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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2018 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 22nd 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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ECPAT International WSIS Report 2018

Part One: An executive summary of activities undertaken by all stakeholders, progress made, and any obstacles encountered.

ECPAT International's (EI) principal area of activity in the WSIS process has revolved around the implementation of Action Line C5 "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs".

In March 2018, EI and INTERPOL co-launched the flagship research report [Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material](#), in Brussels at the European Union Parliament. The report provided useful quantitative and qualitative data on the profile of victims and offenders portrayed on child sexual abuse material stored on the INTERPOL ICSE database of CSAM and aimed at supporting the development of indicators for CSAM in the context of the SGDs. The launch was followed by two regional advocacy events respectively in Bangkok, Thailand (March 2018) and Nairobi, Kenya (April 2018), both providing a venue for sharing the relevancy of the report's findings at regional level. In the report, policy and research recommendations on facilitating factors in OCSE were also discussed with attendees from across sectors as well as other stakeholders with a strong emphasis placed on raising awareness on the role of ICSE database in enhancing CSAM victim's identification efforts at country-level. After the publication, we have continued working with INTERPOL and others in seeking improvements to the database and encouraging greater participation by countries not yet connected. It will also be important to ensure there is a degree of harmonization in working procedures between the databases held by different police agencies in all parts of the world.

EI recognizes that there is ample expert knowledge about OCSE dynamics and facilitating factors across sectors, especially among analysts employed by hotlines and crimes against children specialized law enforcement officers. This is why EI designed and conducted a research that involved interviews with representatives from 16 institutions in 14 countries, including EUROPOL and INTERPOL. This resulted in a report [Trends in Online Child Sexual Abuse Material](#), which documents trends in online child sexual abuse material including the declining age of victims portrayed on the images.

The year 2018 has also witnessed a marked increase in the range of actors becoming involved in this area of work. This is in part attributed to the increased flow funds channeled through the [WePROTECT Global Alliance](#). Together with WePROTECT, there was also an important meeting held in Rome, the [Child Dignity Alliance](#), in October 2017 which, in turn, created a Technical Working Group on OCSE. In November 2018, the Technical Working Group published their [first report](#) that provided an excellent overview of several of key challenges in making the internet a better and safer place for children. Also in November, the United Arab Emirates hosted an important meeting, the [Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities Forum](#), where leaders of the world's faith communities developed a key series of pledges to ensure that children are safe on the internet.

EI also highly values its engagement with the ITU's COP. It regards this partnership as being a highly influential neutral platform, which allows all stakeholders to collaborate in the development of policies and initiatives aimed at making the internet a safer place for children.

The ITU's COP initiative should be strengthened by the provision of additional staffing and other resources. At present, there is an over reliance on securing the cooperation of private sector actors and NGOs that have access to resources which permit their participation. Thus, this excludes many groups on purely financial grounds.

Part Two: A brief (1–2 pages) analytical overview of trends and experiences in implementation at the national, regional and international levels and by all stakeholders, highlighting achievements and obstacles since WSIS and taking into account the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This could include information on the facilitation process of implementation, monitoring and cooperation among stakeholders.

The remit of ECPAT International is closely linked to Sustainable Development Goals 16.2, 5.3 and 8.7. Today, 107 ECPAT members across 95 countries are part of a dynamic and expanding network of organizations and individuals united in one common cause: the elimination of the sexual exploitation of children. Since the adoption of the SDGs, the ECPAT Network has found renewed momentum to push forward its aim to protect children from sexual exploitation.

Over the past year, there has been a major shift towards concerted actions and solutions, rather than continued dialogue, on including child sexual exploitation within the SDGs. ECPAT members and partners have come together to develop a multi-year global campaign to end SEC, aiming to create public pressure on governments to meet their commitments, generate political space for stronger action, and change the ideas, values and beliefs that 'permit' SEC to flourish. The multi-year Global Campaign launched in 2016, and will be fully operational by 2018, with a strong focus on ECPAT members' regional strategies to support the pursuit of the SDGs.

Since 2016, EI spent significant amounts of time and effort on strategizing with its membership on a collective effort on SDGs follow-up. The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are at the heart of monitoring SDG implementation. States need to ensure that these reviews provide a platform for partnerships – including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders – and they should develop regular reports to the HLPF.

In 2018, EI started building the capacity of its network members on how they could better influence their governments Voluntary National Review processes and reports. In particular, EI facilitated three trainings for the regional membership of Africa (April 2018, Kenya) and Latin America, South Asia, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (June 2018, Colombia).

Even in countries with comparatively well-developed social services, law enforcement and educational infrastructures the authorities and civil society organizations have been struggling to cope with the pace and nature of the changes which have resulted from the large-scale adoption of the internet. In countries with less well-developed resources in those areas the position can be a great deal worse. This opens up the possibility of disproportionate harms as the availability of high-speed connectivity increases

It is apparent from intelligence gathered through the ECPAT Network that in all parts of the world, initiatives are underway which are reaching out to parents, teachers and to children themselves, promoting a range of safety messages. However, for the reasons given above the spread of activities is far from uniform and frequently insufficient attention is given to the positive aspects of the technology and how it can be utilized as a tool of empowerment for children. This is true also in high-income countries.

Nevertheless, those positive aspects notwithstanding, law enforcement agencies across the world continue to face overwhelming difficulties caused by the scale of criminal activities directly affecting children.

Part Three: A brief description (1–2 pages) of:

a) Innovative policies, programmes and projects which have been undertaken by all stakeholders to implement the outcomes. Where specific targets or strategies have been set, progress in achieving those targets and strategies should be reported.

b) Future actions or initiatives to be taken, regionally and/or internationally, and by all stakeholders, to improve the facilitation and ensure full implementation in each of the action lines and themes, especially with regard to overcoming those obstacles identified in Part Two above. You are encouraged to indicate any new commitments made to further implement the outcomes.

In 2014, ECPAT International established a formal global programme specifically focused on combating online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) which as now evolved into a fully-fledged programme, well-respected globally and acknowledged as a strong influencer in policy processes at global and regional levels.

Within the OCSE Programme, the ECPAT Secretariat collaborated with the Internet Watch Foundation (UK) and ECPAT member organizations to advocate for setting up of reporting portals on CSAM in African countries. Starting in January 2018, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), with the support of EI Network member in Malawi (YONECO), was able to establish a reporting portal for child sexual abuse materials in Malawi, and to hold roundtable discussions on this topic with key stakeholders in Angola and Burundi. Following those, two reporting portals were launched in both countries. EI also initiated contacts between IWF and its Network members in Rwanda, Liberia, Benin and Madagascar as facilitation to IWF to support the establishment of reporting portals in those countries.

Targeted advocacy actions at regional and global levels, have been strong focus since the inception of the programme and continued in 2018. EI participated and made presentations in regional advocacy events at the African Union (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) involving AU member

states, specifically during the AU Member States Regional Convention on Cyber-Strategy, Cyber-Legislation in July 2018 and the African Forum on Cyber Crime in October 2018. In both events, EI had the opportunity to enhance awareness of policy makers on OCSE as well as to advocate on the necessity for a coordinated national response in line with the [WePROTECT Model National Response](#).

On the international scale, EI consistently places the protection of children against SEC high on the political agenda with its ongoing role as a Board Member of the WePROTECT Global Alliance (WPGA). In this capacity, EI has continued to promote the WPGA Model National Response, which serves as a policy framework of reference both on the international and national levels. For example, EI presented on the Model National Response and its significance towards achieving SDGs related to SEC during the [ASEAN Regional Consultation: Towards Integrated National Responses to End the Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN member states](#) in February 2018. Two major outcomes resulted from this event: the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN announced that the ASEAN will launch a region-wide campaign to raise public awareness on Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) and a recommendation to adopt an ASEAN Declaration to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) was issued. As a result, an inter-agency *ad hoc* working group was formed, including with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and EI to produce a first draft of the declaration.

In South Asia, EI also served as a technical resource to the South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) in the development of a Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Safety, which lends towards fulfilling all SDG goals and targets directly related to the sexual exploitation of children (i.e. 5.2, 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2). This Strategy was presented to and endorsed by the Governing Board of [SAIEVAC](#) in May 2018. The draft will be introduced to South Asian governments during the upcoming SAIEVAC's 5th Ministerial Meeting for official adoption. Both these partnerships will eventually – if not already – impact policy, programming and resource allocation in Southeast Asia and South Asia's regional agendas