



2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

AND

CODE OF CONDUCT

2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

18-19 November 2025

Hilton Hotel

Kuala Lumpur

The ASEAN ICT Forum is a two-day event convened by the Government of Malaysia, and co-hosted by ACWC Malaysia with ACWC Thailand, and with UNICEF that will bring together relevant ASEAN bodies, ASEAN Member State representatives, private sector companies, international organizations, NGOs, UN entities, academia, media, technical experts from international, regional and national level and children and youth.

UNICEF strives to ensure that the activity and associated people do 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:

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



2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

2. Application of the Policy

This Policy applies to all attendees of this forum. These principles are in place to prevent harm to **children and vulnerable people** as a result of the activities.

3. Terms and Definitions

“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 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.



2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

4. Reporting and Responding Mechanism

A Child Safeguarding Team is responsible for assessing and receiving concerns or complaints regarding this policy. The Child Safeguarding Team is composed of:

Rachel Harvey (will be at the Forum in person)

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Selvi Supramanian (will be at the Forum in person)

Child Protection Specialist
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Jessica Sercombe (will be at the Forum in person)

Adolescent Development Specialist (key support person for participating young people)
Programme Section
jsercombe@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.



2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

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.
Recognize that as an adult engaging with children I am in a position of trust and will maintain appropriate boundaries at all times.
5. Seek the informed consent of children and of their parents/guardians prior to taking the children's photos or videos.
6. Ensure that children are represented in a dignified, respectful manner; and that accurate context for the child's story or image is always provided.
7. Raise any concerns, problems, or issues pertaining to child safety and well-being with the Child Safeguarding Team as soon as possible.
8. Immediately report any violations of this Policy.
9. Encourage children to speak out and raise concerns about any issue including any kind of harm.
10. 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 defence, 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.



2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

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 images and recording without the informed consent of all children in the photo/video and their parents/guardians.
7. Publish the child's last name or any personal information that could be used to identify a child's location.
8. Ask for personal contact details (i.e., email address, phone numbers, social media contacts) of a child attending. Requests for details may only be made through the organizers.
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.
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 or share sexual images with children.