**2020 Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)**

*Digital transformation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs*
*– Digital development, partnerships and funding*

6-7 October 2020, 12:00 – 15:00 CAR (Virtual meeting)
with preparatory break-out sessions on 5 October 2020 (12:00 – 13:30 CAT time)

# CONTRIBUTION BY Communications Authority of Kenya, Kenya

**TITLE:** Child Online Protection (COP) Programme

**EXPECTED DURATION OF PRESENTATION:** [5 minutes]

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❖ **Africa Regional Initiatives:** [Select the Regional Initiative(s) relevant for your contribution]

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 1 – Building digital economies and fostering innovation in Africa

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 2 – Promotion of emerging broadband technologies

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 3 – Building trust and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technology

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 4 – Strengthening human and institutional capacity building

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 5 – Management and monitoring of the radio-frequency spectrum and transition to digital broadcasting

❖ **Related ITU development thematic:** [Select the thematic area(s) relevant for your contribution]

[Yes/No] Networks and digital infrastructure

[Yes/No] Cybersecurity

[Yes/No] Emergency telecommunications

[Yes/No] Environment

[Yes/No] Digital policy and regulation

[Yes/No] Capacity development

[Yes/No] Digital services and applications

[Yes/No] Digital inclusion

[Yes/No] Digital innovation ecosystems

[Yes/No] Statistics and data for evidence-based decision making

❖ **Year(s) of implementation:** [Select the year(s) for which your action/project/initiative is relevant]

| [Yes/No] 2018 | [Yes/No] 2019 | [Yes/No] 2020 | [Yes/No] 2021 | [Yes/No] Others |
|---|---|---|---|---|

❖ **COVID-19 response related initiative:** [Please indicate if your action/project/initiative is relevant for COVID-19 response]

[Yes/No] COVID-19 response related initiative

**Background** [max 300 words]

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), the ICT Regulator, has in place an extensive Child Online Protection Programme (COP) dubbed *" Be The COP".* The programme seeks to create awareness of the dangers that children may be exposed to online. The Programme further seeks to develop and implement sustainable mechanisms that enable children to have a safer internet experience. In addition, the programme empowers and leverages relevant stakeholders to develop and deploy safeguards for children online. The Authority's COP programme is developed and aligned to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) recommended best practices.

Following the closure of all learning institutions in Kenya due to COVID-19, there has been a sharp upsurge in consumers' use of technology to access goods, services and even learning materials and platforms. This consequently increased the level of exposure of children and youth to communication services and devices to enable them learn, socialise and play.

The Authority, intends to facilitate the implementation of ITU's technical note *"COVID-19 and its implications for protecting children online"* and also to undertake full implementation of the newly launched COP Guidelines 2020.

**Proposal** [max 400 words]

Kenya is in the process of developing a National COP strategy facilitated by CA through a multisector approach. This will involve all relevant stakeholders. The outcome of this process will be a clear roadmap whose main objective will be to create a safer internet space for children and youth. CA is waiting for administrative approvals and the creation of a National Taskforce to commence this activity. This process will be executed through a Framework Cooperation Agreement with the ITU.

It is anticipated that the strategy shall be developed over a period of nine (9) months and shall incorporate strategies that promote and strengthen collaboration and active participation of national stakeholders in its development and implementation.

With regards to key challenges and opportunities in terms of funding and partnerships, to date generally all COP activities, initiatives and sponsorships have been self-funded. Given The level of investment required in pursuing the COP agenda and this proposal, Kenya welcomes bilateral support from Partners through financial, technical and in-kind assistance.

The approach adopted in Kenya has always been to work through Partnership. Seeing that Child Online protection requires a multi-sector approach, the Authority has always prioritised this issue and continues to engage partners in planning, co-ordinating and execution of most of the COP programme initiatives.

The transboundary nature of COP such as Cross-border issues pose a big challenge and may require international collaboration.

**PLEASE SUBMIT THE CONTRIBUTION BY 15 SEPTEMBER TO ITU-RO-AFRICA@ITU.INT**