



WORKSHOP ON CYBER ADDICTION: BEST PRACTICES TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE VIA INTERNET IN OIC MEMBER STATES



14-15 October 2025

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Background

SESRIC, in coordination with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Secretariat, and in collaboration with relevant OIC Subsidiary Organs and Specialised Institutions, organised a two-day Workshop on “Cyber Addiction: Best Practices to Protect Children from Violence via Internet in OIC Member States” on 14-15 October 2025 at its Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Türkiye.

The Workshop was organised within the framework of the implementation of the resolution no. B/48/MCSD-2/2023, adopted at the 2nd Session of the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development, held on 5-6 June 2023 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. The Workshop brought together 65 representatives from relevant ministries and national institutions/agencies of 27 OIC Member Countries, including representatives from the OIC General Secretariat and 3 OIC Institutions, namely the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), and Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), as well as from national, international, and civil society organisations, including Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), Enstitü Sosyal, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) Corporation, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Turkish Green Crescent Society, and World Health Organization (WHO).

Objectives

The objectives of the Workshop are to:

- Investigate and highlight the impact of cyber addiction and cyberbullying on children, particularly on their physical and mental health, educational performance, and families;
- Raise awareness of the potential risks and negative consequences associated with excessive use of Internet and social media by children;
- Promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in combating cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children;
- Facilitate policy dialogue on strategies and measures to prevent overuse of digital technologies by children, including the enforcement of existing regulations; and
- Identify effective mechanisms and strategies for responding to emerging digital threats that compromise safety, well-being and development of children.

Opening Session

The Workshop commenced with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur’an. After the recitation, the welcoming speeches were delivered by H.E. Zehra Zümrüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Dr. Amina AL HAJRI, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs of the OIC General Secretariat, and H.E. Ahmed RASHAD, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Egypt in Ankara, in its capacity as the current Chair of the 2nd OIC



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Ministerial Conference on Social Development. They were followed by opening remarks of H.E. Amb. Dr. Mehmet GÜLLÜOĞLU, Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Green Crescent Society, and H.E. Dr. Sevim SAYIM MADAK, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye.

In her address, H.E. SELÇUK expressed her thanks to the OIC General Secretariat for its collaboration in organising the Workshop. She emphasised the urgent need to address cyber addiction and online risks, which pose serious threats to the well-being, mental health, and development of children, particularly in the OIC countries where more than half of the population is under the age of 25. H.E. SELÇUK called for collective efforts to bring about safer digital environments through education, awareness raising, and promotion of emotional resilience. She further highlighted SESRIC's ongoing efforts to fostering coordinated action among the Member Countries through statistics, research, capacity-building initiatives and technical cooperation to safeguard the well-being of the younger generation in the digital age.

In her address, H.E. Dr. Amina Al HAJRI warned of the dangers and long-term effects of digital addiction, exposing children to online violence, cyberbullying, exploitation, and harmful content that incites self-harm and aggression. She noted that such exposure can cause anxiety, depression, and isolation, and in severe cases, lead to self-destructive behaviour. Dr. AL HAJRI emphasised that screen dependency undermines children's healthy development and weakens family bonds. She called for stronger cooperation among OIC countries to share best practices.

In his address, H.E. Ahmed RASHAD highlighted the alarming rise of Internet addiction worldwide and emphasised the need to raise awareness and educate children on the responsible and efficient use of digital tools. He noted that youth are particularly vulnerable and shared that Egypt focuses on childhood-related matters as a priority area in its strategic vision. He also expressed his gratitude to SESRIC and the OIC for organising such a meaningful event.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Amb. Dr. Mehmet GÜLLÜOĞLU highlighted the growing challenges of cyber addiction among youth in the OIC countries. He emphasised the need for preventive approaches and outlined key priorities, including promoting healthy lifestyles, establishing rehabilitation centres, raising awareness among families and schools, and strengthening cooperation at all levels. He concluded by thanking the OIC and SESRIC for organising the Workshop and supporting collaboration on this important issue.

H.E. Dr. Sevim SAYIM MADAK emphasised in her remarks the importance of inclusive participation and effective solutions to social challenges in the digital age. She noted that rapid technological change demands stronger efforts to protect children online. Highlighting Türkiye's declaration of the year 2025 as the "Year of the Family," she underscored the need to strengthen families and enhance cooperation among OIC countries to combat risks like cyberbullying and online abuse. She also shared national efforts including workshops,



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trainings, counselling, and digital detox initiatives, reaching millions. Dr. MADAK concluded by calling for strong partnerships to ensure a safer digital future for children.

DAY 1

SESSION 1: Health Effects of Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying

Based on the Agenda of the Workshop (please see Annex-1), this session explored the physical and psychological health impacts of the digital age on children and youth, with a focus on issues such as cyber addiction and cyberbullying. Participants discussed how increased digital engagement can affect well-being and examined emerging health risks related to changing online behaviours. The session highlighted research findings and shared good practices to support early identification and prevention strategies. A Q&A session followed the presentations.

Below are the summaries of each presentation/intervention by the speakers:

1. Jordan

Jordan shared its national experience in addressing cyber addiction, cyberbullying, and online exploitation among children and youth. With the widespread use of the Internet and social media, these issues have become major public health concerns linked to anxiety, isolation, and sleep disorders. National initiatives such as Allem La Tallem, the Community Policing Initiative, and the Jordan River Foundation's Child Safety Program were emphasized for their focus on prevention, family empowerment, and community awareness. The JRF 110 Hotline and the Family and Juvenile Protection Directorate, which provide confidential support and specialized responses for victims of digital abuse, were also highlighted.

The ongoing efforts in Jordan aim to strengthen education and policy through the integration of cyber safety into school curricula and the implementation of the National Digital Inclusion Policy (2025). Collaboration with the private sector, such as Orange Jordan's #Shallah_Positiv campaign, further promotes digital safety awareness. Despite these efforts, challenges persist due to low levels of parental awareness and the need for continuous legal updates. It was recommended that stronger social support systems, legal reforms to protect victims, and broader cooperation among stakeholders be pursued to ensure a safer digital environment for children.

2. Nigeria

Nigeria outlined its national framework to address cyberbullying, cyber addiction, and online violence against children. The rapid expansion of Internet access among young people has created new opportunities for learning while also increasing exposure to online risks such as grooming, blackmail involving explicit material, and excessive screen use. The country's main legal instruments, including the Child Rights Act (2003), the Cybercrimes Act (2015), and the Nigeria Data Protection Act (2023), form the foundation of national efforts to protect children



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in the digital environment. In addition, the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (2021) and the NITDA White Paper on an Online Harms Protection Framework (2024) reinforce the responsibility of digital platforms and promote close coordination among government regulators and law enforcement agencies.

The role of schools, parents, and civil society was highlighted in prevention efforts through the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)'s Child Online Protection initiatives, digital literacy programmes, and mental health support services. Despite significant progress, challenges persist due to weak enforcement, limited psychosocial services, and low accountability among digital platforms. Stronger legislation, enhanced forensic capacity, and greater collaboration among all stakeholders were recommended to ensure a safe and supportive digital space for Nigerian children.

3. Turkish Green Crescent Society

The Turkish Green Crescent Society addressed the psychological and clinical impacts of cyberbullying on children and adolescents. Cyberbullying, defined as repeated and intentional harm through digital tools, shares many features with traditional bullying but is amplified by anonymity and constant connectivity. It often results in depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, social withdrawal, and even suicidal thoughts. Adolescents are especially at risk because of emotional instability, impulsivity, and difficulties in anger control. Early recognition and intervention are crucial to prevent long-term psychological harm and to support emotional recovery.

The importance of building digital resilience was also highlighted, as it enables individuals to recover and adapt after negative online experiences through emotional regulation, family support, and balanced offline activities. Psychoeducation and awareness programmes for families and schools were presented as key preventive measures. The YEDAM (Yeşilay Danışmanlık Merkezi) model was introduced as a programme that provides free psychological counselling and family-based interventions for Internet addiction and cyberbullying. These programmes focus on safe online behaviour, privacy education, and stronger family communication. Closer cooperation among health professionals, educators, and parents was recommended to foster a safer and more balanced digital environment for young people.

4. UNFPA

UNFPA addressed the health and social impacts of technology use among adolescents, highlighting both opportunities and risks in the digital age. While the Internet provides valuable tools for communication, learning, and social connection, it also exposes young people to dangers such as cyberbullying, addiction, online obscenity, gambling, and misinformation. These issues have been linked to physical health problems like eyestrain, obesity, and sleep disorders, as well as psychological consequences including anxiety, depression, loneliness, and suicidal behaviour. The growing risks of algorithmic manipulation, identity confusion, and



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exposure to harmful content in virtual environments and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and the Metaverse were also underscored.

UNFPA reaffirmed its commitment to protecting youth from Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) and other online harms through evidence generation, policy advocacy, and survivor-centred support. Key initiatives were highlighted, including the Türkiye Digital Violence Research (2021), Navigating Megatrends: ICPD30 Brief (2024), and the development of Guidance on the Safe and Ethical Use of Technology to Address Gender-Based Violence (2023). UNFPA also supports hotlines, safe spaces, and training programmes that build digital skills and promote online safety, including “Project ROSETTA” and youth-led initiatives like the Youth Power Hub. The presentation concluded by stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation, digital literacy, and ethical technology design to ensure that all digital spaces are safe, inclusive, and empowering for young people.

5. WHO

WHO discussed the health impacts of cyber addiction and cyberbullying on children and adolescents, framing digital behaviour as a major determinant of public health. Excessive screen time and uncontrolled online engagement are the major contributors to physical and psychological problems, such as sleep disruption, stress, anxiety, depression, and social isolation. WHO data show that 12% of adolescents are at risk of problematic gaming, while 13% of girls report problematic social media use compared with 9% of boys. Additionally, around 1 in 3 adolescents worldwide has experienced online bullying. These behaviours affect not only mental health but also harm concentration, learning, and emotional regulation, with long-term effects on well-being and development.

The importance of early identification of risky digital behaviours and stronger prevention strategies across health and education systems was emphasised. Practical measures were suggested, including school-based digital literacy programmes, family counselling, and joint work with technology companies to create safer online platforms. Finland’s KiVa programme, which reduced bullying by more than 30%, and Korea’s Youth Internet Addiction Centres, which combine family therapy with mental health support, were presented as effective examples. WHO’s partnership with UNFPA on digital well-being campaigns and caregiver guidance was also highlighted, noting that protecting children online must be seen as a shared responsibility among governments, families, educators, and the private sector. The presentation concluded by reaffirming WHO’s call to build healthier, safer digital futures where every child can thrive both online and offline.



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SESSION 2: Education of Children in the Era of Internet

This session addressed how digital technologies affect children's education, including changes in teaching methods, access to resources, and the roles of educators and families. Discussions covered issues, such as the digital divide, online safety, screen time, and digital literacy. The session also focused on identifying policy actions and strategies to support safe and effective education for all children in the digital era. A Q&A session followed the presentations.

Below are the summaries of each presentation/intervention by the speakers:

1. Iraq

Iraq emphasised the importance of protecting children during all stages of development, from early childhood to adolescence, and noted the country's early ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Efforts are ongoing to enact a Child Protection Law, which includes provisions to prohibit the sale of violent video games that may encourage aggressive behaviour among children and adolescents.

The Ministry of Education has implemented several initiatives to integrate digital tools into learning while ensuring safety and inclusivity. It launched the Government Electronic School, providing an alternative or complementary option for students unable to attend classes in person due to health or geographic barriers. Educational materials have been digitised, and creative programmes such as Hasan and Reem use animated lessons to make learning more engaging for young students. The Newton Platform, Iraq's official e-learning system, serves as a key tool for supporting distance education, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Altogether, these initiatives aim to balance digital progress with the protection and well-being of children in the online environment.

2. Maldives

Maldives shared its approach to child education in the digital era. With Internet penetration exceeding 90%, universal digital access that has reshaped education through e-learning platforms and digital classrooms. Children across remote atolls now benefit from online education, while digital transformation has created both new opportunities and risks.

While digital tools foster global collaboration and real-time learning, they also expose children to threats, such as cyberbullying, grooming, addiction, and harmful content. The government has enacted key laws, including the Child Rights Protection Act (2019) and Penal Code Amendment (2024) criminalizing online child exploitation, alongside the National Action Plan on Preventing Violence Against Children (2024-2028) which identifies "Safer Online Spaces" as a core priority.

Maldives has also established a Child Online Protection Working Group, bringing together government ministries, non-governmental organizations, police, Internet service providers, and UNICEF to share data, coordinate efforts, and run awareness campaigns. Joint initiatives with



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UNICEF and ITU, such as the Rakkaatheri and Beleniveriyaa programmes, promote safer online environments and parental guidance. The Cybersafe Maldives Initiative has also trained 60 participants from 31 agencies to strengthen national capacity for online safety.

Limited teacher readiness, low parental digital literacy, and insufficient national research have been identified as major challenges. Ongoing responses include the National Cyber Wellness Program, Family Digital Literacy Campaigns, and the development of AI-assisted monitoring to identify risks and enhance learning outcomes. It was emphasised that the Maldives aims to make digital transformation a comprehensive and safe journey that enables every child to learn, connect, and thrive in a protected online environment.

3. Türkiye

Türkiye presented the current national education statistics for the 2023-2024 academic year, showing a total of 18,710,265 students and 1,168,896 teachers across 75,467 schools in the country. A significant focus was placed on the long-running Fatih Project (since 2011), an investment aimed at providing equal opportunities and modernizing the learning environment through technology integration. This project includes upgrading school Internet access speeds and equipping schools with technology like interactive whiteboards, with 42,000 additional boards being procured as of March 2025. Furthermore, 4,005 Information Technology Laboratories and innovative classrooms have been established, featuring equipment such as 3D printers and robotic coding kits.

EBA Platform Content, which serves as the core digital content hub, offers a variety of resources, including educational videos, teaching materials, enriched books, and simulations. User statistics revealed a peak in active student users in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching over 10 million, and the EBA mobile application has been downloaded over 48 million times in total. For professional development, the ÖBA (Teacher Informatics Network) provides online training to enhance digital skills, with over 1.2 million participants registered to courses. Looking ahead, the AI in Education Policy Document and Action Plan (2025-2029) outlines four goals, fifteen policies, and forty actions designed to achieve a human-centred, ethical, and sustainable digital transformation in education.

4. Morocco (online)

Morocco shared its national initiative Digital Culture - Protecting Children Online, which aims to promote safe and responsible Internet use among children and youth. The initiative was launched in 2020 by the Digital Development Agency (DDA) under the supervision of a national coordination committee established for this purpose, bringing together relevant stakeholders (line ministries, public bodies, security institutions, civil society, etc.). Drawing on data from the field study conducted by the National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (2022), it was noted that 91% of Moroccan children use the Internet for learning, 79% for gaming, and 70% for social media, with over half of surveyed parents expressing concern about their children's excessive screen time and exposure to inappropriate content.



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In line with the action plan adopted by the aforementioned committee, the DDA has taken a set of awareness-raising measures for the benefit of all relevant groups (children and youth, parents and guardians, teachers, and relevant public and private sector representatives). These measures include the following:

- Preparing guidance manuals for children, parents/guardians, youth/students and teachers, based on recommendations and good practices from relevant international organisations;
- Developing a dedicated digital platform to raise awareness among these groups about digital literacy and protecting children from online risks;
- Producing and broadcasting television and radio spots and short video clips on Internet risks;
- Promoting the use of parental control tools; and
- Organising training courses, webinars, and awareness-raising workshops for the target groups on the Internet and its associated risks.

Among the measures taken, the e-Himaya online protection platform (<https://www.e-himaya.gov.ma>), developed by the Digital Development Agency, raises awareness, provides educational materials, and offers parental guidance on online safety. The initiative also includes national campaigns, digital literacy workshops, and partnerships with international organisations (ITU and UNICEF) to promote best practices for online child protection. Morocco's strong legal framework on data protection and the Child Rights Convention further ensures children's privacy, safety, and protection from online exploitation.

5. *Enstitü Sosyal*

Enstitü Sosyal delivered a speech on how digital habits influence children's learning, behaviour, and development. The concept of neuroplasticity, which refers to the brain's ability to change through repetition, was used to explain why early digital exposure has such a strong impact. When children are frequently exposed to fast and fragmented digital content, their capacity for focus, patience, and deep thinking weakens. Excessive screen use in early childhood can slow language development and emotional growth because genuine learning requires real human interaction rather than one-way digital input.

The speech also drew attention to how adults' own digital behaviours shape children's habits. When parents spend too much time on their phones, children imitate that behaviour, which can weaken communication and emotional connection within families. Protecting children in the digital era begins with adults setting the right example. The Convention on Children's Rights in the Digital World (<https://enstitusosyal.org/en/imza>), developed by Enstitü Sosyal and endorsed by the Republic of Türkiye, was introduced as a framework defining the responsibilities of families, educators, policymakers, and technology companies in ensuring that children are both protected and empowered online. OIC countries were invited to join this effort and support a shared vision for a safer and more balanced digital future for all children.



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6. Turkish Green Crescent Society

The Turkish Green Crescent Society delivered a presentation on the developmental and behavioural effects of excessive digital exposure on children. It was emphasised that early and unmonitored media use can delay cognitive, language, and emotional development. Research shows that toddlers could learn from educational videos only when parents actively participate and reinforce learning through interaction, highlighting the importance of adult engagement over passive screen time. Excessive media use is also linked to sleep loss, obesity, and unhealthy emotional attachment to screens.

The presentation was structured around three key themes: online safety and ethical use, screen time management, and digital literacy of parents. Parents were encouraged to act as role models, openly discuss online experiences, teach privacy protection, and promote digital citizenship. Regarding screen time management, the focus was placed on quality rather than quantity, encouraging tech-free family zones, consistent rules, and shared routines. Finally, digital literacy among parents was identified as a crucial factor for ensuring children's online safety, encompassing technical awareness, information literacy, and digital well-being. It was concluded that technology itself is not the enemy, but the lack of human connection is, and parents should act as companions and mentors rather than controllers.

**SESSION 3: Empowering Families to Address Cyber Addiction
and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age**

This session highlighted the crucial role families play in preventing and reducing cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children and youth. It explored how fostering digital literacy and emotional resilience can help families create safer online environments and promote healthy technology use. The session demonstrated how strong parental guidance, open dialogue, and value-driven upbringing support young people in navigating online spaces safely and responsibly. Participants were introduced to research-backed strategies to enhance family involvement and equip parents to better protect and support their children in the digital world. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session.

Below are the summaries of each presentation/intervention by the speakers:

1. Gambia

Gambia shared its efforts to address cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children. Digital transformation is reshaping young people's lives, with Internet penetration reaching around 46% (about 1.28 million users), mostly through mobile broadband. Despite these advances, rural and low-income communities remain largely offline due to ongoing challenges with affordability and access. At the same time, online risks are increasing, including mental health problems, social withdrawal, academic decline, grooming, and online gender-based violence. In some African contexts, more than half of children are reportedly exposed to child physical



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abuse material, underscoring the urgent need for stronger legal and institutional protection mechanisms.

The National Cybersecurity Policy 2022-2026 and related reforms to the Information and Communication Act (2009) are the key steps toward ensuring safer online environments. Ongoing efforts include public awareness campaigns, digital literacy programmes, and consultations with parents, schools, and civil society. However, there remains a pressing need for new legislation on online child protection, stronger institutional coordination, and the establishment of hotlines and reporting mechanisms. Collaboration with OIC countries and international partners was also encouraged to promote child-friendly Internet governance. Gambia reaffirmed its commitment to protecting children in the digital era and to translating the workshop's insights into a concrete national action plan for cyber safety.

2. Malaysia

Malaysia reported that Internet usage reached 98% in 2024, encompassing nearly all age groups. While digitalisation has enhanced education, communication, and access to services, it has also increased risks such as cyberbullying, online grooming, and digital dependency among youth. Research conducted by National Population and Family Development Board of Malaysia (2021-2023) found that excessive gadget use and cyberbullying are strongly linked to anxiety, depression, and emotional distress among students.

National efforts to strengthen family resilience were outlined through policies such as the National Child Policy and Action Plan 2025 and the Family Well-Being Index 2022, which revealed that 72% of families have rules on technology use and that all parents teach their children about online risks and data protection. Key initiatives, including KASIH Digital Parenting, the PEKA Programme, and the CyberSAFE Campaign, aim to educate parents, teachers, and children on safe and responsible Internet use. Complementary programmes, such as the National Cyber Ethics Module (ESN) and the Child Protection Advocacy Programme, promote ethical online behaviour and reinforce mechanisms for reporting abuse. Malaysia reaffirmed its commitment to a family-based approach that empowers parents, schools, and communities to work together in creating a safer digital environment for children.

3. Tunisia

Tunisia presented its efforts to raise awareness among children and families about online risks. The main goal is to prepare children for the digital age, promote creativity, and encourage the responsible use of technology for learning and cultural development. The Centre combines education and entertainment to help children engage safely and positively with digital tools.

Several national initiatives have been introduced, including the Safe Digital Journey programme, which teaches online safety through workshops, storytelling, and content creation. Other activities include digital story competitions, awareness campaigns, and parental control training designed for both children and families. The Digital Safety Guide provides practical



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tips for parents and teachers while the Digital Safety Ambassadors Programme trains children to share safe Internet practices with their peers. In partnership with the Ministry of Family, a national competition on preventing online violence encourages young people to produce awareness materials. Tunisia aims to empower children as confident and responsible digital users in a safe online environment.

4. Türkiye

Türkiye presented national initiatives designed to promote healthy technology use within families and strengthen family ties in the digital age. It was noted that 2025 was declared the Year of the Family by the President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, to strengthen family well-being in response to the challenges of the digital era. The Digital Detox Campaign was launched to help families manage screen time, rebuild family interaction, and promote healthier digital habits among children and parents.

It was emphasised that digital addiction can negatively affect children's emotional, cognitive, and social development, increase isolation, and weaken family communication. The initiative includes Workshops, community events, and expert-led training sessions for parents on digital balance and child development. It also features the "Parents' Guide to Protecting Children from Digital Risks" and the "Guide to Protecting Yourself from Cybercrime and Cyberbullying", both designed to build digital awareness and family resilience. Türkiye's Family Year activities aim to bring about a digital culture centred on family values, encouraging responsible technology use while strengthening emotional bonds within households.

5. Türkiye

Türkiye emphasised the growing importance of children's media, stating that children's media is the king, and clean content is the queen. It was noted that globally influential content often carries embedded values and messages, making the production of clean, value-based content essential. Drawing from international relations theory, children's media was described as one of the softest forms of power. As an example, the cartoon Ninja Turtles was cited for its unexpected influence on popularising pizza culture in Türkiye. Countries like South Korea have successfully used media to expand their cultural influence, with Japan and the USA also leading in global content production. Malaysia was also noted as a country with strong potential in this area.

The central role of the family was highlighted in protecting children from harmful online content, extremist ideologies, and deviant trends. The Muslim family structure was described as essential for preserving social stability. Family certification initiatives in Malaysia and similar efforts in Türkiye were noted as positive examples. It was suggested that OIC countries could combine shared experiences and best practices to develop content that protects common values and supports families, governments, and institutions, with family strengthening identified as a top priority.



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In addition to media and digital literacy, the importance of financial literacy was underlined as part of a more holistic approach to education and awareness. Integrating these areas would support a more comprehensive approach to education and awareness. Schools and teachers were recognised as key actors in this process, as their awareness and guidance directly influence children's learning and behaviour. The presentation concluded by highlighting the potential for joint projects within the OIC, noting that with appropriate funding, Member Countries could produce high-quality media content that reflects their cultural values and provides meaningful alternatives to dominant global narratives.

6. DIFI

DIFI highlighted alarming trends showing that children spend 6-8 hours daily on screens, with one in three exposed to harmful online content and 45% reporting lower life satisfaction due to social media use. AI-driven engagement algorithms have increased user dependency by 35%, intensifying addictive digital behaviours.

The discussion explored the psychological mechanisms behind digital addiction, such as dopamine-driven reward loops, social validation needs, and parental modelling. It was emphasised that children often imitate adults' screen habits. Excessive online activity leads to emotional instability, anxiety, and identity confusion while also reducing family interaction time by 30-40% and increasing household conflicts. Parents were encouraged to promote digital balance through tech-free meals, shared offline activities, and open conversations about online experiences.

The policy recommendations focused on integrating digital well-being education into school curricula, developing AI systems designed with children's safety in mind, and strengthening cooperation among families, schools, and policymakers. The presentation concluded by stressing that creating safe and balanced digital environments depends on both personal awareness and strong structural measures that protect children's mental health and reinforce family cohesion in the digital age.

7. Turkish Green Crescent Society

The Turkish Green Crescent Society discussed how families can effectively address cyber addiction and cyberbullying in the digital age. Children's extensive internet use increases the risk of emotional distress, academic difficulties, and exposure to online harassment. Cyber addiction disrupts daily life and weakens family relationships, while cyberbullying often goes unnoticed because children fear punishment or losing access to their devices.

Parents were encouraged to act as digital guides rather than digital guards by understanding the platforms their children use and fostering strong emotional bonds. The presentation outlined five key strategies to support families: improving digital literacy, setting healthy digital



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boundaries, promoting open communication, offering emotional and social support, and working collaboratively with schools and communities.

It was concluded that cyber risks go beyond technology, representing deeper challenges of family connection and communication. Strengthening empathy and dialogue within households was emphasised as essential for raising resilient children capable of navigating the digital world with confidence.

8. IIFA

IIFA addressed the growing influence of cyberspace as an inseparable part of daily life, shaping individual and social behaviour while presenting new moral and psychological challenges. Cyber addiction was defined as a behavioural disorder that threatens emotional well-being and family stability, while cyberbullying was described as a form of harassment that causes serious psychological harm, particularly among children and adolescents.

IIFA, also, highlighted its role as the highest jurisprudential authority under the OIC, referencing key resolutions such as Resolution No. 113 (7/12) on the Rights of Children and Elders, Resolution No. 38 (13/4) on Combating Moral Evils, and Resolution No. 256 on Protecting Children from Digital Harm. The presentation called for strengthening digital literacy grounded in Islamic ethics, promoting rational and purposeful technology use, and implementing awareness programmes for families and communities. It was concluded that empowering families through faith, education, and collective action can transform digital challenges into opportunities for moral development and social harmony.

DAY 2

SESSION 4: Addressing Cyber Addiction and Child Protection through National and International Legal Frameworks

The session explored how national and international legal instruments can be utilised to address cyber addiction and cyberbullying, with a focus on protecting children and youth in the digital era. Participants examined existing legal frameworks, enforcement strategies, and the evolving nature of online threats, including psychological and social harm. The discussions also identified legislative gaps, emphasised the need for cross-border cooperation, and underscored the importance of aligning legal measures with cultural and religious values in the OIC countries. Experts shared comparative legal perspectives, regional initiatives, and policy recommendations to enhance online safety for children. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session.

Below are the summaries of each presentation/intervention by the speakers:

1. Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan began by expressing appreciation to SESRIC and the OIC for organising the event, stressing that the protection of children's rights, particularly in the virtual environment, has



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become one of the most urgent issues of current times. Children's curiosity, desire to communicate globally, and enthusiasm for technology make them vulnerable to online predators and harmful digital content that can disrupt their moral, emotional, and social development.

The Law on the Protection of Children from Harmful Information was highlighted, which regulates the distribution and age classification of digital and media content. The law prohibits the circulation of materials promoting violence, obscenity, or anti-social behaviour, and imposes fines ranging from 500 to 4,000 AZN (Azerbaijani Manat) for violations. Information products are categorised according to age groups and restrictions apply within 150 meters of schools and child-centred institutions.

Several preventive measures were presented, including developing child-friendly browsers and safe national websites, and distributing lists of harmful sites to parents. Families were urged to use parental control software, set daily screen-time limits, and discuss online risks openly with children. The most effective protection lies in education and active parental involvement. Families were encouraged to strengthen communication with their children, build trust, and act as their closest guides in navigating the digital world.

2. Bahrain

Bahrain shared its experience in ensuring children's safety online through the Child Protection in Cyberspace Unit (CPCU). The unit was established in October 2022 under the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security, as part of Bahrain's National Strategy for Child Protection adopted in October 2023. It serves as the national authority responsible for receiving and investigating all reports of child rights violations in the digital sphere, while coordinating closely with judicial and social entities.

The CPCU's objectives include protecting children from online exploitation, harassment, and harmful content, raising awareness among families and educators, developing preventive programmes, and enhancing cooperation with local and international partners. The Unit operates multiple reporting channels such as a hotline (992), mobile app, and direct email contact, and ensures full confidentiality for victims. It also established a Child Reception Room designed according to international standards to support child victims during interviews.

Bahrain's approach combines national partnerships with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, and Public Prosecution, alongside international collaborations with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (USA), INTERPOL, and FBI's International Task Force on Crimes against Children. The country also launched public awareness campaigns like the Manar Initiative and Safe Stars Initiative, promoting responsible online behaviour and youth engagement. Bahrain's comprehensive model, which is integrating prevention, enforcement, and global cooperation, reflects its strong commitment to ensuring a safe digital environment for all children.



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3. Bangladesh

Bangladesh shared its experience in protecting children from cyber addiction and cyberbullying. Cyber addiction was defined as the excessive and uncontrolled use of digital devices, often leading to anxiety, poor academic performance, and social isolation. It was noted that 32% of children aged 10-17 who go online in Bangladesh are vulnerable to online violence or digital harassment, and 59% of children in rural areas have experienced at least one form of cyber abuse.

The Cyber Security Ordinance (2025) was highlighted as a key legal instrument criminalising online physical harassment, exploitation, and the circulation of child abuse content. Other important frameworks include the Children Act (2013), the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017), and the National Children Policy (2011), all supporting national child protection efforts. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs leads implementation through helplines 109 and 1098, the Quick Response Team, and large-scale programmes such as the Mother and Child Benefit Program, which reaches more than 1.6 million beneficiaries. The Ministry also manages 8,020 community-based childcare centres, six child development centres, and two street children centres.

Collaboration with agencies such as the ICT Division, Bangladesh Police Cyber Crime Unit, and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission plays a major role in promoting online safety through initiatives like the e-Safety Cell and the Safe Internet for Children programme. A success story was shared in which the national helpline 109 helped a 14-year-old girl remove abusive online content and pursue legal action against the offender. Bangladesh emphasised the need for stronger regulation, greater parental awareness, enhanced mental health support, and multi-stakeholder cooperation to protect children from cyber risks and ensure a safer digital environment.

4. Malaysia

Malaysia shared its experience in regulating online content and protecting children from Internet-related violence. With 97.7% of the population (around 34.9 million people) using the Internet, Malaysians spend an average of eight hours and thirteen minutes online daily, including four hours and forty-two minutes on mobile phones. While the Internet provides many educational and social benefits, it also exposes children to increasing online risks. In 2024, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) recorded 8,339 cases of cyberbullying, removed 1,454 pieces of hate content, blocked 5,026 gambling websites, and took down 224,403 related posts. Reports also indicated that 100,000 Malaysian children were at risk of online intimate exploitation and over RM800 million was lost to scams.

Malaysia's response is guided by the Communications and Multimedia Act (1998) and the Online Safety Act (2025). These laws authorize MCMC to regulate harmful content, protect consumers, and ensure that online service providers adopt safety measures. The Online Safety



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Act 2025 introduces obligations for digital platforms to prevent online harm through measures such as risk assessments, content moderation, child protection tools, and transparent reporting. It also includes 2 new regulatory codes, the Risk Mitigation Code and the Child Protection Code, which require firms to implement safeguards like age verification, parental controls, and privacy protections.

In addition, Malaysia runs the Safe Internet Campaign, a national awareness initiative that educates parents, teachers, and students on ethical and secure Internet use. The campaign focuses on digital literacy, cybercrime prevention, and responsible online behaviour. Malaysia's approach combines effective regulation, strong legal foundations, and public awareness to establish a safer digital environment for all users, especially children.

5. Mozambique

Mozambique shared its experience in preventing violence against children on the Internet. Mozambique has a population of over 34 million, with 51% under the age of 18, making child protection a national priority. The Constitution guarantees every child the right to care and protection from the family, society, and the state. The government has implemented 3 National Action Plans for Children (PNAC I–III), focusing on child survival, development, and protection. These efforts contributed to significant progress, including a reduction in infant mortality from 64 to 39 deaths per 1,000 live births and a decline in chronic malnutrition among children under 5 from 43% to 37% between 2011 and 2023.

PNAC III (2023-2029) prioritises child survival, education, protection, participation, and emergency response, particularly in the context of climate change. Mozambique's prevention and response framework includes awareness-raising for families, dissemination of childcare tools, psychosocial support, and integrated care centres for victims of violence. The government has also prepared a draft law to combat cybercrime and conducted a national study on online intimate abuse of minors in 2021. The presentation identified major online risks such as grooming, non-consensual image sharing, cyberbullying, and exposure to violent or obscene content, affecting the country's 3.2 million social media users. Challenges include limited parental supervision and unequal access to technology among youth. Ongoing cooperation with INTERPOL and other international partners focuses on strengthening prevention, monitoring, and response systems. Mozambique remains committed to putting children first and ensuring a safe and supportive digital environment for every child.

6. ICESCO

ICESCO addressed the growing challenge of Internet addiction and its implications for child protection within national and international legal frameworks. Digital addiction was described as an excessive dependence on platforms such as social media, online games, and messaging applications, which create new forms of interaction but also heighten psychological and social



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vulnerability. It was noted that in 2018, the WHO officially recognised gaming disorder as a mental health condition, underscoring the urgency of the issue.

The discussion highlighted the increasing link between Internet addiction and online violence, explaining that the more time children spend online, the greater their exposure to risks such as cyberbullying, blackmail, and harmful content. Strengthening emotional and cognitive awareness was encouraged, along with integrating digital citizenship and social engineering awareness into education systems across OIC countries. For this purpose, ICESCO has dedicated a special study on social engineering that emphasizes the need for education in emotional and cognitive awareness, by incorporating these concepts into prevention and digital literacy programs, in order to strengthen young people's psychological resilience in the face of online manipulation strategies.

From a legal and institutional perspective, it was observed that most countries still lack clear frameworks addressing digital addiction, while existing laws often struggle to keep pace with rapid technological change. Examples of best practices were shared, including Sweden's approach to digital maturity and rights-based governance, and South Korea's prevention and rehabilitation model grounded in digital health principles. ICESCO has called for the establishment of an international convention on cybersecurity and digital protection, based on several fundamental principles, including prevention and education, shared responsibility, and comprehensive protection of children in the digital space.

This agreement could pave the way for the creation of a powerful tool that will strengthen cooperation between countries and establish a common vision for the protection of children in the digital environment.

7. IPHRC

IPHRC commended SESRIC for its close collaboration in organising initiatives that address key challenges faced by OIC countries, particularly in the areas of child protection and digital safety. It was emphasised that the digital revolution has introduced vast opportunities for children's learning and participation but has also exposed them to new threats such as cyberbullying, online grooming, and digital addiction. These issues were described as undermining children's well-being and fundamental rights under international law. Cyber addiction was recognised as both a public health and human rights concern, with the WHO classifying "gaming disorder" as a mental condition. Reference was made to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its 2021 General Comment on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment, which calls on states to prevent excessive digital use, regulate online spaces, and ensure that children's engagement with technology supports their full development. Corporate responsibility under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights was also stressed, particularly regarding algorithms that promote addictive behaviour or expose children to harmful content.



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The OIC's active role in strengthening child protection frameworks was highlighted through initiatives such as the OIC Covenant on the Rights of the Child and the OIC Programme of Action 2025, which prioritise cybersecurity awareness and child online protection. It was suggested that the upcoming OIC Programme of Action 2026-2035 should give greater attention to cyber addiction, focusing on legal reforms, policy development, and capacity-building measures.

IPHRC underlined that protecting children online is both a legal obligation and a moral duty. OIC countries were encouraged to adopt comprehensive legislation, strengthen accountability for technology companies, integrate digital literacy and cyber wellness into education systems, and provide mental health and rehabilitation services for affected children. It was concluded that Islamic principles of human dignity, family cohesion, and child protection are fully aligned with international human rights norms and should guide collective action against cyber addiction and online abuse.

8. *ITU (online)*

ITU discussed Child Online Protection: Creating a Safe and Prosperous Cyberspace for Children. As the UN's specialised agency for information and communication technologies, ITU works to expand global digital access and promote online safety. Its Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative, launched in 2008, takes a holistic approach built around five key pillars: legal measures, technical and procedural safeguards, organisational structures, capacity building, and international cooperation.

The COP initiative aims to identify risks, raise awareness, develop practical tools, and build inclusive, rights-based digital environments for children and youth. The updated 2020 ITU COP Guidelines, developed with global experts, provide tailored frameworks for policymakers, industry, educators, and children, covering issues such as online privacy, harassment, misinformation, and the digital inclusion of children with disabilities. ITU also delivers training programmes, including Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions and e-learning courses for children aged 9–18, focusing on online harassment, privacy, and misinformation. Complementary tools such as educational web games and mobile applications help children learn about online safety through interactive play and storytelling.

At the country level, ITU conducts national COP assessments and capacity-building activities across several regions. Albania, for example, became the first pilot country under the ITU Global Project, with awareness campaigns reaching more than 950 children and 60 educators. ITU's Industry Connect dialogues bring together policymakers, technology leaders, and civil society representatives to address emerging challenges, including gaming safety and online learning. ITU reaffirmed its commitment to building inclusive and safe digital environments that empower children while safeguarding their rights in the online world.



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9. UNICEF (online)

UNICEF highlighted that while the digital world broadens children's access to information, participation, and education, it also exposes them to serious risks such as cyberbullying, online harassment, intimate exploitation, and screen addiction. Key international and regional frameworks guiding online child protection were discussed, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), General Comment No. 25, the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, the Lanzarote Convention on Child Sexual Exploitation, the EU Digital Services Act, and the OIC Youth Strategy. These instruments affirm that children's rights apply online just as they do offline and call for systems that both protect and empower them. It was emphasised that the Best Interests of the Child (BIC) Principle requires policies that ensure safe digital environments, accessible reporting tools, and design standards that support well-being rather than exploit attention.

Türkiye's legal framework was reviewed, noting that several laws, such as the Turkish Penal Code, Law No. 5651 on Internet Broadcasting, Law No. 6698 on Personal Data Protection, and the Child Protection Law No. 5395, address online safety. However, gaps remain in implementation, particularly regarding coordination among institutions, child-friendly complaint mechanisms, and digital literacy training.

UNICEF outlined its strategic priorities for 2022-2025, focusing on strengthening digital systems, advancing research-based evidence, supporting legal reforms, engaging the private sector, and raising awareness among families and children. It called for balanced approaches that pair safety-by-design principles with digital literacy, privacy-preserving age verification, and regional cooperation to create an online environment where children are both protected and empowered.

SESSION 5: Open Discussion on the Experiences and Challenges of OIC Countries in Protecting Children from Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying

This session offered an open platform to discuss successful policies, national strategies, and community-based interventions implemented across OIC countries to protect children and youth from the harmful effects of cyber addiction and cyberbullying. Alongside highlighting the challenges faced by Member Countries, the discussion showcased innovative approaches in prevention, early detection, family and school engagement, and capacity-building of key stakeholders.

The session opened with a general focus on the challenges and strategies faced by the OIC countries in combating cyber addiction, cyberbullying, and online violence against children, including contributions from Qatar, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Gambia.

Qatar highlighted that digital life has become indispensable but brings risks that primarily families must help mitigate. Awareness and strong dialogue within families are key to reducing harm. Qatar has developed laws specifically targeting cybercrimes affecting children,



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centralising these regulations and complementing them with educational programmes. There is a dedicated department that provides support and assistance to individuals in need as part of the broader protection efforts. Qatar stressed the importance of fostering social responsibility and adopting effective strategies, including behavioural change programmes and technological awareness initiatives. They called for a dedicated hotline to receive direct complaints and a unit to report and remove harmful content, emphasising the need for national and international coordination. The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) was also addressed, noting ongoing cooperation between Qatar's Ministry of Social Development and CSOs, with special focus on vulnerable groups such as children and persons with disabilities.

Iran highlighted that its Ministry of Education has made significant progress in implementing early intervention measures to mitigate harm. The country promotes a comprehensive 3-step strategy focused on raising awareness, ensuring timely detection and intervention, and fostering strong collaboration between parents and public institutions. Additionally, Iran's legal framework provides extensive protections designed to safeguard children. The country provides emergency support lines for victims and has developed strategic guidelines for digital education platforms since 2011 to ensure safe online environments for children. The app, developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, offers diverse learning tools while safeguarding children. Telecommunications companies have introduced child-specific phone lines with access restrictions. Iran stresses the critical role of families in seeking therapy for affected children, despite some parental resistance (around 30% oppose therapy). Research indicates that families practicing non-judgmental communication reduce the risk of addiction and bullying among children.

Malaysia (represented by MCMC) noted that ASEAN countries have developed a best practices handbook that facilitates knowledge sharing and collaboration, which significantly increases effectiveness. Education is a key step in these efforts.

In response to a question (why families tend to resist or oppose therapy) about Iran, the challenge of parental denial regarding children's cyber addiction was explained. Many parents resist acknowledging the problem until it becomes severe. Schools play a vital role in raising awareness, and increased family understanding is crucial.

Türkiye (TRT) emphasised the importance of tailoring awareness programmes to children's levels by using engaging, entertaining methods rather than didactic approaches. The necessity of first educating parents on how to communicate effectively with their children about cyber risks was underlined.

Turkish Green Crescent Society added that families often externalise problems and fail to recognise addiction as an issue early enough, which delays intervention by health professionals. The success of culturally sensitive educational tools such as the "Deprem Dede" animations was cited as an effective example.



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Nigeria acknowledged Iran's content restriction approach but stressed the lack of sufficient technological infrastructure to filter harmful content effectively. Nigeria faces enormous challenges with the prevalence of unsolicited harmful materials like obscenity in cyberspace. National strategies include awareness campaigns, collaboration between ministries, and international partnerships, but filtering remains a key gap.

Gambia described ongoing cooperation with UNICEF in educational initiatives. However, the widespread use of smartphones among children poses control challenges for parents. Efforts are made to encourage parents to provide child-specific devices with monitored content access.

The session concluded with OIC General Secretariat representative Ms. Sokina Said SAIDZODA presenting the draft guidance document prepared by OIC GS to the participants.

SESSION 6: Wrap-Up Discussion and Closing

This session focused on the discussions about and review of the Draft Recommendations (please see Annex-2), which were based on the presentations and proceedings made during the relevant technical sessions throughout the Workshop.

After the deliberation of the Draft Recommendations, the Workshop ended with the Closing Remarks of the representatives of SESRIC and the OIC General Secretariat.



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Annexes

Annex 1 - Concept Note and Agenda of the Workshop

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Rapid advances in information and communication technologies and the broader digitalization of society have reshaped nearly every aspect of modern life, influencing how people live, learn, and communicate. These developments present a wealth of opportunities, from personalized education and more efficient health care services to stronger defence capabilities and entirely new forms of social interaction. At the same time, they introduce significant challenges that range from potential health risks and heightened concerns about privacy and security to complex legal and regulatory issues, as well as profound cultural and social implications.

Cyber addiction and cyberbullying are among the most serious challenges in today's digital space. Cyber addiction refers to compulsive, excessive engagement with digital technologies, whereas cyberbullying is the intentional use of digital environments to harm or humiliate others. Although these problems can affect people of all ages, children and adolescents face greater exposure and are thus especially vulnerable. Such risks can damage their physical and psychological health, disrupt social relationships, and hinder academic achievement. For instance, a 2019 UNICEF survey covering 30 countries, including 11 OIC countries, found that one in five children had missed school due to cyberbullying, and nearly 40% were aware of online peer groups used specifically for bullying classmates.¹

As digital environments become an increasingly significant part of children's daily lives, it is vital to acknowledge these risks and ensure that children are supported, guided, and protected while navigating the digital space. Addressing digital risks in OIC countries is an especially urgent necessity. OIC countries are home to roughly 1.1 billion children and young people aged 0-24, who make up 51% of their total population, whereas this age group accounts for 40.2% of the global total population.² Thus, OIC countries have a critical responsibility to protect young people from digital risks by implementing effective and comprehensive strategies. In this perspective, the international fora drive collective efforts to safeguard children in the digital age. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) affirms children's rights to safety, privacy, and development, both offline and online. General Comment No. 25 (2021) underlines the responsibility of governments, corporations, and civil society to ensure that digital environments protect and empower children. Similarly, the OIC adopted the Covenant on the Rights of the Child in Islam (2005), a guiding document for member countries to incorporate child rights into national laws. Building on this foundation, a new draft convention is now being developed by the OIC to strengthen and update child protection. The

¹<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-poll-more-third-young-people-30-countries-report-being-victim-online-bullying>

²OICStat, 2025.



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draft includes specific provisions that safeguard children against emerging cyber threats. In addition, the OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development provides a platform for member countries to cooperate on social policies, including measures to address risks like cyberbullying and cyber addiction among children.

Against this background, and in line with the implementation of Resolution B/48/MCSD-2/2023, adopted during the Second Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Cairo, Egypt, on 5 - 6 June 2023, a two-day workshop will be convened to address the growing challenges posed by cyber addiction and cyberbullying on children and adolescents. The workshop will gather representatives from national institutions across OIC countries, OIC organs, and other international organizations in the related area to foster dialogue, strengthen cooperation, and coordinate action towards protecting children and youth in the digital space. This initiative also directly responds to the call for enhanced cooperation among OIC countries in developing and implementing comprehensive strategies to protect children from emerging threats, including cyber and drug addiction, online abuse and exploitation, peer violence, and electronic harassment.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- To investigate and highlight the impact of cyber addiction and cyberbullying on children, particularly on their physical and mental health, educational performance, and families.
- To raise awareness of the potential risks and negative consequences associated with excessive use of internet and social media by children.
- To promote the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in combating cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children.
- To facilitate policy dialogue on strategies and measures to prevent overuse of digital technologies by children, including the enforcement of existing regulations.
- To identify effective mechanisms and strategies for responding to emerging digital threats that compromise safety, well-being and development of children.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The expected outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

- Improved understanding among participants of the scope, causes, and consequences of cyber addiction and cyberbullying on children's health, education, and overall well-being.
- Increased awareness of the risks associated with excessive internet and social media use among children, and the importance of early prevention.



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- Exchange of good practices and successful policy experiences among OIC countries and partners in mitigating cyber-related harms to children.
- Enhanced policy dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders to strengthen national and regional efforts in regulating and guiding children's digital engagement
- Identification of actionable strategies and collaborative mechanisms to address cyber addiction and cyberbullying, aligned with child protection priorities and cultural contexts across OIC countries.
- Strengthened intra-OIC coordination in developing child-centred digital safety policies and promoting responsible digital citizenship.

4. ORGANIZERS

The workshop will be organized by the OIC General Secretariat in coordination with SESRIC and relevant OIC organs and institutions.

5. PARTICIPANTS

Representatives from relevant national institutions of OIC countries working in the field of child protection, the OIC General Secretariat, relevant OIC institutions and organs, and other international institutions.

6. LANGUAGES

English **with simultaneous** translation to Arabic and French (official languages of the OIC).

7. VENUE

The workshop will be organized on 14-15 October 2025 at the Headquarters of SESRIC in Ankara, Türkiye.

8. REGISTRATION

The participants are requested to register via the following registration link or scan the QR code below:

<https://bit.ly/2025-WS-Cyber-Addiction>





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9. LOGISTICS

For logistical matters, kindly contact:

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DAY 1: 14 October 2025	
08:45 – 09:15	Registration
09:15 – 09:45	Opening Session - Recitation from the Holy Quran - Welcoming Speeches H.E. Mrs. Zehra Zümriit SELÇUK, Director General, SESRIC H.E. Dr. Amina AL HAJRI, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, OIC General Secretariat H.E. Mr. Nour Osama Mohamed SALEH, Member of National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egypt - Opening Remarks H.E. Amb. Dr. Mehmet GÜLLÜOĞLU, Deputy Chairman, Green Crescent H.E. Dr. Sevim SAYIM MADAK, Deputy Minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye - Family Photo
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break
10:00 – 13:00	Session 1: Health Effects of Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying This session will delve into the multifaceted physical and psychological health impacts of cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children and youth. It will assess how prolonged digital engagement and exposure to online harassment contribute to health-related problems. The session will also discuss the newly emerging health risks associated with evolving digital behaviours and platforms. Drawing on current research and global best practices, the discussion will aim to identify evidence-based strategies for early identification, intervention, and prevention to safeguard the well-being of young people in the digital age. A Q&A session of around 30 minutes will follow the presentations. Moderator: SESRIC Speakers: Jordan, Nigeria, Green Crescent, UNFPA, WHO
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & Prayer Break
14:00 – 15:45	Session 2: Education of Children in the Era of Internet This session will focus on the transformative impact of the digital landscape on children's education, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges arising from expanded internet access. It will consider how digital technologies are reshaping teaching and learning methods, influencing access to educational resources, and redefining the roles of educators and families in the context of digital learning. Key concerns such as the digital divide, online safety, screen time management, and the growing need for digital literacy will be discussed. The session will emphasize the identification of priority policy actions and strategic interventions to ensure that education in the digital era is safe, inclusive, equitable, and effective for all children. A Q&A session of around 30 minutes will follow the presentations. Moderator: SESRIC Speakers: Iraq, Maldives, Morocco, Türkiye, Enstitü Sosyal, Green Crescent
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 18:00	Session 3: Empowering Families to Address Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age This session will highlight the crucial role families play in preventing and reducing cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children and youth. By fostering digital literacy and emotional resilience, it will empower families to create safer online environments and encourage healthy technology use. The session will demonstrate how strong parental guidance, open dialogue, and value-driven upbringing help young people navigate online spaces safely and responsibly. Participants will be introduced to



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DAY 1: 14 October 2025	
	research-backed strategies that enhance family involvement and equip parents to protect and support their children in the digital world. A Q&A session of around 30 minutes will follow the presentations. Moderator: SESRIC Speakers: Gambia, Malaysia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Green Crescent, IIFA
DAY 2: 15 October 2025	
09:00 – 10:45	Session 4: Addressing Cyber Addiction and Child Protection through National and International Legal Frameworks This session will evaluate how national and international legal instruments can be leveraged to combat cyber addiction and cyberbullying, with a specific focus on protecting the rights and well-being of children and youth in the digital age. It will discuss the existing legal frameworks, strategies for enforcement, and the evolving nature of online threats, including psychological and social harm caused by excessive digital exposure. The session will also highlight gaps in legislation, the need for cross-border cooperation, and the importance of aligning legal responses with cultural and religious values in OIC countries. Experts and practitioners will present comparative legal perspectives, regional initiatives, and policy recommendations aimed at building coherent, and effective safeguards for children in online environments. A Q&A session of around 30 minutes will follow the presentations. Moderator: SESRIC Speakers: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mozambique, ICESCO, IPHRC, ITU, UNICEF
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00	Session 5: Open Discussion on the Experiences and Challenges of OIC Countries in Protecting Children from Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying This session will highlight successful policies, national strategies, and community-based interventions implemented across OIC countries to safeguard children and youth from the harmful effects of cyber addiction and cyberbullying. Beside the challenges faced by the countries, discussions will shed light to the innovative approaches in prevention, early detection, family and school engagement, and capacity-building of stakeholders. Moderator: SESRIC
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & Prayer Break
14:00 – 15:45	Session 5: (cont.)
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:45	Session 6: Wrap-Up Discussion This concluding session will provide an open forum for participants to reflect on the key insights, challenges, and recommendations shared throughout the workshop. It will serve as an opportunity for an inclusive exchange of ideas, questions, and experiences, encouraging participants to contribute suggestions for future action. A central part of the discussion will focus on reviewing and discussing the recommendation paper. The session will emphasize identifying common priorities, strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, and outlining practical next steps for enhancing the protection and empowerment of children and youth in the digital environment. The goal is to consolidate outcomes and build momentum for sustained cooperative efforts moving forward.
17:45 – 18:00	Closing Session



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Annex 2 Recommendations of the Workshop

In line with the implementation of Resolution B/48/MCSD-2/2023, adopted during the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Social Development held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 5 - 6 June 2023, SESRIC organised a two-day workshop in coordination with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Secretariat and in collaboration with relevant OIC institutions on 14-15 October 2025 in Ankara. The Workshop focused on strengthening cooperation and coordination among Member Countries by facilitating the exchange of best practices to protect children and youth from digital harms.

The two-day Workshop brought together experts and representatives from national child-protection institutions, OIC institutions, and international partners to address the challenges of cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children. After the recitation of some verses from the Holy Quran, the Opening Session began with the welcoming speeches of the Directors General of SESRIC and OIC General Secretariat, and the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt and continued with the opening remarks of the Deputy President of Green Crescent and the Deputy Minister of Family and Social Services of Republic of Türkiye.

Following the Opening Session, the Workshop continued with the session titled “Health Effects of Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying”. The representatives of Jordan, Nigeria, Green Crescent, UNFPA and WHO made their presentations in this session. The presentations covered how prolonged digital engagement and exposure to other digital harms contribute to health-related problems. The speakers also mentioned about the strategies for early identification, intervention, and prevention to safeguard the well-being of youth in the digital age.

The session titled “Education of Children in the Era of Internet” listened to the presentations of Iraq, Maldives, Morocco, Türkiye, Enstitü Sosyal, and Green Crescent. The speakers focused on the impact of the changing digital landscape on children’s education given the expanded internet access. The innovative teaching and learning methods, new roles of educators and families in digital learning were also discussed during the session.

The first day of the Workshop ended with the session titled “Empowering Families to Address Cyber Addiction and Cyberbullying in the Digital Age”. The presentations by the representatives of Gambia, Malaysia, Qatar, Tunisia, Türkiye, Green Crescent and IIFA highlighted the crucial role families play in preventing and reducing cyber addiction and cyberbullying among children and youth.

The second day of the Workshop started with the session titled “Addressing Cyber Addiction and Child Protection through National and International Legal Frameworks”. The presentations were delivered by Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mozambique, ICESCO, IPHRC, ITU, and UNICEF. The presenters discussed the existing legal frameworks, strategies



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for enforcement and gaps in legislation, the need for cross-border cooperation, and the importance of aligning legal responses aligned with their national contexts.

The open discussion among the OIC Member Countries and other participants showcased best practices and challenges faced in cyber addiction and digital harms affecting the children.

Based on the extensive deliberations during the relevant technical sessions, the Workshop ***recommended to the relevant national authorities of the OIC Member Countries to:***

1. recognize cyber addiction and online violence against children as pressing social and public health concerns requiring integrated, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based responses within their culturally appropriate contexts and current national legal frameworks;
2. develop comprehensive national frameworks and contribute to international ones that integrate child online safety and digital well-being into social development, education, and health strategies, defining prevention, response, and treatment mechanisms;
3. strengthen collaboration among all related national line authorities to develop comprehensive programs encompassing early detection, prevention, and specialized counselling services as well as tracking trending research topics and explore the feasibility of producing the official statistics that address the psychological and behavioural impacts of excessive digital use, including support for victims of online violence against children and guidelines for mental health interventions;
4. include digital well-being, online safety, digital ethics, digital literacy topics within their formal and non-formal education curricula to promote balanced, ethical, responsible and positive skills-enriching Internet use while addressing online violence against children, mis-/disinformation and data privacy;
5. enhance training and capacity development programs for educators, trainers, all other relevant professionals, and the families as well as developing relevant guidance frameworks for the training of the aforementioned and measuring the outcomes of these frameworks, focused on identifying early signs of cyber addiction and addressing all forms of online violence against children;
6. focus on the central role of families in guiding children's online behaviour while teaching or promoting Islamic values and ethics to children through family, designing and implementing targeted awareness campaigns, parental guidance materials, and family digital literacy toolkits that help monitor and protect children in the digital environment;
7. support community-based initiatives to strengthen social resilience against harmful online behaviours and reinforce positive digital conduct;



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8. review and update national policies and programs, and standards addressing legal and holistic approach concerning online child protection, online safety monitoring, digital well-being, and digital dependency while tracking their progress in protecting children from digital harms based on sound assessment mechanisms and indicators;
9. support the families in adopting technological tools and innovations to monitor, identify and prevent online harms to children; and
10. increase cooperation with the OIC institutions, international and civil society organizations to support their endeavours towards ensuring a safe digital environment for children and addressing cyber addiction and online violence.



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Annex 3 - List of Attendees

NO.	COUNTRY	PRE	Name SURNAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1	AZERBAIJAN	Mr.	Imran ALIYEV	Deputy Dept. Head	Ministry of Internal Affairs
2	BAHRAIN	Dr.	Maryam Yusuf ALDHAEN	Head of Child Protection in Cyberspace Unit	Ministry of Interior
3	BANGLADESH	Ms.	Sharmin SULTANA	Asst. Maintenance Engineer	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
4	DJIBOUTI	Ms.	Ilyane Abdoulfatah MOUSSA	IT Project Manager	National Agency for State Information Systems (ANSIE)
5	EGYPT	Mr.	Nour Osama Mohamed SALEH	Member	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
6	EGYPT	Mr.	Ahmed RASHAD	Deputy Chief of Mission	Embassy of the Republic of Egypt
7	GAMBIA	Mr.	Lamin JATTA	Principal Child Protection Asst.	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
8	IRAN	Mr.	Mahdi KHODAVERDIAN	Director General	National Authority for Children's Rights, Ministry of Justice
9	IRAN	Mr.	Mohammad Amin MOGHARAB	First Secretary	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
10	IRAQ	Mr.	Atheer BAQER	Electronic Documentation Manager	Ministry of Education
11	JORDAN	Ms.	Maysoon Mohammad Ali ALHASASNEH	Head of Social Work Office & Family Protection	Ministry of Social Development
12	LIBYA	H.E. Dr.	Faraj ALFIRJANI	Minister	Ministry of TVET
13	LIBYA	Mr.	Jibreel Ben HAMID	Advisor and Director of the Minister's Office	Ministry of TVET
14	LIBYA	Mr.	Mohamed BENEDRIS	Manager of Administrative of Financial Dept.	Ministry of TVET
15	LIBYA	Mr.	Hamed IMBAREK	Manager of Administrative of Technical Institutes	Ministry of TVET
16	LIBYA	Mr.	Abdeladim MOFTAH	Director of International Cooperation office	Ministry of TVET
17	LIBYA	Mr.	Ali Salim ALSUHOULI	Dean	College of EET



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NO.	COUNTRY	PRE	Name SURNAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
18	MALAYSIA	Mr.	Suhaimi SAHREE	Head of Policy Review Dept.	Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
19	MALAYSIA	Mr.	Mohd. Firdaus MAZALAN	Senior Asst. Director	National Population and Family Development Board, MWFCB
20	MALDIVES	Ms.	Madheeha HUSSAIN	Lead Social Services Worker	Ministry of Social and Family Development
21	MOROCCO	Mr.	Noureddin LASFAR	Head of Digital Transformation and Social Department	ADD Morocco
22	MOZAMBIQUE	Mr.	Vladimir Nomier ADRIANO	Head of Department for Children	Ministry of Work, Gender and Social Action
23	NIGERIA	Mr.	Emmanuel Mfon ESSIEN	Acting Director/Head of Youth Health, Mental & Psychosocial Affairs Dept.	Federal Ministry of Youth Development
24	OMAN	Mr.	Haytham Salim Hamed AL KHADHORI	Manager of Family Protection Dept.	Ministry of Social Development
25	OMAN	Mr.	Ahmed Humaid Khamis AL BADI	Asst. Director of Child Affairs	Ministry of Social Development
26	PAKISTAN	Mr.	Ammar AMIN	Counsellor	Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara
27	PALESTINE	Mr.	Basel Ibraheem HASSAN	Director of Child Protection Office	Ministry of Social Development
28	QATAR	Mr.	Hassan Ahmad AL JABER	Deputy Director	Ministry of Social Development and Family
29	QATAR	Ms.	Amna AL KHAYAT	International Cooperation Development Researcher	Ministry of Social Development and Family
30	QATAR	Mr.	Abdulla AL HAJRI	Association and Private Institutions Director	Ministry of Social Development and Family
31	SOMALIA	Ms.	Fadumo Omar ALI	Strategic Advisor	Ministry of Youth and Sports
32	SUDAN	Ms.	Nafisa Ahmed Ali ALAMIN	Protection Officer	National Council for Child Welfare
33	SURINAME	Ms.	Sjovellie Charmaine AMOKSI	Director	KJT Child Helpline



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NO.	COUNTRY	PRE	Name SURNAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
34	TUNISIA	Mr.	Mohamed ZENINE	Director	National Centre for Child Informatics
35	TÜRKİYE	H.E. Dr.	Sevim SAYIM MADAK	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Family and Social Services
36	TÜRKİYE	Ms.	Esra KÖMÜR	Expert on Family and Social Services	Ministry of Family and Social Services
37	TÜRKİYE	Sp. Dr.	Mehtap BİNGÜL	Deputy Director General of Family and Social Services Directorate	Ministry of Family and Social Services
38	TÜRKİYE	Mr.	Mehmet Fatih KILIÇ	Expert on Family and Social Services	Ministry of Family and Social Services
39	TÜRKİYE	Mr.	Ahmet Rasim KALAYCI	Expert on Family and Social Services	Ministry of Family and Social Services
40	TÜRKİYE	Mr.	Fırat GÜZELDAĞ	Head of International Organizations Dept.	Ministry of National Education
41	TÜRKİYE	Ms.	Tilbe Demir DİNDAR	Teacher / OICVET NFP	Ministry of National Education
42	TÜRKİYE	Mr.	Halil Emre SEÇGİN	Teacher	Ministry of National Education
43	TÜRKİYE	Ms.	Gülsüm CENGİZ	Family and Social Services Asst. Expert	Ministry of Family and Social Services
44	UAE	Mr.	Khaled Mohammed ALSHEHHI	Senior Family Rights Protection Specialist	Ministry of Family
45	UGANDA	Mr.	John MUGISHA	Senior Probation and Welfare Officer	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
46	YEMEN	Mr.	Abdulmuez Ahmed Aqlan ABDULLAH	Counsellor	Embassy of Yemen
47	DIFI	Dr.	Khalid AL NAAMA	Director of Advocacy and Outreach	Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)
48	ENSTITÜ SOSYAL	Ms.	Fatma Betül ERCAN	Researcher	Enstitü Sosyal
49	ICESCO	Mr.	Mohamed Hedi SHILI	Director of Legal Affairs and International Standards	Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)



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NO.	COUNTRY	PRE	Name SURNAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
50	IIFA	Ms.	Sarah Amjd H. BADEWI	Director of the Family Dept.	International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA)
51	IPHRC	Dr.	Hacı Ali AÇIKGÜL	Chairperson	Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)
52	ITU	Ms.	Viktoriia OMENLIANENKO	Project Officer	Project Officer
53	OIC GS	Dr.	Amina ALHAJRI	Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs	OIC General Secretariat (GS)
54	OIC GS	Ms.	Sokina Said SAIDZODA	Professional Officer	OIC General Secretariat (GS)
55	TRT	Mr.	Mustafa Bora DURMUŞOĞLU	Advisor to General Manager	Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT)
56	UNFPA TÜRKİYE	Ms.	Mariam Asghar KHAN	Representative to Türkiye	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Türkiye
57	UNFPA TÜRKİYE	Ms.	Yıldız YAPAR	Program Analyst	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Türkiye
58	UNICEF TÜRKİYE	Ms.	Ekin BOZKURT	Child Protection Officer	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Türkiye
59	WHO TÜRKİYE	Dr.	Tasnim ATATRAH	Country Representative and Head of Office	World Health Organization (WHO) Türkiye
60	WHO TÜRKİYE	Mr.	Tufan NAYIR	Officer	World Health Organization (WHO) Türkiye
61	YEŞİLAY	H.E. Dr.	Mehmet GÜLLÜOĞLU	Deputy Chairman	Turkish Green Crescent / Yeşilay
62	YEŞİLAY	Prof. Dr.	Muhammed Tayyib KADAK	Professor	Turkish Green Crescent / Yeşilay
63	YEŞİLAY	Ms.	Hatice Hazal ÇELİK	Clinical Psychologist	Turkish Green Crescent / Yeşilay
64	YEŞİLAY	Ms.	İrem DÖNMEZ	Psychologist	Turkish Green Crescent / Yeşilay
65	YEŞİLAY	Mr.	Ergin BECEREN	Director of International Cooperation and Federation Management	Turkish Green Crescent / Yeşilay