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GLOBAL SUMMIT TO TACKLE ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

11 – 12 DECEMBER 2019

GLOBAL SUMMIT REPORT

A. Introduction and Background

1. The WePROTECT Global Alliance (WPGA) is a global movement bringing together the influence, expertise and resources required to transform how Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE) is dealt with. It is a global crime that demands a global response in partnership with governments, industry and civil society. In order to galvanise the global response, WPGA in collaboration with the African Union and supported by the UK Government, organised the two-day Global Summit to tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11-12 December 2019. It was followed by a meeting of the WPGA Board on 13 December 2013 to chart the way forward in addressing OCSE.
2. The WPGA's geographical reach is unprecedented: 97 countries are members, along with 25 global technology companies and 30 leading Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
3. The African Union – a WPGA regional member - is currently delivering a two-year project to “strengthen national and regional action to tackle OCSE in Africa” and the WPGA is supporting the delivery of this project.

B. Attendance

4. A total of 94 countries participated in the Summit.
5. The Summit was attended by delegates from 47 of the 55 African Union Member States, namely: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Comoros, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
6. Globally, the following 47 countries also participated: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Holy See, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Vietnam.
7. Government Ministers and representatives, UN Agency representatives, Inter-Governmental Organisation representatives, the Inter-Faith Alliance and Civil Society Organisations' representatives participated as keynote speakers, moderators of sessions, members of panel discussions and as exhibitors.

Day One: 11 December 2019
Online Child Sexual Exploitation: The Global Threat

C. Opening Ceremony

8. The Chairperson of the WePROTECT Global Alliance, Mr Ernie Allen, expressed his appreciation and welcomed all to the Summit. As a result of the increase of online connectivity rates in Africa and the Global South, the African Union has been engaged strongly on building continental responses to OCSE under the leadership of the WPGA and with support from the Government of the United Kingdom.
9. Baroness Joanna Shields, CEO of BenevolentAI and founder of WePROTECT in 2014, provided the Summit with an overview of the creation of WePROTECT against the background of the alarming extent and impact on OCSE. Urgent responses were needed to counter the epidemic to protect children. Web-based communication platforms have evolved that threatens safety, stability and rule of law as it is actively being used by perpetrators to hide their crimes. The same technology must be employed to improving our ability to detect and interdict this crime.
10. Her Excellency Mrs Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission called upon all AU Member States to join the WPGA. She alluded to existing AU instruments and organs available to Member States that will contribute to eradicating OCSE, such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (the “Malabo Convention”) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACERWC). The Commissioner reiterated the need for commitment by the AU political leadership to urgently respond to OCSE.
11. Her Excellency Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomed all to Ethiopia and agreed that violence affecting children is becoming a key global phenomenon and that specifically OCSE is a prevalent scourge throughout society targeting those that need protection most. She reminded the Summit of the challenges relating to insufficient research and data on the true extent and nature of this crime.

D. The Impact of Online Child Sexual Exploitation: International Justice Mission and ‘Joy’

12. John Tanagho, speaking on behalf of the International Justice Mission (IJM) in the Philippines, emphasised the alarming rates and nature of OCSE in the Philippines and the resultant responses by IJM and the Government. Cybersex trafficking is the live sexual abuse of children streamed via the internet, set up by adults who receive online payments from predators located anywhere in the world. IJM’s activities focus on rescuing and restoring victims, bringing criminals to justice and strengthening justice systems. “Joy”, a

survivor of OCSE shared her story. With assistance from the holistic support rendered by IJM, she recovered sufficiently to share her story highlighting the importance of healing and justice.

E. Global Threat Assessment (GTA)

13. The GTA highlighted that OCSE is not only a very complex phenomenon, but it is also directed from anywhere in the world which results in the challenge of connecting these abusive actions for interdiction and prosecution. Additionally, realities such as the darknet and service providers not sharing data with authorities can lead to offenders operating with relative impunity – in some cases they not only abuse children but also share information on how to evade detection. Globally, there are millions of new users within very sophisticated environments that facilitate the perpetration of OCSE. There are limits to the extent that technology can facilitate the accurate monitoring of information and communications on a global scale.

Panel Discussion on Regional Perspectives

14. Laurent Muschel, Director of Security, European Union Commission identified the challenges in the EU in making online safety for children a priority and agreed that there is the difficulty of data privacy versus law enforcement's requirement to access data for global safety.

15. Most troublesome are the enormous gaps between the challenge of OCSE and Africa's preparedness to deal with this issue, While children are accessing the internet, parents, families and society are not always informed and AU Member States seem unaware of the impact of OCSE. In Africa, as also echoed by panellist Mr Andrew Rugege, International Telecommunication Union, there are three problems namely i.) limited political commitment (for example the low levels of ratification of the various continental and global instruments); ii.) low levels of awareness and policies for targeting OCSE; and iii.) insufficient technical capabilities to enforce and prosecute OCSE.

16. Dr Assefa Bequele, Founder, African Child Policy Forum extrapolated selected ways for the African community to ensure that governments focus more on child rights and digital responses.

F. Breakout Sessions

1. Technology landscape: current and emerging threats

17. Panellists for this session were:

- Brooke Istook, Director, Programs and Partnerships, Thorn
- Nick Newman, Defence, Security and Public Safety Expert, PA Consulting

18. This session focussed upon insights from the Global Threat Assessment 2019 on the threat facilitated by technology. It included current and emerging issues relevant to the open and dark web across numerous forms of OCSE (including grooming, live-streaming, illegal images of children) and related issues such as encryption.

2. Law enforcement challenges

19. The moderator for this session was Rob Jones, Director, UK National Crime Agency.

20. Panellists for this session were:

- Paul Stanfield, Director, Organised and Emerging Crime, INTERPOL
- Marie-Claude Arsenault, Virtual Global Taskforce
- Captain Hamad Khatir, Director of International Partnership, International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates

21. A key outcome of this session was an improved understanding of the emerging OCSE threats and the impact that they have on the law enforcement response. Key legislative challenges and information-sharing difficulties, which are hindering a global strategic response, were discussed in depth. Other issues, such as the balance between privacy and protection and how to prevent offending and re-offending were also covered.

3. Children in the digital age

22. Panellists for this session were:

- Anjan Bose, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF
- Dr Rinchen Chopel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children

23. The focus of this session was to examine changing trends in how children use the internet – with special consideration of their ages, gender, socio-cultural factors and geographical locations. The Global Threat Assessment 2019 and the findings of the recent Asian Children’s Summit were highlighted in relation to children’s changing use of the internet. Key insights from panellists’ own work on children’s use of the internet were also disseminated.

<p>G. Keynote Address by Michelle DeLaune, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, US National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children</p>

24. Legislation in the US created a duty for the technology industry to report any child sexual abuse imagery content being posted anywhere in the world onto US servers (e.g. Facebook, Google, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.). Industry responded proactively and is actually seeking for such content in order to provide as much information as possible. With more technological partners continuously coming on board, this makes for a very effective tool in the fight

against OCSE and it is hoped to have the entire tech industry partnering to end OCSE.

H. Video Message by Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex on behalf of the United Kingdom

25. HRH emphasised that while the internet has vastly improved lives, it also puts children in danger through criminals exploiting and abusing their innocence. OCSE is not a virtual crime, these are real crimes with real and lasting consequences for very real victims.

I. Video Message by Angelique Kidjo, UNICEF Ambassador

26. While information technology presents opportunities for advancement, it also presents threats to children and society. Protecting children is everyone's business and cannot be addressed in isolation. This can only be addressed by working together to fight the global threat and by joining the WPGA Africa is most at risk because of loopholes in legislation and law enforcement.

J. WPGA Relaunch: introducing new board members, executive directors, donors and members

27. Mr Ernie Allen informed that the WPGA is now relaunching as an internationally owned, not-for profit entity with the support of the UK government as well as a strong coalition of donors who has committed to support its work over the coming years (including Thorn, Oak Foundation, Porticus and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation). The WPGA has launched numerous products over the years, including the Model National Response which is a blueprint for national action to tackle this heinous crime and the first ever global threat assessment on online child sexual exploitation. On Day 1 of the Summit a new Global Threat Assessment was launched, which was accompanied by a Global Strategic Response to provide a framework for coordinated international action (launched on Day 2). In addition, new board members were announced, including Her Excellency Commissioner Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil from the African Union and the Australian e-Safety Commissioner Julie Inman-Grant to the Board, as well as the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Oak Foundation and Thorn.

28. Mr Hisham Mundol from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) indicated that CIFF sees the Alliance as a forum for technology companies to show technical and corporate leadership, for ideas to be exchanged that can address challenges common across national boundaries, for progress to be tracked and – most critically – to raise the public and political priority for online child safety. CIFF works on the areas of children, which are typically those that are technically complicated or politically challenging or both and online child sexual abuse is one such area. The world needs a platform where

governments, technology companies, law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations are able to collectively work through solutions. An unintended consequence of the strength of voice and conviction for privacy has been that this is somehow inconsistent or in conflict with child protection. CIFF works closely with governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations and survivors' groups to create an ecosystem that delivers justice. The Alliance also has a strong accountability component to shine the mirror back on to all of us, holding us to account on behalf of children and parents all over the world.

K. Closing Remarks of Day 1 by Major Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi, Director General, International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates

29. The conversation on Day 1 was summarised, emphasising the alarming scale and constant increase of OCSE as was highlighted in the GTA findings, and the challenges faced in addressing this very complicated problem. It was agreed that all should work towards a true understanding of trends and contexts and that strategies need to be targeted and flexible based on new modus operandi by perpetrators.

**Day Two: 12 December 2019
Online Child Sexual Exploitation: The Global Response**

L. Welcome and Reflections on Day 1 by Madame Cisse Mariama Mohamed, Director of Social Affairs, African Union Commission

30. Mme Cisse emphasised that OCSE is a global epidemic requiring urgent coordinated responses and the importance of not only prevention but also interdiction through targeted law enforcement and judicial action. In this regard, the importance of supporting victims in healing and reintegration into society and to remove stigmas, should not be neglected. It was widely agreed access to the internet for children cannot be stopped, as they need this access not only for their own information and education, but also to develop and maintain social skills which are required to be successful in the modern world. While access should be controlled to prevent children falling prey to unscrupulous internet-based predators, it needs to be understood how children's basic human right to privacy versus their safety can be addressed and managed.

M. Keynote Address by the Hon. Peter Dutton, Minister for Home Affairs, Australia

31. Hon. Dutton noted that in the case of Australia several national strategies, laws and restrictions have been put in place to address OCSE. The virtual public square, however, needs to be made a safer place and this can only be done in partnership with industry, whether voluntarily or compelled by law.

Governments cannot keep their people safe alone and in a vacuum and while technical advances and increased accessibility of the internet have pushed humanity forward, all involved need to look at the long term consequences of these advances against threats such as terrorism and OCSE. Issues such as end-to-end encryption, and not preventing the uploading of harmful images are very concerning as it offers protection to offenders while only aggravating harm to children.

N. The Impact of Online Child Sexual Exploitation: Rhiannon-Faye and the Marie Collins Foundation

32. A survivor of OCSE recounted her experiences of child sexual exploitation, which began from the age of 13. The Summit heard how innocently it started, and how easy and fast it was for the perpetrator to groom her and abuse her. She then outlined her long journey to recovery and the ways in which she has used the devastating experience to generate and galvanise positive action against OCSE.

O. National and Regional Testimonies Against Online Child Sexual Exploitation

33. David Lega, speaking on behalf of the European Parliament, listed the several directives in place to combat abuse, exploitation and pornography since 2011, while indicating that legislation is not the only solution – action plans to completely eradicate abuse have to include social structures such as civil society and families (prevention) as well as the technology sector.

34. In addition to joining the WPGA, the Government of Kenya has put in place robust child protection programmes, ratified various protocols, instruments, conventions, national legislation and national plans of action relating to children and have linked their activities with INTERPOL. Hon. Abdul Bahari Jillo, speaking on behalf of the Government of Kenya, confirmed the commitment of his country to fight OCSE.

35. In Ukraine, Ms Valeria Kolomiets, Deputy Minister of Justice, reiterated that a key objective is for every child to know basic online safety and improve their understanding of how to navigate the internet in a secure way.

36. Ms Hannah Yeoh, the Malaysian Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, agreed that there is still a long way to go to address the urgent demand to safeguard children.

37. Marizio Chuwa informed that Brazil considers OCSE as a human rights violation and it is therefore part of their human rights initiatives which seeks to eradicate all forms of violence against children. While the internet and mobile phones are monitored, the Government also trains defenders of children's rights, law enforcement and the judiciary.

38. To further its commitment, Hon. Pauline Kedem Latten, Minister of Women Affairs, Nigeria confirmed several policies and strategies for online child protection while acknowledging that access to the internet is both dangerous and beneficial to children.

P. Technological Solutions, Julie Cordua, CEO, Thorn

39. It is impossible to tackle the problem without effective deployment of technology and data sharing and to this end, an understanding of how the crime is committed is required. These tools deploy proactive scanning solutions required by every data-hosting company world-wide. Technology needs to be deployed to safeguard children. Scalable tools developed assist in victim identification and the locating of perpetrators. Due to the nature of the internet, the technology itself can enable child abuse.

Q. The Global Strategic Response (GSR) to Online Child Sexual Exploitation

40. Speaking on behalf of the technology industry, Jacqueline Beauchere, Global Digital Safety Advocate, Microsoft, emphasised that technology will always play a role (both in identification of content and in awareness raising and education) and that no one organisation or entity can solve OCSE. ECPAT International's CEO, Robbert van den Berg agreed that actions start with acknowledgement of the problem and that leadership and strong political will is essential, accompanied by strong legislation and a global agreement regarding children's safety and need for privacy and protection. Launching the GSR, Julie Inman-Grant, Australian e-Safety Commissioner outlined the focus on policy/legislation, criminal justice, victim support and empowerment, technology, societal understanding of OCSE and the need for research and further insight. Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of the Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe reminded that the fight against OCSE must be linked to all forms of violence against children and infringement of their human rights. Speaking on behalf of INTERPOL, Harold O'Connell, Acting Executive Director of Police Services, pointed out that actions should be coordinated, strategic and sustainable.

R. Breakout Sessions:

1. Technological innovation

41. The moderator for this session was Rebecca Kirby, Director, Tackling Slavery and Exploitation Directorate, Home Office.
42. Panellists for this session were:
- David Miles, Safety Policy Director, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Facebook

- Jacqueline Beauchere, Global Digital Safety Advocate, Microsoft
- Marie-Laure Lemineur, Deputy Executive Director/Programmes, ECPAT International

43. This session included a recap of the Day 1 discussions of threats and existing gaps for the response of technology. Emerging developments in technology to tackle online child sexual exploitation and abuse in the future, and how countries and organisations might use them to their greatest potential, were explored. The technology elements of the Global Strategic Response, including good practice on tackling the various forms of online child sexual exploitation across online platforms was also discussed.

2. The law enforcement response

44. The moderator for this session was Paul Stanfield, Director, Organised and Emerging Crime, INTERPOL.

45. Panellists for this session were:

- Rob Jones, Director, UK National Crime Agency
- Susie Hargreaves, Chief Executive, Internet Watch Foundation
- John Tanagho, Cebu Field Office Director & OSEC Hub Developer, International Justice Mission

46. This session focussed on the priority areas for law enforcement in relation to the Global Strategic Response. This included discussion on the wide-ranging nature of the threat, and the need for a coordinated international response. Examples of good practice and effective partnership working were shared with delegates.

3. Victim perspectives and safeguarding

47. The moderator for this session was Anjan Bose, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF.

48. Panellists for this session were:

- Lianna McDonald Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Child Protection
- Tink Palmer, Founder and Chief Executive, Marie Collins Foundation

49. Victim and survivor experiences were at the forefront of this session. Gaps in safeguarding services and processes were identified and explored, drawing upon the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's international survey, the Phoenix 11 and work with parents and carers of survivors. Best practice for protecting and safeguarding children sexually abused online, including the Marie Collins Foundation's Path to Protection model, were also discussed.

S. A conversation between Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children; and Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

50. Although the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children deals with all forms of violence towards children, OCSE is a priority as it is an under-reported and under-prosecuted epidemic which is on the increase. What is needed is synergised, cohesive national frameworks and coordination across the spectrum of the chain of services to comprehensively address all aspects of violence against children. It is imperative that children are part of finding solutions to OCSE and to make sure responses and preventative initiatives are accessible by children. While there are several commonalities between online and offline sexual violence, the tendency is to separate responses and this is also reflected in institutional structures, which raises concerns about the efficiency of child protection systems. It is only by empowering children (especially vulnerable children in marginalised communities) to know their rights and make educated decisions that OCSE will be fully eradicated. While there has been significant progress in addressing OCSE, an enormous amount of challenges remains.

T. Implementing the Model National Response (MNR)

51. OCSE is a societal challenge and the causes and origins of sexually abusive behaviours need to be investigated and prevention methodologies developed. For this to happen, awareness must be raised (including working with the media to raise broader public and leadership awareness), appropriate technological solutions need to be found and national, regional and global networks to fight OCSE need to be grown.

52. Dr Antoinette Basson and Dollina Odera from the African Union Commission presented the findings of a mapping exercise focussing on OCSE in all 55 member states of the AU. The findings of the exercise thus far indicated lack of systematic focus on OCSE on the continent, overshadowed by many other issues such as child labour, child marriages, sexual exploitation, etc. With regard to OCSE, the AUC is endeavouring to mobilise political and country level commitments to address the low levels of awareness, political commitments and technological capabilities. With information related to OCSE being limited, a continental urgency exists to prioritise responses on all levels.

53. Cornelius Williams, Associate Director, Child Protection Programme Division, UNICEF reported that there is an overall need for technical capacity building of law enforcement as well as data and ongoing sex offender management while maintaining the focus on victims, especially regarding child friendly procedures. Challenges, such as the need for specialised services available nationally, and professional workforces, will only be addressed once political commitment and sufficient resource allocation are established.

U. Summit Round-up and Communiqué

54. Her Excellency Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, Commissioner of Social Affairs, African Union Commission thanked the WPGA and the UK Government for co-hosting the Summit. Reflecting on statements, testimonies and presentations over the last two days, she emphasised that these were extremely powerful in that speakers not only spoke their minds or presented their understanding of the facts of the matter, but did so from their hearts. The Commissioner expressed her gratefulness for the products launched at the Summit to combat OCSE and noted that she is looking forward to participating in the next WPGA Global Summit in 2021.
55. Subsequently the Summit Communiqué was read by the AU Commissioner, after which the Global Summit was officially closed.