



HM Government

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Global Summit to Tackle Online Child Sexual Exploitation

11 – 12 December 2019 | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Concept Note

INTRODUCTION:

The development and expansion of digital technologies has brought invaluable opportunities for young people to learn, socialize and communicate. However, it has also provided offenders with increased opportunities – and a range of new capabilities – to abuse children on a mass scale. This is reflected in the exponential increase in online child sexual exploitation, which leaves a devastating and lasting impact upon children everywhere. Online child sexual exploitation is a global crime that demands a global response. Children are being abused across the world and it is our moral responsibility to help them. Rocketing global internet access in Africa, Asia and the Middle East has brought with it many opportunities, but it has also led to more children than ever being exploited online in these parts of the world.

The WePROTECT Global Alliance (WPGA) is a global movement that brings together the influence, expertise and resources required to transform how online child sexual exploitation is dealt with worldwide. Government and law enforcement cannot tackle this crime in isolation, it is only through working in partnership with industry and civil society that we can work towards eradicating online child sexual exploitation. The WePROTECT Global Alliance’s geographical reach is unprecedented: 90 countries are members along with 22 global technology companies and 25 leading (NGO’s) Non-Governmental Organisations. 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.

In order to strengthen the global movement against online child sexual exploitation, the Commission of the African Union is organising a **Global Summit to tackle online child sexual exploitation**. This will be co-hosted by the African Union, the WePROTECT Global Alliance and the UK Government. The Summit will unite key partners from governments, civil society, the technology industry, law enforcement agencies and research institutions against online child sexual exploitation like never before. Across the two-day event, delegates will be provided with the knowledge, tools and networks required to understand the nature and prevalence of online child sexual exploitation, and the means to implement a strategic global response.

DATES: 11th to 12th December 2019;

LOCATION: Addis Ababa Ethiopia;

VENUE: African Union Headquarters;

PARTICIPANTS: The Summit will bring together high-level representatives of governments, the private sector/industry, civil society organisations, regional mechanisms/entities, and specialized agencies of the United Nations. In total, the summit will have approximately 700 participants.

AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES TARGETED;

ALL the 55 African Union Member States are invited to participate in the summit.

NUMBER AND PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS TARGETED FROM MEMBER STATES:

Each Member State is invited to nominate two delegates as follows:

1. Government Minister, (Cabinet Secretary, CEO or equivalent) in charge of child protection;
2. Director-level official with suitable accountability and decision-making authority in the child protection field.

The two delegates will be funded by the summit however, a Member State can bring a **maximum of 3 delegates but only the above two will be funded.**

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the summit are to:

1. Raise attention and enhance understanding of online child sexual exploitation amongst high-level decision makers;
2. Hear from political leaders, senior representatives from international organisations and subject-matter experts on the threat;
3. Exchange experiences, good practice and positive developments amongst WePROTECT Global Alliance members and strengthen solidarity within the Alliance;
4. Launch a range of key products, including a new Global Threat Assessment and Strategic Global Response to inform the global response to online child sexual exploitation;
5. Incorporate the voices of children, including survivors of online child sexual exploitation, and have them heard by key decision makers;
6. Facilitate breakout sessions, including on the technology landscape, regional threats and resilience-building among children;
7. Encourage the expansion of the WePROTECT Global Alliance and welcome new members into the Alliance; and
8. Launch the revised structure of the WePROTECT Global Alliance and its priorities for coming two years.

DESIGN OF THE SUMMIT:

The summit will include plenary presentations and discussions, breakout sessions and video presentations of survivor's experiences.

CONTACT PERSONS:

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