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Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 8 July 2025

59/23. Enhancing international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national frameworks for the protection and empowerment of children in the digital space

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its applicable Optional Protocols, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and recalling also Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly outlined the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the provision of advisory services and technical assistance upon the request of States in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that safe, equitable and effective access to digital technologies can enable children to enjoy their rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Deeply concerned by the immediate and long-term negative impact that the digital space may have on the physical, psychological and mental health of children,

Recognizing that girls are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, in particular in the digital space,

Expressing concern that many developing countries still face serious challenges in building their national science, technology and innovation base in terms of the availability, affordability, financial constraints and use of information and communications technology related to the monitoring and implementation of legal provisions at the national level for the safety of the child,

Underscoring the importance of enhancing international cooperation and capacity-building efforts in order to bridge digital divides and ensure that all States can safely and securely seize the benefits of digital technologies,

Reaffirming that the realization of the rights of the child may be supported through the development of digital literacy and skills among children, as well as their parents or legal guardians, teachers and educators, and recognizing the importance of strengthening their



evolving capacities, digital skills and competencies, and empowering children to report and seek help in responding to threats and bullying in the digital space, including cyberbullying, in adequate ways and raising their awareness of safety in the digital space, and of disinformation and misinformation,

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime by the General Assembly¹ and the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing States with technical assistance, information exchange and capacity-building,

Stressing the need to enhance coordination and cooperation among States in combating cybercrime, in line with international human rights law, including by providing technical assistance to developing countries, upon their request, to strengthen national legislation and enhance the capacity of national authorities to deal with cybercrime, in particular that affecting children in the digital space,

Welcoming initiatives based on the best interests of the child aimed at enhancing international collaboration to empower and protect children in the digital space, and affirming that safeguarding children from risks in the digital space contributes to long-term social stability and sustainable development,

1. *Encourages* States, with the appropriate support of relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Telecommunication Union, national human rights institutions, civil society, research institutions, academia and associations, the private sector, educational institutions, as well as parents, and legal guardians, along with contribution of children, to identify capacity gaps and national needs in order to develop or enhance child-sensitive protection systems that address digital threats, including through education, training, public awareness, access to safe technology and age-sensitive reporting mechanisms;

2. *Encourages* international cooperation, including the exchange of good practices, and of technical cooperation, capacity-building, financial assistance and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to support national efforts to build sustainable and child-sensitive systems for the protection of children in the digital space, in compliance with States' obligations under international human rights law and in line with identified needs and priorities;

3. *Encourages* States to consider additional opportunities for capacity-building at the regional level;

4. *Encourages* States members and observers of the Human Rights Council to use, where relevant, the general debate under agenda item 10 as a platform to share experiences, achievements and good practices in the area of international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building for the protection of children in the digital space;

5. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide, upon the request of and in consultation with States, technical assistance, capacity-building and support to develop and implement national measures to protect children in digital settings, with particular attention to strengthening legal frameworks, institutional coordination, enforcement capacities and access to effective remedies, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to mobilize resources, including private sector funding, to that end.

33rd meeting
8 July 2025

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹ See General Assembly resolution 79/243.