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| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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|  | **Document C22/92-E** |
| **5 April 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
| SUMMARY RECORD  OF THE  SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING | |
| Tuesday, 29 March 2022, from 1435 to 1620 hours | |
| **Chairman**: Mr S. BIN GHELAITA (United Arab Emirates) | |

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|  | Subjects discussed | Documents |
| 1 | Reports by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection | [C22/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0015/en), [C22/64](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0064/en) |
| 2 | Efforts aimed at strengthening the safety of children in the digital era | [C22/77](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0077/en) |
| 3 | Proposed dates and duration of the 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 sessions of the Council, along with proposed dates of clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups for 2023, 2024 and 2025 | [C22/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0002/en) |
| 4 | Schedule of future conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union: 2022-2025 | [C22/37(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0037/en) |
| 5 | Chairmen and vice-chairmen of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups | [C22/21](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0021/en) |
| 6 | Statements by ministers and observers | - |

**1** **Reports by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (Documents C22/15 and C22/64)**

1.1 The Chairman of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection (CWG-COP) introduced Document [C22/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0015/en), containing his report on the outcome of the 18th meeting of CWG-COP, which had considered a number of documents presenting the experiences of countries and organizations in the field of child online protection. He invited Member States to share the experiences and ideas reflected in the report with national stakeholders.

1.2 Councillors welcomed the report, in particular the lively participation and multistakeholder involvement, which had made for balanced and well-structured discussion.

1.3 The Council **noted** the report contained in Document C22/15.

1.4 The Chairman of CWG-COP introduced the group’s four-year report in Document [C22/64](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0064/en), summarizing the outcomes of the four meetings held since PP-18 and recommending that CWG‑COP continue its work, but with amended terms of reference to better reflect its nature, function and goals. The Union’s COP partners, in particular international organizations and private-sector actors, were invited to contribute regularly to the work of the group, enhancing the group’s role as a platform for sharing best practices and experiences and promoting cooperation. The challenges of ensuring child online protection were growing daily, particularly given the COVID-19 pandemic, and required consolidated efforts to overcome them. The group had also provided guidance for ITU on its activities in the area, and monitored and supported all relevant Union activities, including in relation to the ITU Guidelines on child online protection.

1.5 Councillors, stressing the importance and global nature of the topic, particularly with more time spent online than ever before in the wake of COVID-19, and ITU’s ideal positioning to pursue the cause, supported the recommendation that CWG-COP continue its work, and several said that its terms of reference should indeed be amended. Two councillors, however, considered that the group should continue its work in its current form and under its current terms of reference.

1.6 Several councillors called for greater cooperation with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and its Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), particularly in relation to abuse of the domain-name system. Councillors requested regular reports on ICANN and GAC activities in relation to child online protection and on ITU involvement in GAC.

1.7 The Chairman of CWG-COP said that at the group’s two previous meetings more focus had been given to the issue of ITU’s COP partnerships, and thus it would be an opportune time to expand collaboration with ICANN and invite it to participate in the work of the group.

1.8 Councillors also requested greater involvement of the ITU regional offices, while one councillor suggested increasing collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and its regional offices, as well with the United Nations Resident Coordinator system.

1.9 Councillors called for thorough consideration of the issue from all vantage points, including the growing challenges of online scamming and cyberbullying, and encouraged continued multistakeholder participation in CWG-COP. Several councillors stressed the importance of ITU also targeting parents, educators and caregivers in its COP initiatives.

1.10 The Director of BDT, responding to a question, said that feedback was of critical importance to the success of the Union’s COP initiatives. To that end, a circular letter had been sent out to Member States requesting feedback and further best practices. The ITU Guidelines on child online protection had been updated and contained sections dedicated to parents, educators, policy-makers and industry. They had been launched regionally with the involvement of the different regional groups. Also, ITU had launched its COP mascot, Sangophone – or Sango for short – on Safer Internet Day 2020. It had been created and designed by children and helped children, parents and teachers to understand the dangers that children faced being online and how to manage them.

1.11 As a parent of four digital natives, she valued greatly the attention and importance given to the issue by the Council and thanked the Chairman of CWG-COP and the secretariat for their commitment and dedication.

1.12 The Council **agreed** to submit the report contained in Document C22/64 to the Plenipotentiary Conference, along with the summary record of the meeting, capturing councillors’ requests and recommendations, and to request that the Secretary-General report to the Council on ICANN and GAC activities related to child online protection.

**2** **Efforts aimed at strengthening the safety of children in the digital era (Document C22/77)**

2.1 The councillor from Greece presented Document [C22/77](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0077/en), which described her country’s efforts to enhance child online protection and highlighted the impact of the Greek Safer Internet Centre and its close collaboration with the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). The document invited Member States to share their experiences in child online protection and emerging risks in the digital space, in particular in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and called for ITU to strengthen cooperation with ENISA, focusing in particular on the role of the ITU Guidelines on child online protection in ensuring the safety of children in the digital era.

2.2 Many councillors expressed their gratitude to the councillor from Greece for her country’s contribution and stressed the importance of Member States continuing to share their experiences and best practices to facilitate learning, particularly given the global nature of the challenges and difficulties, which had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increasing amount of time children were spending online.

2.3 One councillor praised Greece’s twin focus on safety and empowerment, which was important to ensuring that children could thrive online, and noted the country’s contribution as a positive example of the importance of collaborating with specialized international agencies.

2.4 The councillor from Rwanda said that her country had adopted a national COP policy, in line with the ITU guidelines, and had established a cybersecurity agency to collaborate with other agencies operating in fields that supported child online protection. Rwanda was committed to connecting every Rwandan safely and securely to new and emerging technologies.

2.5 The councillor from Turkey said that his country had established a safer Internet centre within its national regulatory body for telecommunications in order to protect society from risks associated with the Internet and to provide guidance to children, young people and families on safe use of the online space. In addition, the ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection had been translated into Turkish and made available to all stakeholders.

2.6 The councillor from Nigeria said that her country had implemented initiatives to raise awareness of the risks facing children and young adults online, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the general shift online. It had translated the ITU guidelines into the three indigenous languages and had adapted the content to ensure that they were locally relevant and cut across tribal and geopolitical lines. Awareness-raising campaigns had been carried out in primary and secondary schools across the country, involving parents, caregivers, industry and policy-makers. Nigeria’s adoption of a national cybersecurity policy and strategy document demonstrated its renewed commitment to national security and economic prosperity.

2.7 The councillor from Australia said that her country was proud of its record in promoting child online protection through its e-safety commissioner, which had shown success in combating child online bullying and protecting Australians online.

2.8 The councillor from China said that his country had amended COP-related laws and regulations and was actively implementing them.

2.9 The councillor from Tunisia said that his country had strived to raise awareness among children, parents and caregivers on the risks associated with the Internet and had provided guidance for parents on how to ensure their children were safe online.

2.10 The councillor from South Africa said that his country had been following the ITU guidelines on the matter and implementing COP projects, such as school-based awareness programmes, e‑parenting sessions and peer-to-peer support programmes. It had also embarked on a national children in ICT empowerment strategy, focusing on connecting and protecting children and guarding against online social engineering and trolling. In addition, its film and publication board monitored exposure of children to explicit content.

2.11 The Director of BDT welcomed the efforts of Member States to implement the ITU Guidelines on child online protection, noting that they now existed in many local languages. She drew attention to the forthcoming Girls in ICT Day, which would be held on 28 April 2022. The chosen theme was access and safety, as the COVID-19 pandemic had seen a rise in cyberbullying and harassment, which had disproportionately affected girls.

2.12 The Council **noted** Document C22/77.

**3** **Proposed dates and duration of the 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 sessions of the Council, along with proposed dates of clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups for 2023, 2024 and 2025 (Document C22/2)**

3.1 The representative of the General Secretariat presented Document [C22/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0002/en) and reminded councillors that, Decision 625 having been adopted by correspondence following the virtual consultation of councillors in 2021, the Council was invited to reconfirm the dates contained therein for its meetings and those of its Working Groups and Expert Groups.

3.2 One councillor requested that, in view of the build-up to WRC-23, no study group or working party meeting be held in parallel with the meetings of the Council. Another councillor asked the secretariat to ensure that the meetings did not overlap with religious holidays or festivals.

3.3 The Chairman said that the secretariat had taken that into account to the extent possible at that particular time and would review the dates should the need arise in that regard. With that, he took it that the Council wished to reconfirm the dates for its 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 sessions and the dates of the clusters of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups for 2023, 2024 and 2025 and to adopt the draft Decision contained in Annex to Document C22/2.

3.4 It was so **agreed**.

**4** **Schedule of future conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union: 2022-2025 (Document C22/37(Rev.1))**

4.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document [C22/37(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0037/en), containing an updated schedule of future conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union for the period 2022-2025, prepared on the basis of data provided by the Sectors and in accordance with PP Resolutions 77 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 111 (Rev. Busan, 2014). She drew attention to a change of dates for the 2022 Global Symposium for Regulators made subsequent to the publication of the document. It would now be held on 21-23 November 2022. Also, constraints associated with the demolition of the Varembé building meant that the dates and locations for some events from the second quarter of 2023 to the end of 2024 were subject to change.

4.2 A councillor asked the Directors of the Bureaux to ensure that the meetings of the Sector advisory groups, if moved, did not overlap with the CWG clusters. Recalling the discussion of preparations for WTSA-24, he said that several councillors had stressed the need for a return to nine working days at the assembly, on which there had appeared to be consensus, and asked that that be reflected in the schedule of future conferences or in the record.

4.3 The Director of TSB confirmed that that request had been noted and would be taken into account in preparations with the host country.

4.4 The Council **noted** Document C22/37(Rev.1) with the announced change of dates of GSR‑22, as well as the requested nine-day duration of WTSA-24.

**5** **Chairmen and vice-chairmen of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups (Document C22/21)**

5.1 The representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document [C22/21](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0021/en), which contained a table in annex showing the current chairmen and vice-chairmen of Council Working Groups and Expert Groups, which would be submitted to PP-22.

5.2 The table contained in Document C22/21 was **noted**.

**6 Statements by ministers and observers**

6.1 Mr Abderrazak Henni (Secretary-General, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Algeria) announced his country’s candidature for re-election to the Council.

6.2 The observer for Malaysia announced his country’s candidature for election to the Council.

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:

H. ZHAO S. BIN GHELAITA

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