

Concept Note  
**Workshop on Child Online Protection: Role of the Industry**

**Organised by: UNICEF India**  
**In collaboration with: Nasscom Foundation**

**Hotel Claridges, New Delhi**  
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### Background to the workshop

Industry has a responsibility to ensure that the internet remains a safe space for children. This includes the acknowledgement that platforms can be misused for crimes against children. Globally there are many good practices of how the ICT industry has initiated self-regulatory initiatives, including notice and takedown policies, terms of service, and guidelines for use. Yet, due to the international nature of the internet, the ICT industry has the challenge of upholding children's and human rights especially in countries where national laws have not caught up with international standards. This creates a challenge in not only the prosecution of sex offenders due to inadequate legislation, but also in areas such as privacy and freedom of expression, surveillance and other human rights concerns.

Industry can both tackle safety problems in relation to children's ICT use and proactively promote digital citizenship among children and develop products and platforms that facilitate children's positive use of ICTs.

In order to develop comprehensive guidance for the ICT Industry, UNICEF and ITU (International Telecommunication Union) led a process to develop the Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection through a global consultative process. The Guidelines provide guidance specifically aimed at companies that develop, provide or make use of information and communication technologies. The Guidelines offer advice on how the ICT industry can help promote safety for children using the Internet or any technologies or devices that can connect to it, as well as guidance on how to enable responsible digital citizenship, learning and civic participation.

The Guidelines recommend that industry act in five key areas:

1. Integrate child rights considerations into all appropriate corporate policies and processes.
2. Develop processes for handling child sexual abuse content.
3. Develop safer and age appropriate online environments.
4. Educate children, parents, and teachers about children's safety and responsible use of ICTs.
5. Promote digital technology as a mode to further positive civic engagement.

### Workshop on Child Online Protection in India

Child online protection at national level calls for a multi-stakeholder approach which convenes the different stakeholders: Government ministries, Law Enforcement, Civil society and the Private Sector.

In a country of the size and complexity of India, a pre-requisite for effective multi-stakeholder engagement is capacity building of the different stakeholder groups to form the foundation for COP

collaboration at national level. UNICEF India is already engaged in the child rights and business related capacity building in the private sector and this work stream is a critical part of the Corporate Social Responsibility framework. This workshop proposes to take this engagement to the next level - to build the capacity of the key ICT sector associations and companies on a theme critical to their business responsibility – and thus enabling informed discussions, engagement and calls for action with the industry to achieve results for children.

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- Raise awareness of participants on Child Online Protection and the UNICEF -International Telecom Union COP Guidelines for Industry
  - Establish the beginning of a dialogue on Children and Internet with the private sector and other stakeholders present
  - Discuss the incorporation of children’s rights dimensions into key ICT industry initiatives on COP
  - Share the findings of the Rapid Assessment on Child Online Protection in India, carried out by UNICEF
  - Have an open discussion around the current scenario on child online protection in India and the role of the industry and how it could play an instrumental role in protecting and promoting child online protection.
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