

**REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD:****GENERAL COMMENT ON ISSUES RELATING TO CHILDREN AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

(Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session, held on September 20, 2017)

**THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,****CONSIDERING:**

That the use of Information and communication technologies such as computers, smart phones, and in particular the internet, and new means of communication, socialization and participation are key for development of children consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

That notwithstanding gaps in access to digital technology which must still be overcome in the region, internet use by children and adolescents continues to experience exponential growth which favors development of abilities in the young, but at the same time exposes them to risks such as exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying and criminal activity, for example “grooming”, online sexual exploitation, sexual extortion related to activities such as *sexting*, among others;

That the use of information and communication technologies, as well as the associated risks and threats related to the access to and use of the internet, can be identified and addressed through the priorities laid out in the IIN’s Plan of Action, especially in the lines of action related to the children’s and adolescent’s right to participation and protection of children and adolescents from forms of sexual violence and sexual exploitation;

**RECALLING:**

That the Committee on the Rights of the Child held in 2014, the day of General Discussion on “Digital Media and children’s rights” which led to recommendations on legislation; policies and coordination; the collection of data and research; follow-up and evaluation of adopted measures; protection of children faced with violence, exploitation and ill treatment; among others;

**CONSIDERING:**

The progress made by the member states in strengthening, updating and improving their institutional, normative and policy frameworks on this subject, with the aim of offering greater capacity for digital access and at the same time ensuring online security,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To express its objective to promote a secure use of the Internet by children and adolescents, to request the Committee on the Rights of the Child to consider studying this subject and to formulate a General Comment containing guidelines for action by states and other actors in the area of access to, use of, and promotion of digital capacity and online security, as well as on self care in the use of information and communication technologies.
2. To instruct the Director General of the IIN to continue the work that it has been developing in this area according to the IIN's action plan 2015-2019.
3. To instruct the Director General of the IIN to transmit this resolution to the Committee on the Rights of the Child through the Chairperson of this Committee.