

## ***ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection***

2 and 3 November 2022, Hybrid Event, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### **HYBRID CONFERENCE CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

The first ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 and will be hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia. The event will take place in a blended format and will create active engagement opportunities for both online and in-person participants and aims to enhance the role the private sector in the multi-sectoral approach to child online protection.

UNICEF strives to ensure that the activity does not, in any way, harm, abuse, or commit any act of discrimination or violence against children. UNICEF gives primary importance to the best interest of the child in all decisions and actions. UNICEF's values are care, respect, integrity, trust and accountability ("CRITA values"). As a participant in this event, you are expected to commit to these values, act honestly and ethically, and comply with local laws.

#### **1 Purpose of the Policy**

This Policy aims to ensure that:

1. The rights of children who are engaged in this conference are protected from any form of violence and discrimination arising from their involvement;
2. Those supporting the conference have the understanding, internalization, skills, and support needed to safeguard under-18s they are in contact with; and
3. The procedures are in place to prevent and deal with discrimination and violence against children in connection to the conference.

The conference is a two day hybrid event organized by ASEAN with the support from UNICEF EAPRO, UNICEF Cambodia, ECPAT International, Australia's eSafety Commissioner and Australia's Attorney General's Department. The event will bring together relevant ASEAN bodies, ASEAN Member State representatives, private sector companies, international organisations, NGOs, UN entities, academia, media, technical experts from international, regional and national level and children and youth.

#### **2 Application of the Policy**

This Policy applies to all attendees of this conference, including children.

#### **3 Terms and Definitions**

When used in this document:

**"Child"** refers to any person below 18 years old.

**"Child Safeguarding"** refers to our responsibility and preventive and responsive actions to ensure that all children are protected from any form of harm, violence and discrimination as a result of their involvement in our programs and activities.

**"Child Safeguarding Team"** refers to the designated group of individuals to receive child safeguarding concerns or complaints during the conduct of the activities involving children.

**"Discrimination"** refers to the unjust treatment of children based on the children's or their parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, health, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family composition, or other status.

**“Violence against Children”** refers to all forms of physical or emotional violence, injury and abuse, neglect and negligent treatment, maltreatment, or exploitation, whether accepted as ‘tradition’ or disguised as ‘discipline.’ It can be in any of the following forms:

**“Physical Violence”** or the deliberate use of physical force that can be fatal or non-fatal to children

**“Emotional Violence”** or psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse, and emotional abuse

**“Sexual Violence”** or sexual activity or attempted sexual activity imposed by an adult on a child, including inducement or coercion of the child to engage in any unlawful or psychologically harmful sexual activity and sexual exploitation and abuse.

**“Neglect/Negligent Treatment”** or the failure to meet the children’s needs, to protect them from danger, and to obtain services for children.

#### 4 Reporting and Responding Mechanism

A Child Safeguarding Team (CSG) is responsible for assessing and receiving concerns or complaints regarding this Policy.

The Child Safeguarding Team is composed of:

Name	Connection ID	Mobile No.	Email Address
Maha Homsy	Regional Adviser a.i., Child Protection, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office	+66806375923	mhomsy@unicef.org
Benjamin Wildfire	Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Cambodia	016485336	bwildfire@unicef.org

Attendees shall contact the Child Safeguarding Team with any concerns or to report abuse. The Child Safeguarding Team will report all sexual exploitation or abuse or concerns of abuse to the relevant Head of Office or the Office of Internal Audit and Oversight immediately.

If the below Code of Conduct is not complied with or the safety or well-being of one or more child participants cannot be guaranteed, the CSG team will take immediate action. This action could be to terminate/block the engagement of attendee that violated this code of conduct and/or suspend conference activities.

#### 5 Safeguarding Code of Conduct

**As an attendee to the activity, I agree that I WILL:**

1. Adhere to this Conference Child Safeguarding Policy and contribute to creating a safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive environment that is free from discrimination and violence against children, including neglect and physical, mental, and sexual exploitation and abuse.
2. Treat children with respect and dignity and consider their best interests, irrespective of their race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, health, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, family composition, or other status.
3. Listen to children’s voices, give due weight to their ideas and opinions, and empower them so that they learn about and are able to exercise their rights.
4. Be a positive role model to children by displaying high standards of behavior at all times.
5. Recognise that as an adult engaging with children I am in a position of trust and will maintain appropriate boundaries at all times.
6. Seek the informed consent of children and of their parents/guardians prior to taking the children’s photos or videos.
7. Ensure that children are represented in a dignified, respectful manner; and that accurate context for

the child's story or image is always provided<sup>1</sup>.

8. Raise any concerns, problems, or issues pertaining to child safety and well-being with the Children and Youth Safeguarding Team as soon as possible.
9. Immediately report any violations of this Policy.
10. Encourage children to speak out and raise concerns about any issue including any kind of harm.
11. Cooperate fully and confidentially in any investigation of concerns or allegations of discrimination and violence against children.

**I will NOT:**

1. Engage in any form of physical, emotional or sexual violence against children, regardless of the local age of consent or majority. In addition, I understand that mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense, and that sexual abuse and exploitation of children and sexual activity with a child is considered by the organizers to be serious misconduct that will result in applicable legal action.
2. Use language/images/emojis, make suggestions, or offer advice that is inappropriate, offensive, abusive, discriminatory, sexually provocative, or culturally insensitive.
3. Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle, or degrade children, or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.
4. Encourage a child to do something harmful to himself/herself, others or property
5. Take photos or images of children which could endanger or adversely affect them by showing their home, community or general whereabouts; further stigmatize any child; use categorizations or descriptions that expose a child to negative reprisals - including additional physical or psychological harm, or to lifelong abuse, discrimination or rejection.
6. Take and share screenshots or recordings of the online activity without the consent of all children people in the photo/video<sup>2</sup>.
7. Publish the child's last name or any personal information that could be used to identify a child's location<sup>3</sup>.
8. Ask for personal contact details (i.e., email address, phone numbers, social media contacts) of a child attending, unless there has been explicit authorization from the organizers to do so for business purposes.
9. Communicate with the child via digital platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter), via mobile technology (e.g. texting, Whatsapp, Skype), or online without consent and knowledge of his/her parents/legal guardians. This does not apply to a child aged 16 years or above.
10. Condone or participate in activities with children which are illegal, unsafe, or abusive.
11. Stay silent, cover up, or enable a known or suspected child safeguarding incident or breach of this Code of Conduct to take place.
12. Threaten a child with violence or abuse
13. Discriminate against or show preferential treatment or favor to a particular child, to the detriment of that particular child or of other children.
14. Access, view, create, download, or distribute sexually abusive images and materials of children.

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<sup>1</sup> [UNICEF's STANDARD ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING IN MULTIMEDIA - PHOTO AND VIDEO](#) Document Number: STANDARD/DOC/2020/003; [UNICEF Standard on Child Safeguarding in Media Engagement and interactions](#).

<sup>2</sup> Conference organisers have secured specific consent/assent from speakers, panelists and those featured in pre recorded videos, who are under the age of 18 years, and the consent their parents/caregivers for official communication related to the conference.

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