

Protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation in Morocco

Internet is now an interesting element of children and young people's lives. It can bring considerable benefits for their education and development; however it also exposes them to online risks such as access to inappropriate content, abuse and online exploitation ... Protecting children and young people from the online risks is a priority for the Moroccan government.

In the Moroccan National Strategy for Information Society and Digital Economy "Digital Morocco 2013", the Government within the framework of the digital trust plan sets the following initiatives and actions in order to protect online children and young people and help them to use the cyberspace safely.

Initiative 1: Update and reinforce the legislative framework

- Upgrade/update the legal and regulatory framework related to the protection of children and young people from the risks of Internet abuse and online exploitation.

Initiative 2: sensitise parents, citizens, and education staff to information systems security

- Raise awareness within the children, young people and parents of the Cybersecurity and cyberconfidence issues,
- Implement a sensitization and a communication program about ISS in order to raise awareness within the children, young people, parents and education staff of Cybersecurity and cyberconfidence issues,

Initiative 3: International cooperation

- Strengthen the international cooperation on protecting children online and combating cybercrime

Realizations

As a result of actions undertaken within the framework of the digital trust program to protect children and young people from the risks of Internet, abuse and online exploitation, government has succeeded to:

Initiative 1:

- Adopt the law no 07-03 related to the information Systems infractions,
- Adopt the law no31-08 related to the protection of on line consumers,
- Adopt the law no 09-08 related to the protection of the personal data,
- Elaborate a global study of the legal instruments related to the information technology and cybercrime to strengthen the Moroccan legal act and fill existing gaps that may be an obstacle to ensure the digital trust, combat

cybercrime and protect children and young people from the risks of Internet, abuse and online exploitation.

In addition, and in order to strengthen its legislation governing ICT / digital confidence and ensure its harmonization with international / regional conventions, Morocco has adopted the following laws:

- Law No. 136-12 approving the Convention No. 185 of the European Union on Cybercrime and its Additional Protocol,
- Law n°75-12 approving the Arab Convention against information technology crimes.

Initiative 2:

- Implement an awareness and communication program about cybersecurity and safe internet for parents, education staff, children and young people,
- Develop an information website that content advices and recommendations for parents, children and young people to develop their skills about information system security and help them to adopt the internet and networks security tools

Initiative 3:

- Moroccan government is developing and enhancing his International partnership to protect children online and combat cybercrime