

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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Bangkok, 16 December 2019

Administrations of ITU Member States, Regulators, Sector Members, Academia in the ASEAN Region, plus China, Japan, Korea and Solomon Islands and Republic of the Marshall Islands

## Subject:Invitation to the South East Asia Regional Conference on Child Online Protection 25-27February 2020, Manila, Philippines

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), I would like to invite you to nominate participants for **the South East Asia Regional Conference on Child Online Protection** jointly organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with support from the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department of Communications and Arts (DOCA), Government of Australia from **25-27 February in Manila Philippines.** 

Following the adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of Children from Online Abuse and Exploitation in ASEAN at the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, the Conference aims to: inspire accelerated action to enhance child online protection in the region; sensitise the high level participants on the new Declaration on the Protection of Children from Online Abuse and Exploitation in ASEAN and other key ASEAN initiatives on child online protection; provide a platform for multi sectoral delegations to identify the actions needed to translate the Declaration on the Protection of Children from Online Abuse and Exploitation into action, along with industry and NGO representatives. The Conference would provide an opportunity for governments and organizations from the region (including with regional and global experts) to learn about the latest research and initiatives related to child online protection; facilitate exchanges of ideas between global, regional, and national thought leaders on best practices for child online protection across different sectors: technology; justice; education; financial; and social welfare; encourage future-looking legal, policy, educational, and technological responses for children that can adapt to rapidly changing fields of technology such as artificial intelligence and the internet of things; provide a platform to consider cross regional and inter regional collaboration; and provide a channel to share experiences and recommendations from under-18s in the region.

The provisional agenda of the Conference is available at **Annex 1**. Details on accommodation and other useful information for participants for the event is o available at **Annex-2**.

For online registration and further information please visit <u>https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events.aspx</u>. Registration deadline is **Tuesday 14 January 2020**. In case of issues with online registration, delegates are requested to send their completed Registration Form (**Annex-3**) by the above mentioned date to Natcha Chutinthararuk E Mail: <u>nchutinthararuk@unicef.org</u>, Ms. Rachel Harvey E Mail: <u>rharvey@unicef.org</u> and Mr. Sameer Sharma E Mail: <u>sameer.sharma@itu.int</u> so that logistical arrangements can be made accordingly.

Under the Child Online Protection Project, supported by the DOCA, Government of Australia, fellowships may be available for LDC, LLDC and SIDs from ASEAN Member States and Solomon Islands and Republic of the Marshall Islands who can deliver a country presentation related to the topic subject to available funds. Completed Fellowship Forms (Annex -4) and Registration Forms must be submitted to ITU no later than 14 January 2020.

I look forward to your positive reply at your earliest convenience and to welcome you and your colleagues to Manila, Philippines, where I am confident that your active participation will contribute to the success of the Conference on Child Online Protection.

Yours faithfully,

Sameer Sharma Regional Director a.i.