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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.5** | **Document C21/57-E** |
| **22 February 2021** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on  Child Online Protection** | |
| OUTCOME OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION | |

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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the seventeenth meeting of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP), held on 26 January 2021, in accordance with ITU 2010 Council Resolution 1306 and ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the document.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [C20/57](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0057/en) |

# 1 Introduction

1.1 The seventeenth meeting of CWG-COP was held on 26 January 2021 online on the Platform Interprefy. Approximately 100 participants, representing governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and international and intergovernmental organizations, participated remotely in the meeting, which was chaired by Mr Abdelaziz Alzarooni (UAE).

# 2 Opening remarks

2.1 The Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr Houlin Zhao opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants in the virtual room. He mentioned that since its invention, more than thirty years ago, more of half of the world’s population is using the Internet, of which one in three is a child. He provided an overview of online risks to children and stated that now more than ever, it is important to work together to protect and empower children online. He stated that the current COVID-19 crisis has only emphasized the urgent need for action.

2.2 The Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, in her welcoming remarks, stated that as more children join the online world, international efforts to protect them will need to be scaled up both in the digital realm, as well as the physical one. She mentioned the fully revised COP Guidelines, that represent a solid starting point to support national efforts and stimulate international dialogue. She thanked all ITU COP partners for their support in the revision and roll-out of the new COP Guidelines and highlighted the engagement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in signing a major agreement with ITU on a global COP implementation project. She closed by stating that to be effective, policy development processes must involve children and young people’s voices, which is why a fundamental element of the global COP implementation project led by ITU will focus on capacity building and skills development of all relevant stakeholders.

2.3 The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked the Secretary-General and the BDT Director for their presence and support. He expressed how interesting the meeting’s agenda items were and that participants were joined by several external experts on COP and gave the floor to the first presentation.

**3 Adoption of the agenda**

3.1 The [Agenda](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0001) was adopted as drafted.

# 4 Contributions and information documents

* 1. The following documents were presented:
* [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0002) on ITU's work and activities in Child Online Protection
* [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0007) on advancement in the implementation of the Child Online Protection Guidelines from the ITU Regional Office for Europe
* [Presentations](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF/en) on collaborative efforts from ITU and COP partners
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0003) by The Global partnership to End Violence against Children
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0008) by UNICEF Innovation
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0004) by the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC)
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0001) by WePROTECT Global Alliance
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0005) by UK Safer Internet Centre (SWGfl)
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0006) by Insafe
  + [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0002) by Parentzone

# Presentations

* 1. ITU secretariat gave an [update](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0002) on the work undertaken in 2020 and beyond. The secretariat recalled the launch of the COP Mascot Sango and related campaigns, shared the efforts on the COVID-19 response from the initiative and partners and provided a comprehensive overview of the new 2020 COP Guidelines, related materials, and events. It furthermore presented current and starting efforts to implement the COP Guidelines within projects such as GIGA – connecting every school and other relevant collaborations and efforts at the global, regional, and national levels. It ended its presentation with an overview of the global programme to implement the COP Guidelines (2021-2023) and a call to action to support the effort.
  2. The ITU office for Europe provided an [overview](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0007) of the progress to implement the new COP Guidelines at the regional and national level, including workshops and events, campaigns, policy-assistance and collaborative efforts with other key stakeholders. The presentation further included case studies from different countries and the plans for 2021.
  3. After the contribution from the secretariat and the ITU Regional Office for Europe, the Chair welcomed the efforts of the secretariat and the ITU Regional Office in advancing efforts in the implementation of the COP Guidelines and related materials. He encouraged participants to engage in the roll out and implementation of the Guidelines within their countries, either financially or other.
  4. The [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0003) by The Global partnership to End Violence against Children provided an overview of the current landscape of online threats for children sharing insights in both tech solutions and international collaborative action.
  5. The [Presentation](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0008) by UNICEF Innovation presented the focus areas of the department and shared more in-depth information on the ITU, UNICEF, EVAC joint [Child Online Safety Call for Applications](https://www.unicef.org/innovation/apply-ChildOnlineSafety), aiming at investments to provide early stage (seed) finance to for-profit technology start-ups using machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain or extended reality that build software solutions that respond to the four broad categories of digital risks to children: Content, Contact, Conduct and Contract Risks.
  6. The first [contribution](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/c/S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0003!!MSW-E.docx) from the Russian Federation – “Experience of the Russian Federation in child online protection” presented the country’s legal framework to ensure implementation and protection of children's rights in the online environment by providing an overview of the legal acts governing the protection of children’s rights online and, in particular, ensuring the information security of minors in the Federation.
  7. The second [contribution](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/c/S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0004!!MSW-E.docx) from The Russian Federation – ”Challenges generated by using Encryption Protocols on the Internet enabling concealment of name (Identifier) of an Internet Resource” addressed challenges of Encryption protocols in relation to child online protection and submitted a proposal to arrange discussion of issues related to the matter in CWG-COP and other ITU working groups.
  8. The [contribution](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/c/S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0005!!PDF-E.pdf) from the United Arab Emirates presented an overview of the efforts done by Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority to protect children in the early age (0 to 8) online. Initiatives presented included a child online protection guide for parents with children in the Early Years, in addition to guidelines on the healthy use of technology.
  9. The [contribution](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0006) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided an overview of the Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Initiative for Safe Children in the Cyber World that was announced in early 2020. As a first practical step of this initiative, in December 2020, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ITU signed an agreement to implement a global programme on ‘Creating a safe and empowering cyber environment for children’, which focuses both on policy assistance for governments and development of digital skills and literacy with end-users. In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia kindly invited the members of the CWG to share their respective experiences as well their suggestion as an input to the development of the strategy for the Safe Children in the Cyber World initiative including areas of focus, potential partners etc. It was furthermore proposed to organize interactive sessions with the members of the CWG, co-hosted by ITU and the Saudi National Cybersecurity Agency (NCA).
  10. The [presentation](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/inf/S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0004!!PPT-E.pptx) from the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children provided an overview of the offices’ efforts in promoting and supporting children’s activism and engagement in preventing and addressing violence against children and shared insights from consultations with children on online violence.
  11. The [presentation](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/inf/S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0001!!PPT-E.pptx) of the WePROTECT Global Alliance provided an overview of scope, members, focus areas and key achievements of the global alliance to end child sexual abuse online.
  12. The [presentation](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/inf/S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0006!!PPT-E.pptx) of Insafe, shared insights on past and ongoing efforts in the framework of the Better internet for kids initiative and the globally celebrated Safer Internet Days, including the current related Youth pledge and emphasised various opportunities for engagement and support of different stakeholders at the national and international level.
  13. The [presentation](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/inf/S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0005!!PPT-E.pptx) from the UK Safer Internet Centre and SWGfl, provided an update on joint activities with ITU in supporting the improvement of the national child online protection ecosystems in South Eastern Europe as well as in sharing targeted knowledge for European professional football clubs in a joint webinar on COP in the context of football.
  14. The [presentation](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/inf/S21-CLCWGCOP17-INF-0002!!PPT-E.pptx) of Parentzone, introduced the UKCIS Digital Resilience Framework, targeting organizations, communities and groups and aiming at helping people build resilience in their digital life, increasing awareness and understanding and at adding to the knowledge base of digital resilience. To conclude, the presentation was closed by a call to action.
  15. The Chair read the [Liaison statement](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/21/clcwgcop17/c/S21-CLCWGCOP17-C-0007!!MSW-E.docx) from ITU-D Study Group 2 Question 3/2 on the work of ITU-D SG2 related to COP, informing the CWG-COP, that a dedicated chapter on COP can be found in the draft output report of Q3/2 for this study period, which will be further developed until its approval planned in March 2021, inviting the CWG-COP membership to participate in the work of the Question with regards to child online protection. The Liaison statement was acknowledged by the members of the CWG-COP.

**6. Discussions**

* 1. The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) highlighted the increase in self-generated content in 2020. The previous presentations were supported by comment in the chat and advice on safety by design principles were discussed by the representatives from the GP-EVAC and UNICEF Innovation.
  2. The intervention from the floor from Italy shared the current Italian regulation efforts of the social media app TIKTOK in the country.
  3. The following three interventions from Canada, the Internet Society and the United States of America, welcomed the comprehensive information on best practices that was shared and the great efforts that were happening on COP in different national and international contexts. They all welcomed the efforts undertaken shared in the first contribution from the Russian Federation, but noted however, that the second contribution, regarding” Challenges generated by using Encryption Protocols on the Internet enabling concealment of name (Identifier) of an Internet Resource” was too specific and technical in nature to be discussed in the CWG-COP, which due to its mandate and scope, was not the right forum to discuss the matter.
  4. The Chair noted the second contribution from the Russian Federation and encouraged the delegation to participate again to the CWG-COP meeting sharing updates and best practice from the country.

# Outcomes of the seventeenth meeting of the CWG-COP

* 1. The Chair stated that the meeting was very well attended and the participation in the discussion both orally and in the chat, was high, lively, and engaging.
  2. The Chair further encouraged ITU COP partners to participate again at the meetings of the CWG-COP as this is a unique platform for information sharing and lessons learned.
  3. The Chair recommended to engage ITU Regional Offices in the CWG-COP and related meetings.
  4. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposed to organize information sessions on COP-related matters with ITU and partners.
  5. The Chair finally invited the CWG-COP membership to contribute to the work of the ITU-D SG2 related to COP.

**Abdelaziz Alzarooni (UAE)  
Chair, CWG-COP**

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