UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES

Child rights and AI: CRC adopts first global framework with partners

GENEVA (29 January 2026) – The UN Child Rights Committee (CRC) has joined force with UN agencies and other international partner to adopt the Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child, setting out the first international framework dedicated specifically to ensuring that AI is designed, developed and used in line with children's rights.

CRC and partners set out 11 priority areas to guide governments, international organisations, businesses and other stakeholders in applying a child-rights-based approach to artificial intelligence, grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and CRC General Comment No. 25 on children's rights in the digital environment.

The Statement responds to the rapid expansion of AI technology that increasingly shapes children's lives, from education and health to online participation and access to information, while also posing serious risks, including discrimination, privacy violations, exploitation and exposure to harm.

In response to the urgent need to address artificial intelligence in the context of children's rights, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and UNICEF jointly led a year-long, multi-stakeholder drafting process to develop the Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Rights of the Child. UN agencies, governments, civil society, academic institutions, and major technology companies contributed to the drafting, including through the *Conference on Child Rights and Digital Environment, including AI* held in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2025. The voices of numerous children from all five regions of the United Nations were given due weight in the draft.

The Signing ceremony was held on the 19th of January 2026 at ITU.

"This Joint Statement establishes the first global, unified position on how artificial intelligence must respect, protect and advance the rights of the child. It builds on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and General Comment No. 25, and makes clear that children's rights must be embedded throughout the AI lifecycle, from the moment AI is designed to how it is used in everyday life," Sophie Kiladze, Chair of the CRC said.

"This new global framework is not about restraining innovation. It is about ensuring that innovation delivers opportunities for children while protecting them from harm, discrimination and exclusion. Now it's about action — turning these words into real protections for children," Kiladze added.

Co-signed by 14 UN entities: **ITU**, **CRC**, **UNICEF**, **ILO**, **IPU**, **UNICRI**, **UNODA**, **OHCHR**, the **SRSG-CAAC**, the **SRSG-VAC**, the **UN Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and Safe Online** and supported by more than 60 organisations, the Joint Statement provides a shared reference point for States, businesses and other stakeholders as they design, develop, deploy and govern artificial intelligence in ways that place children's rights at the centre.

The full Joint Statement is available online

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