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**Note by the Secretary-General**

**CONTRIBUTION FROM CAMEROON – MEASURES TAKEN IN SUPPORT  
OF CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION**

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from **Cameroon**.

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURÉ  
Secretary-General

## CONTRIBUTION FROM CAMEROON

### MEASURES TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

#### 1 Introduction

The Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP) was set up pursuant to Resolution 1306, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues concerning creating a safer Internet environment for children, adopted by Council-09. Under its terms of reference, this working group, which is open to all Member States and Sector Members, shall:

- exchange views and promote and work on the subject matter;
- report to the Council annually on its activities.

Resolution 179 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference requested the Council to maintain WG-COP in order to facilitate the membership's input and guidance on ITU's role in child online protection. It invited 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.

For their part, Sector Members were invited 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.

This contribution looks at some of the measures taken by Cameroon in the area of child online protection (COP) and puts forward recommendations in support of the efforts being made by ITU within the framework of its COP initiative.

#### 2 Measures taken by Cameroon in relation to the COP initiative

On 27 October 1990, Cameroon signed, and on 11 January 1993 it ratified, the United Nations Convention of 20 November 1989 on the Rights of the Child. It produced its initial report (CRC/C/28/Add-16), which the Committee on the Rights of the Child received on 4 April 2000 and examined during its twenty-eighth session (737th, 738th and 749th meetings), held in October 2001.

The process of revising Act 98/014 of 14 July 1998, governing telecommunications, and its implementing texts, which had begun in 2007, was completed in 2010 with the promulgation of three new acts, namely Act 2010/013 on electronic communications, Act 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 on cybersecurity and cybercrime, and Act 2010/021 on electronic commerce in Cameroon. The main implementing texts for the aforementioned acts, which are currently in the process of elaboration, take account of child online protection.

Cameroon was a participant in the meeting, held on Mauritius on 24 October 2012, to launch the COP initiative of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), in association with ITU. At the conclusion of that meeting, the countries present decided, among other things, to:

- take stock of the COP situation in six CTO member countries selected for the pilot phase, namely Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria and Sierra Leone;
- designate a focal point in each country, and then set up a committee responsible for data gathering and for helping to elaborate the corresponding national strategy.

As part of its follow-up to the implementation of the COP initiative, Cameroon:

- designated, on 22 January 2013, the Director for Strategy and Foresight of the *Agence de Régulation des Télécommunications* to serve as National Contact Point for the COP initiative;
- established, on 1 April 2013, a Committee of Experts responsible for data gathering and for drawing up a status report on COP in Cameroon, with the following specific tasks:
  - gathering data on the status of COP in Cameroon and then summarizing those data;
  - assisting in the elaboration of the national COP strategy, with reference to, among other things, the COP guidelines published by CTO and ITU for parents, guardians, educators, policy-makers and industry;
  - monitoring the implementation of initiatives and/or projects under action plans initiated within the framework of the national COP strategy;
  - adopting subregional, regional and global best practices with respect to COP, and formulating recommendations for their implementation in Cameroon;
  - making any other specific proposals aimed at supporting Cameroon's efforts to ensure the protection of children online,
- organized, during the course of 2013, discussions between the main players (public administrations, civil society entities, etc.) concerned with addressing this issue in our country, in order to gather information from those players and to analyse the replies to a questionnaire on the collection of data relating to COP in Cameroon, focusing on the legal framework, technical measures, training initiatives and international cooperation (the completed questionnaire is attached);
- contributed to the organization of the CTO Forum on Cybersecurity in Yaoundé and of the associated expert workshops, held in Yaoundé from 22 to 24 April 2013, relating to COP in the six CTO member countries selected for the pilot phase of the COP initiative. Following the Yaoundé gatherings, a framework strategy document entitled "Child online protection national strategy framework for Cameroon" was drawn up on the basis of the replies to the above-mentioned questionnaire.

### **3 Proposals**

Cameroon proposes that the ITU Council continue to provide assistance to the member countries in the implementation of COP-related projects.

Cameroon stresses the importance of continuing with the development of filters to protect children online.