



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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# 142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

## Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights

6 April 2021

### Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation*

#### Concept note

The digital world is a world that offers democratic and economic opportunities. The use of the internet is welcomed worldwide and connections are getting better and faster. However, there is also a downside: our children are becoming more vulnerable because malicious parties can easily reach them.

In September 2019, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted new guidelines<sup>1</sup> on combating child sexual exploitation and the sale of children in the digital age. The Committee concluded that despite some progress there were still legal gaps at the national level that needed to be overcome to be more efficient at combatting online sexual abuse and exploitation.

Given that the internet knows no boundaries and that the perpetrators continuously search for environments where they have the best opportunities, international cooperation in this area is indispensable. The rise of the internet and the lack of proper legislation leaves our children unprotected.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further amplified the online risks to children, due to increases in social isolation and economic precarity.

In its resolution, the Committee could focus on how parliaments can foster appropriate (national) legislation to protect children against online sexual abuse and can exchange views on best practices on how to improve law enforcement and the use of technology/big data to identify perpetrators of child sexual exploitation.

The preparatory debate provides an opportunity for all Members to express their opinion on the issues to be included in the resolution. In addition, Members can submit written input to the resolution up to 14 June 2021.

Members' contributions will assist the co-Rapporteurs in drafting the resolution, which will be examined at the 143rd IPU Assembly in November 2021.

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1 See in: [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25058](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25058).