

Annex 3
Contribution Form

ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific (RDF-ASP)

Digital transformation and innovation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Supporting the SDGs

organized by the International Telecommunication Union

13-15 September

2023 Bangkok,

Thailand

Bangkok Time (GMT+7)

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-ASP P2C Roundtables and it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

Once completed send to ITU-RO-AsiaPacific@itu.int

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: [GovTech Agency, Bhutan]

FOCAL POINT: [Chedup Dorji, Dy. Chief Planning Officer, chedupd@tech.gov.bt, +975 17696879]

TITLE: [Child online protection and cybersecurity]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

Bhutan has been a member state of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for over three decades. As an ITU member, Bhutan has received support in various ICT projects and programs over the years, which has helped shape our ICT development.

The cybersecurity development of Bhutan first started with ITU's Country assessment support in 2013. Since then, the Bhutan Computer Incident Response Team (BtCIRT) was established in 2016 and have started collaborating with ITU in initiating our National Cybersecurity Strategy. Numerous ICT initiatives have been undertaken to build an ICT-enabled knowledge society in the country with which the cybersecurity threat landscape for the country has increased over the past years. Currently, the BtCIRT is functioning under the Cybersecurity Division of GovTech Agency with more dedicated members to carry out the various cybersecurity activities and to help strengthen Bhutan's overall cyber security posture. In this front, the ITU has extended numerous Technical support to Bhutan on cybersecurity capability building. Bhutan conducted the first Joint virtual ITU-Bhutan CyberDrill in July 2022, which was very successful. The 2022 ITU-Bhutan Joint National CyberDrill

emphasized the role of the participants in building cyber resilience and protecting critical information infrastructure. The ITU is also supporting the ongoing development of the localized version of the Child Online Protection (COP) guidelines to ensure that the safety, security, and well-being of our children are upheld in the digital world with due consideration of the context of Bhutan's challenges and existing COP landscape. Recently, the ITU has also supported us in the CIRT Maturity Assessment. The on-site assessment was also preceded by a Cyber Incident Response Technical Capability workshop for more than 25 participants from various critical sectors in Bhutan. The assessment findings will be critical for Bhutan to understand and build BtCIRT's state of maturity. The report will help BtCIRT identifying, defending, responding and managing the cyber threats.

To improve the overall cybersecurity capability maturity, in the 13th FYP, Bhutan aims to achieve Cybersecurity maturity index from stage 1 "Start-Up" to "Established" stage 3, by 2025, and further, we plan to achieve the maturity index from Start-up to Formative by 2024. For this, the following major strategies have been developed for the current Financial 2023-2024:

- Implementation of National Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation plan;
- Improve CIRT maturity from basic to intermediate in the four categories of SIM3 model;
- Improve critical incidents response time;
- Increase Monitoring and Detection of Government Systems;
- Create Awareness/training on Cybersecurity Knowledge and Capabilities coverage.

Bhutan is working closely with ITU on the development of cybersecurity strategy and COP Guidelines that will ensure child's safety and security. The BtCIRT in collaboration with relevant agencies carried out the following activities to enhance cyber education and awareness:

- Awareness through online animation videos developed (Privacy, Online Gaming, Online Predators) based on the survey findings;
- Posters on the same topics sent out to every school in the country;
- EVAC (Ending of Violence Against Children) meeting organized by the UNICEF with stakeholders 1-3 September, 2021 (CSOs, relevant government agencies, MoIC, UN agencies, monastic body excluding ISPs)
- Working on a Campaign to educate children and parents on VAC (Online Safety is a component) An animation video is being produced;
- The BtCIRT in collaboration with ITU and UNICEF Bhutan, organized a kick-off, virtual information session on the 7th April, 2022. The ITU presented on the COP Asia-Pacific project and shared the work plans, activities, and the expected next steps with the relevant stakeholders,
- ITU raised awareness on the importance of COP globally and in Bhutan due to COVID and the importance of identifying collaboration opportunities for the objective of developing localized COP guidelines for Bhutan;
- The BtCIRT, National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), UNICEF Bhutan and Bhutan Telecom presented on the various initiatives undertaken so far and the future plans on COP.
- Comic book focused on cyberbullying, privacy online, roles of parents and teachers;
- Bhutan is in the process of localizing the contents of COP guidelines;
- Formed COP Working Group to initiate COP guidelines.

With the help from ITU, Bhutan has conducted Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on child online protection with the five key stakeholder groups - children, parents, educators, industry representatives, and policymakers. The findings from the FGD are yet to integrate with the COP guidelines to strengthen policy and regulatory measures to ensure children's rights are protected and kept safe in the digital space.

Bhutan will seek continued support and collaboration with ITU on the implementation of CIRT

assessment recommendations, developing and implementing policies & regulations, COP guidelines, content filtering, education and awareness, and carrying out research and data collection.

- Review and strengthen existing legal frameworks to ensure the law enforcement and relevant agencies are equipped with the legal capacity and the necessary powers to address sophisticated online threats against children.
- BICMA/relevant agency shall conduct research and rate child-appropriate content in collaboration with relevant agencies;
- A “Notice and Takedown” regime should be established to allow ISPs, ESPs, domain registrars, and Service providers to block or filter an offending site that circulates Child Abusive Contents (CAM)
- The Telecom operators shall introduce Child-friendly SIM cards. The SIM Card that filters all the child’s inappropriate contents / CAM and offers parental control over the SIM. Further, Telecom operators shall share the child’s online activity report upon the parent’s request
- Establish helpline to provide professional help to the child victims of online harassment and bullying;
- Implementation of CIRT assessment reports;
- Completion and finalization of COP Guidelines by December, 2023.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

Our programs, actions and strategies may not create impact in the global context however, this may help and contribute to nations that are starting with the efforts to combat cybercrime and child online protection. It is important to collaborate and share information among countries with varying levels of expertise so that this will help to address global challenges effectively.

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

✓ 2023

✓ 2024

✓ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

✓ ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries

✓ ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital

economy and inclusive digital societies

✓ ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected

✓ ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation

✓ ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

✓ Affordable connectivity

✓ Digital Transformation

✓ Enabling policy and regulatory environment

✓ Resource mobilization and international cooperation

✓ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

- ✓ Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services
- ✓ International telecommunication numbering resources
- ✓ Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services
- ✓ Digital applications
- ✓ Enabling environment