

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

**Seventeenth Session
Geneva, 12 to 16 May 2014**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in
2013 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

ECPAT International

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 17th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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Report to the UNCTAD on “Flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society”

Report by ECPAT International

Co facilitator, action line C10 of the WSIS (Ethical dimensions of the Information Society)

As co-facilitator of action line C10 of the Geneva plan of action, this reporting relates to the section c of the action line that is closely related to the work of ECPAT (preventing abusive use of ICT that includes all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings.)

Part 1:

Tackling sexual violence against children on-line is a major strategic objective for ECPAT International. During the reporting period it engaged in multi stakeholder collaboration with law enforcement, policy makers, international /UN agencies and civil society including children under a range of different activities and initiatives. These included awareness raising initiatives, lobbying the policy makers, capacity building training and workshops with member organizations, sharing information on trends and patterns of child sexual abuse online with private IT companies and law enforcement, and contributing to regional mechanisms that dealt with harmonization of legal framework, advocacy and policy making. Moreover ECPAT’s global monitoring reports (available at http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/index_A4A.asp) looked at the progress made by individual countries in protecting children from all kinds of sexual exploitation, including child pornography. Also research and studies were carried out to understand the extent of online victimization of children through ICTs in various parts of the world. ECPAT also shared information with other key international agencies through the organization of forums at key global events such as the Internet Governance forums as well as through its own International assembly where various expert organizations working on the issue participate.

While many states have made progress towards the set objectives by creating educational and awareness programs, developing e-safety resources, advanced the legal framework to international standards and incorporating victim identification systems and technical tools in collaboration with the law enforcement and the Industry, more needs to be done, particularly in regions such as Africa, parts of South and East Asia and also Latin America.

There are still many nations who have not ratified the OPSC (The Optional Protocol to UNCRC on the sale of Children, child prostitution and child pornography), have clear definitions of child pornography and resources to allocate for online investigative measures and reintegration and care services for children. Moreover the spread of technology has not been coupled with policies that ensure safe use of such technology. For example in certain countries, children are now being abused by their parents in exchange of money for distribution of the sexual abuse of their children online. Offenders can travel to other regions and sexually abuse children to produce child pornography for distribution through mobile phones or other readily available ICT medium. Access to adult pornography and also to child pornography is made easy because of the lack of monitoring or disclosure of personal information online and can be accessed through publicly available Wi-Fi hotspots. Social networks continue to be used for luring children and also distribution of child sexual abuse materials, in spite of the increased efforts from the providers and development of safety guidelines and policies.

The development and proliferation of Peer to Peer file sharing networks and the "Darknets" have also accelerated the distribution of child sexual abuse materials online and contributed to the added complexity of its investigations.

Part 2

- ECPAT International leads the Dynamic coalition on Child Online Safety at the Internet Governance forum every year to share information, build capacity and also carrying out advocacy on child online protection. Between 20011-2013, ECPAT convened the session of the dynamic coalition and organized workshop with key stakeholders on child online safety at the IGF held in Nairobi, Baku and Bali. The reports of the session can be found at the following link: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/dynamiccoalitions/79-child-online-safety>
- At the WSIS meeting in Geneva 2011 organised by ITU, ECPAT chaired a panel focusing on child online protection in Africa. This session built on the ITU-COP initiative and examined the state of play in Africa in relation to child online safety. The report of the session can be found in the outcome document:
<http://groups.itu.int/wsis-forum2011/Agenda/OutcomeDocument.aspx>
- ECPAT also published youth led field level studies conducted and in 5 countries of Africa (Cameroon , Gambia, Kenya, Togo and Uganda):
http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/ICT/ICT%20Research%20in%20AFRICA_p1.pdf
and 5 countries of Latin America (Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay
http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/ICT/ICT%20Research%20in%20LatinAmerica_E
NG.pdf) on the vulnerabilities arising out of the ICT use by children and young people- that alerts us to the fact that there is little awareness and knowledge on the issue amongst parents and adult supervisors in spite of the growing use of the most modern

forms of ICTs. Children and young people are being subjected to the same risks as those of their counterparts from developed nations, only to be challenged with the lack of mechanisms to provide comprehensive protection from online exploitative situations.

- ECPAT also contributed as resource in several regional capacity building workshops such as
 - ASEAN Conference to address Cyber prostitution and Cyber Pornography in Manila, Philippines in April 2013 that brought key stakeholders from 9 ASEAN nations to discuss gaps and challenges in legislation around child pornography, law enforcement good practices and also exploring various ways in which the ICT related abuse of Children can be addressed. A set of recommendations were drafted for the ASEAN body.
 - Regional workshop conducted by the Council of Europe in collaboration with the ministry of Justice of the Philippines in May 2013 explored the gaps in procedural law measures among the 10 ASEAN countries represented and also the substantive criminal laws with the CoE Budapest and Lanzarote conventions as benchmarks. The workshop revealed the non uniform legal standards of the countries examined and made clear recommendations.
 - At the virtual global taskforce meeting held in Abu Dhabi in December 2012, clear call was made to focus on victim identification and reintegration measures along with the investigation and prosecution of offenders. To date, the percentage of victims of child sexual abuse materials who had been identified and rescued is very low compared to the total sexual abuse materials circulating online.
 - The US-EU Global Alliance for combating child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation was launched in Brussels in December 2012, where 48 states committed to take action and pledged support to fight the crime. ECPAT participated at the meeting sharing some good practices from an innovative initiative implemented in the CIS region to build Internet Safety standards in Schools.
 - An experts meeting organized by UNODC in Vienna in September 2013 also highlighted the impact of ICT on the life of children and how collaborative approach between the expert agencies, law enforcement, government and civil society is required to stop the abuse of children. Some key trends identified were the fast emergence of the file sharing networks for the distribution of child abuse materials, the reduction of commercially available child sexual abuse content but the increase of encrypted communication between the offenders through the

“Darknets”.

- The ITU led Child Online Protection initiative (ITU-COP) was also instrumental in raising awareness and building capacity of some member states on COP initiatives through the active contributions of the members. While this is a great initiative, it still relies on the resources and technical capacity of the contributing members. This can be strengthened by allocating resources to support the participation of active and contributing member organizations.
- Industry guidelines to protect children online and develop measures were enhanced and published jointly by ITU and UNICEF with the support of COP members including ECPAT International. This guideline is supposed to act as tool and checklist for Industry partners to provide a safer online environment for children and make their services safer by design.
- ECPAT member group in Indonesia with the support from the Secretariat also organized capacity building regional conference in Jakarta and Bali respectively on addressing child sexual exploitation online (October 2012) and legal support for victims of child sexual exploitation (October 2013) The workshops highlighted the glaring need for victim focused services and practices and called for the commitment from state parties and also closer collaboration between all concerned. While harmonization of law is happening at a very slow pace, the incidents of child sexual abuse facilitated by ICTs is showing remarkable growth, particularly in countries like the Philippines where on demand live streaming of sexual abuse of children is frequently reported.

Part 3

Through the Certified Internet Safe School project(CISS), ECPAT initiated a support for schools in building a uniform understanding of internet safety for children based on child rights principles (access to information and knowledge, protection from online risks) and to implement effective policies and transparent reporting systems within the school systems that protect children from harm.

Through ECPAT's 5-module CISS training, school management and administrator's capacity in understanding of children's behaviour online and the related risks was enhanced and tools for the implementation of policies and procedures needed to protect children within their institutions was provided.

From July 2011 to January 2013, ECPAT International with the support from The Body Shop Norway implemented this project in 4 countries in collaboration with ECPAT member groups in the CIS region: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia. This unique

project allowed engaging the schools in the region to develop policies within the schools coupled with reporting mechanisms and education and awareness systems based on modules developed by ECPAT. The project raised a lot of interest in the region and received support from government agencies (such as the ministry of education) and private sector in some countries.

- a) ECPAT will continue to engage within the WSIS process, especially by engaging and leading the work of child online protection at the IGF. ECPAT had already signaled to the members of the Dynamic Coalition on child online safety of its plan to develop a set of indicators around the child sexual abuse materials, which it will closely work with the members and other International bodies. ECPAT's newly adapted strategic plan focuses on reduction of the availability of child sexual abuse materials globally and to this end will work very closely with the ICT Industry and law enforcement to promote technical solutions in identifying and removal of known child sexual abuse materials from the public networks as well as encourage industry to proactively find solutions for making its services free of such materials.