



A global programme to implement the 2020 ITU guidelines on child online protection (COP) through "capacity building" and "policy support"

ITU Global Programme on Child Online Protection

# Creating a safe and prosperous cyberspace for children

## Concept note

*Recent developments in information and communication technologies (ICTs) have spawned economic, social and political changes across the globe. The ways individuals live and do day-to-day business has changed dramatically, affecting children and youth. These changes have offered new opportunities for children to have access online, but have also brought risks and challenges to children's rights.*

Ensuring digital safety in the online environment, especially for children and young people, requires a global approach based on internationally recognized standards and recommendations and collaboration at national, regional and international level through the development of harmonized frameworks. Integrated approaches that include legal and regulatory frameworks, technical and procedural measures, organizational structures, capacity building, and international cooperation, are necessary.

The 2020 ITU guidelines on child online protection provide a holistic approach to child online protection. They are the result of a multi-stakeholder joint effort of a working group of internationally recognized experts in the fields of child rights, cybersecurity and ICTs. The child online protection initiative brings together partners from all relevant sectors and with its multi-stakeholder community, serves as a global leadership platform providing a strong network of partners for validation and joint implementation.



الهيئة الوطنية للأمن السيبراني  
National Cybersecurity Authority



# A global programme to implement the child online protection guidelines

ITU's Global Programme **"Creating a Safe and Prosperous Cyberspace for Children,"** launched in partnership with the National Cybersecurity Authority provides a global collaborative response to the increased risks and potential harms children are facing online. It brings together international partners from all sectors of the child protection ecosystem to create a safe and empowering online experience for children around the world.

## The programme is divided into two pillars

### Pillar 1: Capacity building

Globally, there is a lack of official tools, resources, and educational programmes on child online protection developed in coordination with relevant national and international stakeholders. However, to effectively protect and empower children online, all relevant stakeholders need to have the awareness, knowledge, and skills to play their part. These stakeholders include children, parents, carers and educators, the ICT industry and policy-makers.

To develop effective measures on child online protection, children need to be involved in the development and implementation of relevant frameworks - and therefore need to be equipped with the digital skills and the necessary knowledge to become digitally literate and resilient for themselves and for others.

Dissemination of the ITU child online protection guidelines, combined with the creation of opportunities to engage with all relevant stakeholders on possible solutions, can be considered as a first step towards building a generation of children and young people, parents, carers and educators who are well equipped with digital skills and the necessary knowledge on the risks, harms and opportunities that the online for children and young people.

### Activities

Translation and dissemination of the child online protection guidelines into official languages.

Face-to-face and online trainings for children and young people on their rights in the digital environment.

Train-the-trainer-modules for parents, carers and educators.

A game and an app for children of different age groups reflecting the child online protection guidelines.





## Pillar 2: Child online protection policy support

The global nature of the digital environment requires international cooperation to develop an effective response to the challenge of protecting and empowering children online. However, the lack of harmonized frameworks that meet international human rights standards (such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, its optional protocols and how they apply to the digital environment as highlighted in the [General Comment \(GC\) No. 25 \(2021\)](#), adopted by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its optional protocols) and the lack of international coordination remain key challenges for the protection of children online. In addition, the lack of capacity to develop, apply, implement, monitor, and evaluate child online protection mechanisms and frameworks makes it even more difficult to act.

The development of child online protection strategies, including policies, legislation, and regulations based on internationally recognized recommendations is therefore necessary in order to achieve change in protecting children's rights in the digital environment.

### Activities

National child online protection strategy development on COP.

Capacity building for ICT professionals and government stakeholders.

Enhanced cooperation among relevant stakeholders.

Child participation through national child taskforces.

## Objectives and expected results

The objectives of the ITU global programme on child online protection are to:

- Foster a culture of child online protection with all relevant stakeholders through awareness, knowledge sharing and digital skills and capacity development.
- Step up the development of strategies that aim to build human and institutional capacity on child online protection at regional and national levels and share experiences gained with other ITU Member States. This programme aims to support the development and implementation of child online safety strategies (including policies, regulations, legal frameworks, and educational programmes) among governments, industry, and civil society to increase capacity and knowledge with all relevant stakeholders, including children and their families. It aims to create an ecosystem of frameworks, programmes and tools at national, regional and international level that would ensure child online protection while empowering children with the necessary digital skills and knowledge to realize the full range of their rights in the digital environment.

The major outcomes of the project will be:

<p><b>01</b></p> <p><b>Translated and dissemination tools and resources</b> for all relevant stakeholder groups at the national level.</p>	<p><b>02</b></p> <p>Additional <b>child-friendly resources</b> supporting the development of digital skills for children.</p>	<p><b>03</b></p> <p>Development and adoption of child online protection <b>national strategies and related frameworks.</b></p>	<p><b>04</b></p> <p>Development of <b>implementation frameworks</b> for the establishment of child online protection related national programmes.</p>	<p><b>05</b></p> <p><b>International platform for coordinated dialogue and cooperation</b> on national, regional and sector-specific efforts.</p>
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## Timeline and milestones

