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

14-15 October 2025   **Ankara, Türkiye**

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

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 defense 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

---

[1]https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-poll-more-third-young-people-30-countries-report-being-victim-online-bullying
[2]OICStat, 2025.

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 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.
- 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-centered 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

9. LOGISTICS

For logistical matters, kindly contact:

Mrs. Semiha ABDULLAH INAN

E-mail (preferred): sainan@sesric.org with cc to training@sesric.org

Tel: +90 530 864 50 07

For content-related technical matters, kindly contact:

Ms. Fatma SAYAR

E-mail (preferred): fsayar@sesric.org with cc to mdedeoglu@sesric.org and training@sesric.org

Tel: +90 506 429 96 78