

**CONCEPT NOTE**  
Online Dialogue: 2020 COP Guidelines  
*Launch & beyond*  
**24 June 2020**  
**14h00-15h30 pm CEST**

**Background**

The explosion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has created unprecedented opportunities for children and young people to communicate, connect, share, learn, access information and express their opinions on matters that affect their lives and their communities. But wider and more easily available access to the Internet and mobile technology also poses significant challenges to children's safety – both online and offline. Child online protection issues range from the management of screen time, the protection of personal data and individual privacy, to cyber bullying and illegal online content such as Child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

In order to respond to these growing challenges in the face of rapid development of ICTs, the Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative, a multi-stakeholder international initiative launched by ITU in November 2008, aims to bring partners together from all sectors of the global community to create a safe and empowering online experience for children and young people around the world.

**The 2020 Guidelines**

The 2020 Guidelines on Child Online Protection (COP) are a comprehensive new set of recommendations for all relevant stakeholders on how to contribute to the development of a safe and empowering online environment for children and young people and live responsibly in the online world. They enhance understanding of Child Online Protection and provide resources and practical tools to support children and their families in the development of digital skills and digital literacy while staying safe online. The guidelines simultaneously support industry and government stakeholders in the development of corporate and national Child Online Protection policies and strategies.

Targeting children, parents and educators, industry and policymakers the COP Guidelines are meant to act as a blueprint, which can be adapted and used in a consistent way in line with national or local customs and laws.

Defining key risks and harms for children online, including privacy issues, cyberbullying, grooming and sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA), the new Guidelines further dedicate attention to the impact of new and emerging technologies on children, while addressing the challenges faced by children with disabilities, for whom the online world offers a particularly crucial lifeline to full – and fulfilling – social participation.

**Objectives of the Webinar**

The webinar, targeting policymakers, industry players and the Child Online Protection community, has the following objectives:

- Give a short overview of the request from ITU member states to update the Guidelines, the review process, challenges and the success of a multi-stakeholder effort;
- Highlight the key components of the four co-authored sets of Guidelines;
- Share examples on the role of governments in the coordination of national entities, including children and youth, in the development of national and regional COP policies;
- Share best practises on private sector engagement including their active commitment to provide solutions and tools for child online safety.