

COMMITTEE: Special Organization for Mental Health

QUESTION OF: Regulating Access to Social Media for Minors

SUBMITTED BY: France

CO-SUBMITTED BY: The People's Republic of China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Venezuela

SIGNATORIES: Singapore, Colombia, Portugal, Greece, Denmark, North Korea, Pakistan, The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Nigeria, Turkey, Mexico, Ukraine

The General Assembly

Recognizing the rapid growth of social media platforms and their increasing influence on the psychological, emotional, and social development of minors,

Alarmed by the rising prevalence of anxiety, depression, sleep disorders, cyberbullying, and low self-esteem among minors linked to unregulated or unsupervised social media use,

Deeply disturbed by the growing number of child grooming, cyberbullying, and privacy breach cases,

Recalling Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which recognizes the right of children and adolescents to the highest attainable standard of health, including mental health,

Emphasizing that digital spaces should be designed and regulated in ways that prioritize the well-being and safety of minors,

Recognizing the security and privacy concerns that come with ID age verification,

Aware that many underdeveloped nations don't have the resources to fortify their cybersecurity sectors,

Acknowledging the benefits of social media for education, social connection, creativity, and civic engagement when used responsibly,

Concerned by the lack of effective age-verification mechanisms and the widespread collection and use of minors' personal data by social media companies,

Further recalling the responsibility of governments, technology companies, educators, parents, and guardians to work collaboratively to protect minors online,

Affirming the importance of balancing child protection with freedom of expression and access to information,

Giving full autonomy to member states regarding the interpretation of individual clauses to appreciate each country's beliefs and national laws,

1. Encourages Member States to establish or strengthen minimum age requirements for social media platforms, in alignment with international child protection standards;
2. Calls upon social media companies to implement effective privacy-respecting age-verification systems to prevent underage access without compromising user data security:
 - a. Age verification will be based on parental consent; they must provide a bank statement or a fingerprint to verify that their child can use social media,
 - b. Underage, in this case, refers to minors under the age of 14 years,
 - c. Encourages parental and guardian involvement through optional supervision tools that ensure safety;
3. Recommends the development of child-friendly platform design standards, including:
 - a. Limiting algorithm-driven content that promotes excessive use of social media & harmful comparisons,
 - b. Defaulting screen-time reminders and break notifications for minor accounts,
 - c. Restricting targeted advertising toward minors,
 - d. Requests social media platforms to engineer a user-friendly report and block system on potentially harmful content or users;
4. Encourages the allocation of time and resources to regulating social media algorithms to detect child users and restrict them from viewing mature content while also showing age-appropriate content based on viewing habits, including:

- a. Requiring all social media platforms to hire moderators to remove adult content,
 - b. An investment in advanced algorithms that detect child activity,
 - c. Encourage the submission of transparency reports by social media companies to national authorities as well as giving them access immediately if required;
- 5. Urges Member States to require social media platforms to provide a user-friendly reporting system on harmful and or inappropriate activity, content, and uses;
- 6. Supports the integration of digital literacy and mental health education into the national school curriculum, focusing on:
 - a. Responsibly using social media,
 - b. Identifying harmful online behaviors,
 - c. Building resilience and a healthy self-image;
 - d. Conducting school-based workshops and seminars that teach safe and responsible social media use,
 - e. Distributing educational materials according to age, such as brochures, videos, and online resources, that explain how to recognize and report harmful or threatening online behavior,
 - f. Providing guidance to parents on monitoring online activities and supporting the mental well-being of minors,
 - g. Promoting mental health awareness to reduce the negative psychological impacts of online harassment such as exploitation, bullying or violence;
- 7. Recommends mental health professionals and counselors collaborate with schools to educate minors on responsible, safe, and appropriate social media practices;
- 8. Recommends the establishment of independent regulatory bodies at the regional level to monitor compliance by social media companies;
 - a. Establishing national agencies for identity verification for minors;
- 9. Calls upon the United Nations to allocate the financial resources required to fund these systems;
 - a. This system would cost about 10-20 billion over the first 5 years in order to implement it. Funding would contribute to:
 - i. Age-verification technology and operations,

- ii. Updating platforms,
 - iii. National identity-verification agencies,
 - iv. Curriculum integration,
 - v. Parental supervision tools,
 - vi. Privacy-preserving,e
- b. More funding should be allocated towards the following UN agencies and redirected to aid the development of this program,
 - i. UNICEF (United Nations International Children's EmergencyFund),
 - ii. ITU (International Telecommunication Union);

9. Further Request Member States to implement social media regulations that are consistent with cultural and social values in order to promote mental well-being and strengthen parental involvement;

14. Demands that member states implement repercussions in response to predatory and sexually explicit behavior online, regarding financial and judicial penalties for offenders, depending on the degree of the offence:

- a. 1st Degree offences include: Exposing minors to harmful sexual or explicit content through social media channels, as well as the harmful use of deep-fake AI,
- b. 2nd Degree offences include: Attempted contact of minors initiated through social media channels, with the intention of causing harm to minors,
- c. 3rd Degree offences include: Exploitation of minors online without the consent of said minors;