



## Resolution No. 9

GA-2021-89-RES-09

**Subject:** Safeguarding children against online child sexual exploitation

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23 to 25 November 2021 at its 89th session:

RECOGNIZING Article 2(1) of INTERPOL's Constitution, to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

RECALLING INTERPOL's long-standing commitment to combating offences against children, evidenced by previous Resolutions directed against the sexual exploitation of children, especially Resolution AG-2005-RES-09 addressing websites offering child sexual abuse material and trafficking of children on the Internet; Resolution AGN/65/RES/9 addressing the production, distribution and possession of child sexual abuse material; Resolution AGN/65/RES/10 addressing the improvement of international police co-operation in combating offences against children; and Resolution AG-2011-RES-05 addressing online child sexual abuse through a legislative global engagement strategy,

NOTING the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which addresses the issue of child sexual abuse by calling on State Parties to take appropriate measures to prevent such abuse. Further noting that General Comment No. 25 (2021) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, on Children's rights in relation to the digital environment, stating that where encryption is considered an appropriate means, States Parties should consider appropriate measures enabling the detection and reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse or child sexual abuse material, and that such measures must be strictly limited according to the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality,

ACKNOWLEDGING the value of encryption to improved privacy, security and the protection of fundamental rights,

DEEPLY CONCERNED about online child sexual abuse, a criminal activity which occurs, and is documented and distributed globally over the Internet in the form of images, videos, written text, and live communication, including through the use of end-to-end encryption (E2EE) services,

FURTHER CONCERNED that criminals use E2EE to conceal their illicit online activities, including indications of grooming, thereby preventing service providers from detecting child sexual abuse and preventing competent authorities from obtaining evidence needed to investigate and cooperate at the international level to resolve cases, arrest offenders and remove child victims from further harm,

NOTING the widespread interest in public safety, and that E2EE providers should design products and services that are inherently safe for users,

HIGHLIGHTING that E2EE providers have a key role to play in taking responsibility for detecting and reducing online child sexual abuse and halting the proliferation of child sexual abuse material, noting the extensive trauma caused to victims through its further distribution,

CALLS UPON member countries to use all available means to urge E2EE providers to put in place mechanisms to comply in an effective and timely manner with legal processes of government authorities, to design digital spaces that are safe for children and to put in place appropriate measures to prevent online child sexual abuse on their services;

URGES all member countries, consistent with national legal frameworks, to make appropriate legislative and policy efforts, including amending existing legislation, to enable law enforcement authorities to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse on E2EE platforms, and to protect children from online sexual abuse and actively engage in international police cooperation to that end.

**Adopted**