Standing Committee on C-III/143/DR

Democracy and Human Rights 15 October 2021

**Legislation worldwide to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse**

***Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs***

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and Mr. P. Limjaroenrat (Thailand)***

 The 143rdAssembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) *Condemning* all forms of online child sexual exploitation and abuse,

(2) *Recalling* the universally accepted UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Council of Europe’s widely recognized Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the “Lanzarote Convention”),

(3) *Recalling* *in particular* Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the protection of children from all forms of violence, injury, abuse and neglect,

(4) *Noting* that online child sexual exploitation and abuse is a growing and international concern that needs cross-border collaboration and acknowledging the fight against it has to be a high-priority global initiative,

(5) *Acknowledging* the necessity of combatting online child sexual exploitation and abuse on all levels in order to protect children from such exploitation in the first place,

(6) *Bearing in mind* the lack of a sufficient legal framework, budget, technical expertise and manpower in many States to effectively combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse,

(7) *Recognizing* the importance of creating awareness on the topic of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in the eyes of the public, legislatures, law enforcement agencies and all other relevant policymakers,

(8) *Acknowledging* the importance of (sexual) education as a basis for prevention in any cultural milieu, as well as education on the role that increased digital capabilities play in facilitating perpetrators of online child sexual exploitation and abuse,

(9) *Noting* the precarious situation of the child in cases of online child sexual exploitation and abuse and the importance of a victim-centred approach when combatting online child sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as child-centred rehabilitation processes,

(10) *Mindful* that, although girls seem to be the main victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, many boys are affected as well,

(11) *Conscious* that child exploitation is also a commercial act and may thus be driven by economic motivations,

(12) *Noting* that the fight against online child sexual exploitation and abuse is complicated by the fast-moving new technologies such as cryptocurrencies and Blockchain, with their untraceable nature in the commercial sale of child exploitation materials, as well as anonymous features of social network platforms, which made it harder to target abusers,

(13) *Stressing* the importance of cross-sector, multi-disciplinary and international collaboration in the strategy to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse,

(14) *Underlining* the corporate social responsibility that private sector information and communications technology companies must take for combatting online child sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as the role they must play in preventing and monitoring online child sexual exploitation and abuse,

1. *Urges* parliaments to adopt specific, comprehensive and harmonized legal frameworks to introduce national online child sexual exploitation and abuse laws, considering the WeProtect Global Alliance’s Model National Response as the guiding model for legislation;

2. *Also urges* parliaments to ensure that cross-border cooperation is established to prevent known perpetrators from committing abuse in other countries;

3. *Calls upon* members of parliament to emphasize the need for rapid and effective international cooperation and law enforcement responses, such as removing hurdles preventing law enforcement agencies from sharing vital information, and to address the growing illegal usage of cryptocurrencies to trade in child sexual exploitation material;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of a strategic private sector commitment to cooperation with law enforcement agencies on online child sexual exploitation and abuse issues;

5. *Urges* parliaments to develop thorough infrastructure to support victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, ensuring a healthy and supportive reporting environment in their State, whilst also ensuring sufficient financial and human resources for, inter alia, educational programmes, hotlines and victim helplines;

6. *Calls upon* the IPU to draft a model law for States, formalizing clear legislation combatting online child sexual exploitation and abuse, where children’s rights, voices, needs and security should take centre stage;

7. *Recognizes* the active role of men as strategic partners and allies in changing norms and practices that motivate all forms of gender-based violence, including online child sexual exploitation and abuse;

8. *Emphasizes* that children should never be blamed for abuse and that victim blaming should be prevented by all possible means;

9. *Underlines* the importance of the role of poverty in online child sexual exploitation and abuse and emphasizes the importance of the economic empowerment of women;

10. *Calls upon* parliaments to legislate for social media networks to increase their efforts to detect and delete online child sexual exploitation and abuse content immediately;

11. *Emphasizes* the need of sustained education focusing on digital culture change amongst youth to relevant policy makers, law enforcement agencies, and the public;

12. *Calls upon* parliaments to facilitate automated detection methods, bearing in mind Article 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the right to privacy;

13. *Invites* the IPU to schedule periodic meetings and workshops with the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, emphasizing global initiatives for preventing and tackling the problem.