

Commission: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Session : NATIONAL MUN-2024

Sponsors : Congo, Czechia, Israel, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius,  
Nepal, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Question of: **ENSURING CHILD ONLINE SAFETY IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

The General Assembly,

Observing the existing government laws and penalties for the protection of children pertaining to cybercrimes are insufficiently stringent,

Concerned by the importance of parental involvement and education in promoting safe online behavior among children,

Deeply concerned that some nations lack sufficient resources to invest in quality digital security expertise for example helplines,

Fully alarmed by cyberbullying, approximately 37% of kids aged 12 to 17 have been targeted by exposure to harmful contents and online predators,

Aware of the laws in the UNCRC which emphasize the need to protect children from constant dangers pertaining to online grooming,

Alarmed by article 8, a child's right to protection of identity in the UN Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC), which outlines the importance of safeguarding children's rights,

Stressing upon the dangers of radicalization and extremism on the internet, that lead to youngsters having a skewed world view thus impairing their development and mental health,

Grieved by the psychological trauma, emotional distress and low self-esteem caused by the exposure to inappropriate violent contents and potential cyberbullying,

Recognizing the limited social interactions due to an increase in screen time of youths, severely impacting the circadian cycle of teenagers as well as

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obesity, sleep deprivation and fatigue, further worsening physical health problems,

Deeply disturbed by the fact that the internet has made it easier for bullies to harass people, this includes adults sometimes impersonating children, and this might cause financial problems and emotional distress,

1. Demands the collaboration of governments and NGOs to enforce more rigorous laws and penalties against users' violation online safety policies, and quality online protection such as censorships;
2. Supports the inclusion of online safety and digital literacy in school curriculum to equip children with knowledge and abilities to use the internet securely;
3. Calls for the establishment of an International Fund for Child Online Safety, supported by contribution from governments and the private sectors, to finance initiatives aimed at protecting children globally;
4. Requests Member States to implement harsher national laws and to advocate for the criminalization of all sorts of abuse including sexual abuse and exploitation of children, the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography;
5. Encourages Member States to create a joint movement comprising of representatives from governments, tech companies, NGOs, and educational institutions which will be responsible for sharing best practices globally;
6. Urges social media companies to:
  - (i) Develop content moderation, stricter privacy settings and reporting tools;
  - (ii) Collaborate with child protection agencies to prevent child exploitation, for instance the Microsoft anti-grooming Collaboration;

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7. Welcomes regular trainings provided to parents on child online safety issues such as recognizing signs of cyberbullying and cyberstalking aiming to provide the right kind of support;
8. Recommends the implementation of comprehensive support services for victims of online abuse for instance;
  - a) Psychological counselling;
  - b) Rehabilitation programs;
  - c) Legal aid;
9. Trusts the online agreement to implement A.I so as to identify user's age group through a variety of age assurance methods;
10. Proclaims the role of national broadcasting corporations and media outlets in raising public awareness about child online safety issues and promoting positive online behavior among children;
11. Suggests all nations present in this commission to support this resolution as a healthy youth is vital to our future, serving as a cornerstone for economic growth and societal well-being;
12. Accepts research efforts to understand the impact of digital technologies on child development and behavior as well as effective strategies to mitigate risks;
13. Further requests social messaging tools such as online helplines that support young people in emergency settings to amplify their voices on issues while connecting with experts.