COP stakeholders. While acknowledging the benefit associated with the internet, she expresses concern over the unregulated access to internet which she said "comes with great risks which pose severe dangers to the well-being and safety of our children and youths". She identified five pillars that will strengthen the collective resolve to save the world children from Cyber threats.

**PILLAR NUMBER 1: Capacity Building and Awareness Creation.**

Extensive capacity building programme for all stakeholders at local and international level driven by strong collaborations and partnership.

The following initiatives were carried out:

1. Eighteen (18) Youth delegates were sponsored to ITU Telecom World 2013 Bangkok, Thailand as capacity building and awareness to train on Child Online Protection and to support COP initiative in Nigeria.
2. 2013 World Cyber Security Conference in Abuja on September 17, 2013, with the theme, 'Cyber Security - A latent threat to National Security and Economic Development'.
3. BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit , Costa Rica, 9-11 September 2013 - Six (6) Nigerian youth delegates were sponsored to the summit to provide awareness capacity building and hands on experience.
4. 1st National Youth Online Protection Summit on September 3, 2013, which brought youths from across the country to brainstorm and chart a new course about the safety of cyberspace.

**PILLAR NUMBER 2: Organisation (Implementation) Structure**

To create a viable, sustainable and smart COP campaign that will be specific, measurable, achievable and realistic, the following structures are proposed:

1. Technical Advisory Committee on Child Online Protection.
2. Child Online Protection National Centers: This will be establish in each of the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Wives of each of the State Governors will be appointed as State COP Ambassadors.
3. African First Ladies as COP National Ambassadors: This will advocate for all African First Ladies to pursue the cause of COP in their respective countries.
4. Hotlines on COP: Dedicated Hotline will be made available for the purpose of COP.

**PILLAR NUMBER 4: Technical Measures**

Nigeria under the auspices of the Nigerian Communications Commission has signed an Memorandum of Understanding with ITU on the establishment of ITU Regional Cyber Security Center in Nigeria. This Center, upon completion, will provide Cyber Security solutions not only to Nigeria but for the entire African Continent. This project is ongoing.

**PILLAR NUMBER 5: International Cooperation.**

There is need to establish multi-stakeholder collaborations to ensure the ideals of COP remain on the front burner globally.

A Call for Action to further enlist the commitment of major stakeholder of COP was issued by the Nigeria First Lady, **Dame Patience Faka Jonathan** at the ITU Telecom World 2013 Bangkok, Thailand.

Safer Internet Day 2015: A Call for Action was issued by the Nigeria First Lady calling on policy makers and stakeholder to expedite action in formulating policies that will guarantee the safety of children and young adults in cyber space while balancing basic freedom and human right.

1. **NATIONAL CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION POLICY**

Nigeria in 2014 will launch its National Child Online Protection Policy. A policy thrust for all stakeholders to collectively commit to and drive safer use of the cyber space for children and adults, focusing on policy makers, regulators, private sectors, operators, children, parents and institutions of learning.

The Policy document will be presented to the First Lady soon by the Ministry of Communication Technology and the Nigerian Communications Commission.

1. **ITU REGIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE IN NIGERIA**

NCC working with the ITU and IMPACT are in the process of finalising documentation for operationalising the Regional Cyber Security Centre in Nigeria. The Centre which will serve the African continent will provide technical solutions, education and awareness as well as capacity building as it relates to Cyber Security and Child Online Protection.