

Agenda item: PL 1.1 v)

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## Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection

### OUTCOME OF THE SEVENTH AND EIGHTH MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

#### Summary

This Report summarizes the main results of the seventh and eighth meetings of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection, held on 9 October 2013 and 21 February 2014, in accordance with ITU 2009 Council Resolution 1306 and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010).

#### Action required

The Council is invited **to note** this Report.

#### References

[Resolution 179 \(Guadalajara, 2010\)](#)

[Resolution 1306 \(Council 2009\)](#)

## 1 Introduction

1.1 At the 2010 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, the ITU Council was requested to maintain its Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), and thus the seventh and eighth meetings of CWG-COP were held on 9 October 2013 and 21 February 2014 in Geneva. The work of the CWG-COP is conducted in line with Resolution 1306 (2009) and continued in accordance with Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.

- a. Council Resolution 1306 *resolves* (excerpt):

*to establish a Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (WG-CP) open to all Member States and Sector Members, with the following terms of reference:*

- 1. to exchange views and promote and work on the subject matter;*
- 2. to report to the Council annually on the activities of the working group on child online protection (WG-CP);*

- b. Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010) *requests the Council* (excerpt):

*to maintain WG-COP, in order to facilitate the membership's input and guidance on ITU's role in child online protection,*

*invites Member States:*

1. *to join and participate actively in WG-COP and related ITU activities, for the purposes of a comprehensive discussion and exchange of information on legal, technical, organizational and procedural issues, as well as capacity building and international cooperation for protecting children online;*
2. *to develop information, to educate and to create consumer-awareness campaigns aimed at parents, teachers, industry and the population in general, in order to make children aware of the risks that may be encountered online,*

*invites Sector Members:*

*to participate actively in WG-COP and in other ITU activities, with the aim of informing the ITU membership about technological solutions for protecting children online.*

## **2 Adoption of the agendas**

2.1 The agendas of the seventh and eighth meetings were adopted as drafted ([WG-CP/7/2](#) and [Draft Agenda](#) respectively).

## **3 Welcoming remarks**

3.1 Mr Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, delivered the opening remarks for both the seventh and the eighth meetings. He stated that ITU is pleased to make this working group available as a platform for discussion and information exchange in this global effort to protect children online. He proceeded to highlight COP activities and achievements over the past months. In addition, during the eighth meeting, Mr Zhao noted that with the upcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-14) in October, this is a very important year for ITU – and therefore, for the COP initiative. The COP resolutions will be discussed at PP-14, and new priorities for the work of ITU in this domain will be set. Mr Zhao thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the working group for their exemplary leadership over the past four years. He expressed his gratitude to the COP partners in this group, since it constitutes a unique body at the UN level in providing a multistakeholder platform for discussion, for their contribution to the work.

3.2 The Chairman welcomed the participants and thanked Mr Zhao for his presence and for his speech, and for ITU's support to COP efforts and initiatives. He also thanked the Group for the several contributions received.

## **4 Information Reports and Contributions**

4.1 At the seventh and eighth meetings, [three documents](#) were presented by the ITU secretariat.

4.2 At the seventh and eighth meetings, the Group received [26 contributions](#) from members and from outside experts, and a training session dedicated to delegates was held.

## **5 Discussions**

5.1 During the seventh meeting, several interventions and contributions have been discussed. In this regard, after the adoption of the agenda, ITU gave an update on activities, projects, regional initiatives, and partnerships related to COP.

- 5.2 The IWF and Trend Micro's presentations highlighted the importance of implementing reporting mechanisms and the need to provide data/intelligence provider with partners on digital threats around COP issues.
- 5.3 The presentation by the European Commission focused on the work of the CEO Coalition, and their goals to improve: simple and robust reporting tools; age-appropriate privacy settings; wider use of content classification; wider availability and use of parental controls; and effective takedown of child abuse material.
- 5.4 Additionally, presentations by the UK Council for Child Internet Safety and ONAT demonstrated how a more comprehensive, effective approach should empower individuals (e.g. children, parents, and teachers) to make informed decisions about COP.
- 5.5 Furthermore, UNICEF's presentation highlighted promising areas for international collaboration, including the establishment of measurements for child online abuse and COP indicators, as well as the coordination with national governments on COP. In this regard, for instance, Turkey's presentation pointed out that there are not many NGOs that are working on COP issues in the region, though the number of NGOs interested in this work is continuing to increase.
- 5.6 Finally, the presentation of Brazil emphasized the importance of collecting data and indicators on child online protection, however, at the same time it highlighted the challenges and difficulties.
- 5.7 During the eighth meeting, following the report of the ITU secretariat on the progress made by the COP initiative, WISE KIDS delivered a very important and interesting training workshop on how partners could approach Child Online Protection from a youth, family and digital literacy/ citizenship perspective.
- 5.8 Countries such as Japan, Egypt, Oman, Nigeria, Zambia, Malaysia and Costa Rica showcased their efforts in improving child online safety in their national political agenda and recognized the need to cooperate closely with private sector and international organizations to ensure a harmonized approach.
- 5.9 The contribution from Egypt proposed to amend Resolution 67 (Hyderabad, 2010) on the Role of the Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection. The proposed amendments included the support of projects on COP at the national and regional level in collaboration with regional offices, and the elaboration of quarterly reports from the working group to the countries. The proposal strengthens the need to ensure the rights of children on the use of ICTs, protecting them from the online threats by empowering them in the use of ICT tools.
- 5.10 The contribution from INSAFE described the growing interest in celebrating the Safer Internet Day worldwide and sharing data on the number of activities undertaken on the occasion of the Safer Internet Day while the presentation by INHOPE emphasized the importance of the network to eradicate child sexual abuse from the Internet.
- 5.11 The contribution of .kids shared views on a proposed internet domain that will not only be operated for business purposes, but will also take into consideration the interests of the child.
- 5.12 The presentation from EBU reported on the outcome of the last meeting of the JCA-COP held on 15 January 2014, and recognized the importance of the JCA COP and the need to actively contribute to its work.

## **6. Outcomes of the seventh and eighth meetings of the CWG-COP**

### **6.1 The main outcomes of the seventh meeting were:**

- a) The importance to benchmark the scope and magnitude of COP issues and to engage in evidence-based practices for identification and implementation of more effective solutions.
- b) Countries could benefit from a more inclusive partnership approach based on mutual agreements and self-regulation, especially in areas such as content filtering, where international cooperation is needed.
- c) Member States are urged to take part in the ITU Global Cybersecurity Questionnaire and make COP data available as part of the cybersecurity profile of their countries.
- d) Since COP had been integrated into the WSIS+10 conference agenda, the members of the Council Working Group are urged to participate in the WSIS preparatory process.
- e) BDT is asked to encourage countries to contribute to data collection on COP. It is crucial to have measurements to better allocate resources, especially in developing countries where resources are scarce.
- f) ITU is requested to continue to provide assistance to member countries in implementation of activities related to COP.
- g) The group emphasized that sharing approaches and experience is critical to the success of the Council Working Group, and encouraged the ITU Member States and Sector Members to share their work.

### **6.2 At the eighth meeting, the Group emphasized:**

- a) The importance of having training sessions on new topics such as digital citizenship and digital literacy.
- b) The importance of updating Resolution 67 (Hyderabad, 2010).
- c) That countries were encouraged to establish reporting mechanisms and hotlines to benefit from the information and resources shared by INHOPE through its network and key partners.
- d) The critical need to raise awareness and contribute to the efforts of other stakeholders working in this area.
- e) That a liaison statement should be sent to the JCA COP to set up a meeting between the two chairmen and the COP delegation.
- f) That countries were encouraged to update and validate their own profile on Child Online Protection which will be published on the ITU COP website mid-June.
- g) That sharing approaches and experience is critical to the success of the Council Working Group, and encouraged the ITU Member States and Sector Members to share their work.

The Chairman thanked the ITU Member States, Sector Members and COP partners for their contributions to the meetings and the ITU secretariat for the support provided.

**Dr Sherif Hashem (Arab Republic of Egypt)**  
**Chairman, CWG-COP**

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