|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-COP-20/3** |
| **12 January** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Contribution by the Philippines | |
| ENCOURAGING ITU MEMBER STATES AND SECTORAL MEMBERS THROUGH THE ITU TO PRIORITIZE, MAINSTREAM AND STRENGTHEN CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION (COP) STRATEGIC PLANS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS AND INTEGRATE COP INITIATIVES BY WAY OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMS SUCH AS CELEBRATION OF GIRLS IN ICT, AND OTHERS AND TO PURSUE COLLABORATION WITH OTHER MEMBER STATES PURSUANT TO ITU RESOLUTIONS RESOLUTION 179 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2023) RESOLUTION 67 (WTDC, KIGALI, 2022); AND RESOLUTION 1306 (C09 MODIFIED C15) AND OTHER RELATED ITU RESOLUTIONS | |
| **Purpose**  The purpose of this document is to encourage Member States and Sector Members through the ITU to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen Child Online Protection (COP) strategic plans, policies, and programs and integrate COP initiatives by way of specific programs such as celebration of Girls in ICT, and others and to pursue collaboration with other Member States pursuant to ITU Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) Resolution 67 (WTDC, Kigali, 2022); and Resolution 1306 (C09 modified C15) and other related ITU resolutions  **Action required**  The CWG-COP is invited to **consider** this document and **endorse** [Annex A](#Annex) of this document to ITU Secretariat as Committee Resolution.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [Resolution 179](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-179-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) - ITU's role in child online protection  [Resolution 67](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf) (WTDC, Kigali, 2022) - The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection  [Resolution 1306](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0109/en) Council Res 1306 (C09 Modified C15) - Council Working Group on Child Online Protection | |

**Introduction**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) recognizes that children are an especially vulnerable group and upholds children’s rights in the digital environment as per the principles set by the UN CRC General Comment No. 25 (2021) on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment.

The 2020 UNICEF Report on Protecting Children Online shows that at the global level, one-in-three Internet users is a child under 18 years of age. Over a billion and a half children were affected by the closure of educational institutions at the peak of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020. Some 80 percent of children in 25 countries report feeling in danger of sexual abuse or exploitation online. In 2020, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) CyberTipline received 21.7 million reports of suspected child sexual abuse material (CSAM), an increase of 28 percent from 2019.

**Proposal**

1. *to encourage the implementation of programs and policies on COP through the regional initiatives and discussion at the Regional Development Forums;*

To effectively respond to online risks and harms for children, an inclusive multi-stakeholder national child online protection strategy should include the review of existing COP initiatives as well as the development of new plans, programs, and policies. Furthermore, a review of the existing legal framework is also recommended to ensure that it adheres to global standards in coordination with relevant UN organizations for the protection of children from all risks and potential harms that aim to ensure a safe, inclusive, and empowering digital environment.

1. *to utilize the Girls in ICT celebrations as platforms to promote awareness among girls and young women about the risks of online abuse and exploitation through the integration of COP discussions in all Girls in ICT celebrations of ITU Member States;*

With over 377,000 girls and young women who have taken part in more than 11,400 International Girls in ICT Day celebrations in 171 countries, the Girls in ICT is an effective global campaign to promote gender equality and uphold the rights of children against online sexual abuse and exploitation since its institutionalization has already reached a significant number of girls and young women since its inception in 2011.

1. *to continuously assess the impact of integrating COP discussions into Girls in ICT initiatives and include the report to be presented at CWG-COP.*

To maximize the potential of Girls in ICT as an effective advocacy strategy to make a cybersafe community for children, a periodic review shall be made which result shall be presented at the CWG-COP meetings.

**Recommendation**

The CWG-COP is invited to:

1. endorse the attached resolution in Annex A as CWG-COP Committee Resolution that can be adopted by ITU Council in its next meeting subject to discussion of the Member States;
2. encourage Member States and Sector Members through the ITU to:
   1. prioritize, mainstream and strengthen COP strategic plans, policies, and programs;
   2. integrate COP initiatives through specific programs such as celebration of Girls in ICT, and others;
   3. to pursue collaboration with other Member States

***Annex: 1***

ANNEX A

Draft New Resolution [...]

Encouraging ITU Member States and Sector Members through the ITU to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen Child Online Protection (COP) strategic plans, policies, and programs and integrate COP initiatives by way of specific programs such as celebration of girls in ICT, and others and to pursue collaboration with other Member States pursuant to ITU resolutions Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), Resolution 67 (WTDC, Kigali, 2022); and Resolution 1306 (C09 modified C15) and other related ITU resolutions

The ITU Council,

Considering

*a)* Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) ITU's role in child online protection;

*b)* Resolution 67 (WTDC, Kigali, 2022) on the role of the Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection;

c) Resolution 1306 (C09 Modified C15) on ITU's role with regard to International Public Policy Issues concerning Creating a Safer Internet Environment for Children,

recalling

Resolution 1306, setting up a child online protection working group,

taking into account

Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) *resolved*, among others:

*a)* to continue the COP initiative as a platform to raise awareness and share best practices on child online safety issues;

*b)* to continue providing assistance and support to Member States, especially developing countries, in developing and implementing roadmaps for the COP initiative;

*c)* to continue to coordinate the COP initiative, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders,

recognizing

*a)* that there is an imperative need for an urgent collective response to combat Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children;

*b)* that there is a wide acceptance of Girls in ICT among member states with 11,400 International Girls in ICT Day celebrations in 171 countries since 2011,

resolves

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen child online protection (COP) strategic plans, policies, and programs;

2 to integrate COP initiatives by way of specific programs such as celebration of Girls in ICT, and others;

3 to pursue collaboration with other Member States.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_