

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(CSTD)**

**Eighteenth Session  
Geneva, 4 to 8 May 2015**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on  
their efforts in 2014 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

**Submission by**

**End Child Prostitution Child Pornography & Trafficking of Children for Sexual  
Purposes (ECPAT)**

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**DISCLAIMER:** The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.



Ms. Anne Miroux  
Head of the CSTD Secretariat  
& Director of UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics

Ms. Mervi Kultamaa  
WSIS Coordinator/ Economic Affairs Officer,  
Division on Technology and Logistics

28 November 2014

Dear Ms. Anne Miroux and Ms. Mervi Kultamaa,

We would like to thank the Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) for inviting ECPAT International to provide feedback in preparation for the report that will be submitted as an input for the annual report of the Secretary-General.

We mainly wish to bring to the attention of the CSTD aspects that relate principally to Action Lines C10 (Ethical dimensions of the Information society) and C5 (Building confidence and trust in the use of ICTs).

ECPAT International Secretariat, a network of eighty-six civil society members in seventy-eight countries, finds it a matter of some regret that questions of children's and young people's engagement with the Internet has not been featured more prominently in the Internet Governance Forum's work and outputs. Given the salience of this issue in the real world, this is surprising. Only once has the issue been the subject of a plenary, namely when the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Egypt and the Egyptian Government - using its position as the host country - ensured that it happened.

The IGF's failure to engage adequately with the issue of children's and young people's use of the Internet is further reflected in the composition of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG). At present there is no member of the Group with any specialist knowledge or expertise in the area.

Certainly, there are individuals on the MAG who we know to be sympathetic to agenda of children but their lack of specialist knowledge and the fact that they have their own interests - which will routinely take priority on their attention - are both extremely important considerations. It makes one wonder on what basis the MAG makes its decisions when asked to choose between, for example, competing proposals for workshops which address children's issues. Last year in Istanbul, we were confronted with some rather bizarre decision by the MAG to approve both workshop proposals from a small American NGO, while turning down other and much larger groups who had a considerable level of knowledge of the terrain. This suggests that small "p" politics were at work, and while some of that is inevitable in every human institution, the fact that it occurred so starkly in this instance sends a rather disheartening and discouraging message to children's organisations that are just not plugged into the same circuits as those who can deliver votes on the MAG.

Consideration should be given to establishing an advisory group which has a special responsibility for advising the MAG on children's concerns. In addition, this group should consider ways to increase the financial support available to children's organisations to encourage a higher level of participation by them in the work of the IGF.

Kind regards,  
Dorothy Rozga  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Rozga', followed by a horizontal line.