

Drafting Group of Specialists on Children and the Digital Environment (CAHENF-IT)¹

Role

In line with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24, the Drafting Group of Specialists on Children and the Digital Environment (CAHENF-IT) is established to assist the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) in its mandate to develop comprehensive Guidelines for member States to empower, protect and support children's safe access to their rights on the Internet.

Composition

The Drafting Group of Specialists on Children and the Digital Environment is composed of Committee members from 7 member States², having a thorough knowledge of law, policy and practice in the field of children rights and established expertise in ICT policies at national and/or international level.

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of up to 7 experts for each working meeting in the period 2016-2017³.

Participants, as set out in the terms of reference of the CAHENF, as well as observers with established expertise in this field, may also send 1 representative to take part in meetings of the Drafting Group, in an advisory role and at the charge of their budget.

Specific tasks

The Drafting Group will support the work of the CAHENF and the implementation of the Children's Rights Strategy (2016-2021) by:

- a) preparing draft elements for comprehensive Guidelines for member States to empower, protect and support children's safe access to their rights on the Internet and submitting them for the CAHENF's consideration, in view of the adoption of a final text by the end of 2017;
- b) identifying and prioritising issues to be covered in the above-mentioned guidelines;
- c) identifying and proposing to the CAHENF to hold hearings or consultations with identified relevant stakeholders (including children) and/or exchanges of views on specific issues related to ICTs and children's rights, to assist its work;
- d) reporting back to the CAHENF at regular intervals on progress made;
- e) referring any significant issues arising in the context of the drafting process to the CAHENF to consider policy implications, with proposed solutions if possible.

Working methods

The Drafting Group will hold two working meetings in Strasbourg in the period 2016-2017. It will also perform its functions and responsibilities on line between meetings. It shall be assisted in its mandate by the Secretariat of the CAHENF. It may have recourse to consultants for specialised aspects related to children and ICTs, through the Secretariat, and within the limits of budgetary appropriations.

The discussions in the drafting process within the Group are expected to guide the decisions of the CAHENF in relation to substantive aspects covered by the guidelines. The CAHENF's substantive input and comments would be sought by electronic means, in between meetings and at appropriate stages, to enable the Drafting Group to deliver by 2017 a proposed text that would reflect the views of the membership. The CAHENF will take the final decisions on any substantive changes to the draft text of the guidelines submitted by the Drafting Group.

¹ As adopted by the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (Strasbourg, 28-29 September 2016)

² Estonia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain.

³ The participation of experts has been confirmed following a selection process led by the Chair and the Secretariat, on the basis of nominations received from CAHENF members. The process ensured that selected experts have an established expertise in the relevant fields, and due regard was given to geographical and gender representation.