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Global Summit to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation

11 – 12 December 2019 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Summit Report

BACKGROUND

On 11-12 December 2019, the UK Government, African Union and WePROTECT Global Alliance co-hosted a **Global Summit to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation** at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Over **400 delegates** attended the summit from governments, industry and civil society organisations across the world. A total of **94 countries** were represented, with 33 of these fielding a minister.

The two-day event covered both the nature and scale of the threat posed by online child sexual exploitation, as well as the required response at the national, regional and international levels. This was achieved through keynote addresses, presentations and a range of interactive breakout sessions.

Two major products were launched at the summit: a **Global Threat Assessment 2019** and a **Global Strategic Response** framework. These products and a range of presentations from the two days can be accessed via the WePROTECT Global Alliance website: <https://www.weprotect.org/>

The full summit report can be accessed [here](#).

OBJECTIVES



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The online child sexual exploitation threat was highlighted to a global audience. Over 400 senior representatives attended from governments, industry and civil society organisations. Messages from the summit reached a wider audience of 5 million users via Twitter alone.

The summit provided a platform for political leaders and subject-matter experts to share their insights. A range of ministers and high-profile figures spoke, in addition to experts from law enforcement, industry and civil society organisations.

A Global Threat Assessment and Global Strategic Response were launched. The former provides a comprehensive overview of the nature, scale and complexity of online child sexual exploitation in order to build awareness and understanding of the issue. The latter provides a framework to enable the global community to implement a coordinated and strategic response.

Breakout sessions were facilitated by subject-matter experts on the themes of technology, law enforcement and safeguarding children. The facilitators for these sessions were: Facebook, Microsoft, PA Consulting, Thorn, INTERPOL, the NCA, ECPAT International, UNICEF, the Marie Collins Foundation, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, the Virtual Global Taskforce, the United Arab Emirates, the Internet Watch Foundation and the Internet Justice Mission.

The WePROTECT Global Alliance membership has expanded. The number of new members since the summit's conception increased by 12. As of February 2020, membership stands at: 97 governments, 27 technology companies and 30 civil society organisations.

The summit provided a platform for two survivors of online child sexual exploitation to share their experiences. These sessions were poignant reminders of the horrific nature of these crimes and the importance of stepping up international efforts to tackle online child sexual exploitation. They also reaffirmed the importance of taking victim perspectives into account when designing policy solutions to this crime.

The summit created opportunities for the global community to network and develop new international partnerships.

A summit communiqué was produced. The communiqué committed delegates to: greater collaboration between governments, industry and civil society organisations; continued research on the online child sexual exploitation threat; increased sharing of best practice; improved victim support; adoption of the WePROTECT Global Alliance's Global Strategic Response; and increased sign-up to the WePROTECT Global Alliance. The communiqué can be accessed [here](#).

NEXT STEPS

- 1. Expertise from the Global Threat Assessment 2019, Global Strategic Response and Model National Response will be utilised.** These products have relevance to all organisations committed to tackling online child sexual exploitation and provide a robust framework upon which to base policy and operational activity. Further guidance to underpin the Global Strategic Response is under development by the WePROTECT Global Alliance. These products are available at: <https://www.weprotect.org/>.
- 2. The WePROTECT Global Alliance's membership will continue to expand.** As of February 2020, 97 countries, 27 global technology companies and 30 leading non-governmental organisations are members. A broader membership will be essential for galvanising the global community to action. To sign up - or for more detail on the benefits of membership - please contact: WePROTECTGlobalAlliance@homeoffice.gov.uk. There are no financial, legal or reporting obligations associated with membership.
- 3. The WePROTECT Global Alliance membership will be consulted on a new set of membership commitments.** A refreshed set of membership commitments will help to harness the expertise of the network to strengthen collaboration and enable a more effective response to online child sexual exploitation.
- 4. Best practice will be shared across the WePROTECT Global Alliance.** If you are a member, we want to hear about what you are doing and share the excellent work that is already underway with our membership community.
- 5. Commitments made within the summit communiqué will be implemented.** Continued cross-sectoral collaboration will be imperative for effectively delivering upon the communiqué.