Ref.:	Circular BDT/DNS/DGS/112	Geneva, 3 December 2021

To
- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Permanent Missions

Subject: Updates on the Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative

Dear Sir/Madam,

In line with ITU's mandate on Child Online Protection, Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, I am pleased to share with you the latest updates on the Child Online Protection Initiative to ensure a safer digital environment for children and young people.

As also recognized by the G20 Rome Leader's Declaration, the work of the Initiative has never been more relevant due to its lending support to all relevant stakeholders in fostering a safe and empowering online environment. Children and young people online face many risks and challenges such as privacy issues, cyberbullying, misinformation, child sexual abuse material (CSAM), and other cybersecurity risks. As COVID-19 has necessitated children to be online more than ever before, it has put them at increased risk of being subject to harm online.

Following the Global launch of the COP Guidelines and the regional launches led by our ITU regional offices, until December 2020, to support member states in their child online protection related efforts, ITU and its partners published the first ITU Policy Brief on Child Online Protection in autumn 2021. The Brief provides clear step-by-step guidance for policymakers on the development of a comprehensive national strategy on child online protection. I hope you can make use of the Policy Brief as a reference when developing and implementing COP related measures and frameworks.

Within the framework of the ITU and NCA Saudi Arabia global programme on '*Creating a safe and empowering cyber environment for children*' initiated in August 2021, ITU and its partners, aim to develop and implement child online safety measures and policies among governments, industries, and civil society (including children themselves) to increase capacity development and knowledge sharing between all relevant stakeholders. I invite you to support the programme through a financial contribution, and proactive involvement in the various activities. Through international cooperation and mutual collaboration, we will be able to better protect and empower children online, everywhere.

Furthermore, as requested by many ITU Members, ITU is collecting best practices to share successful examples of COP related efforts. We would therefore like to gather information on the implementation of the ITU Guidelines undertaken by ITU Members. As such, we encourage you to kindly:

1. Send us your best practices, by contacting the COP Secretariat at cop@itu.int.
2. Contribute and participate to the next meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection in January 2022.
3. Share your efforts through the next Global Cybersecurity Index (CGI) survey.

For more information about the COP Initiative, please visit the ITU COP website and the COP Guidelines microsite on the set of tools linked to the COP Guidelines or contact the Secretariat at cop@itu.int.

I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that every child in every country around the world gets the opportunity to fully benefit from the opportunities that ICTs offer to them.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director