***Unofficial Translation***

**Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

In recent years, the world has seen a steady increase in the development of technologies and their use in everyday life.

An unprecedented technological revolution is transforming the economy, government and society in complex and unpredictable ways.

In this regard, there is a need to take timely measures to ensure the rights of the population, including children, in the digital environment.

The Ministry conducts the following work in this direction.

Subordinate organizations of the Ministry JSC “National Information and Communication Holding“ Zerde ”(hereinafter referred to as the Holding) and “International Technopark of IT startups “Astana hub” (hereinafter referred to as Technopark), together with the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF, initiated a partnership on digital governments for children.

The Digital Government for Children Partnership Initiative (hereinafter referred to as the DGCPI initiative) aims to include issues related to children's rights on the agenda of the digital transformation in the country.

In line with the OECD's recommendations, the DGCPI initiative aims to create a platform for collaboration that enables national partners (government, children and youth and other interested citizens, business and nongovernmental organizations, and academia) to promote shared values ​​and broad modernization of the public sector (with greater openness , transparency, engagement and trust in government) through digital integration and end-user focus in service design and delivery, in shaping public policy priorities, and to improve efficiency and productivity.

Including, taking into account the interests of children as the end user of services in the formation of state policy priorities, as well as to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state policy in relation to children.

In September 2019, the UNICEF Children's Fund, together with Technopark, created the “Social Innovation Laboratory” to enable partners from government, corporate and commercial sectors, social and academic communities to jointly innovate and apply people-centered design to provide children and young people with access to public services, attract children and young people, and enable them to express their user interests when shaping public policy based on data.

The goal of the Social Innovation Laboratory initiative is to create conditions for the support and development of projects in the areas of social innovation focused on the interests of children in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The lab will enable partners to incubate, develop and refine technology-based open source products and services for children using the power of big data, and apply artificial intelligence, machine learning, virtual and augmented reality, blockchain technologies and other modern digital technologies.

As part of the joint activities of the Ministries of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, Education and Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNICEF, four key problems related to the interests of children were identified:

1) Improving the quality of education for children;

2) Violence against children;

3) Trauma among children;

4) Family and child poverty.

To solve the above problems, the Laboratory held four open competitions (https://silab.kz/challenge), following which four projects were selected by the Commission consisting of the Vice-Ministers of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, Education and Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan and representatives of UNICEF:

1) Project "Smart Grades" - an application to reward a child for good grades in schools. Certain in-app sponsor rewards will motivate students to study harder and improve school performance. This project is planned to be implemented on blockchain technology;

2) "Kins" is an innovative case-based situational game that helps parents understand their children, shows a "good train of thought" from the point of view of modern psychology;

3) "Accessible Kazakhstan" is an online map with information on the availability of city facilities and services. Open and free data on the map enables children and parents with strollers to navigate the urban space;

4) "Qlang" is a ready-made educational platform that allows you to study with a teacher online, performing exercises on an interactive whiteboard and communicating with the teacher via video chat.

In general, projects were proposed (37 projects) in the following areas:

- 20 projects to improve the quality of education for children;

- 8 projects to prevent violence against children;

- to reduce injuries among children 5 projects;

- 4 projects to support families and children.

At the moment, the selected projects are undergoing the 9th stream of the acceleration program, as a result of which the projects will receive investments with a total value of $ 20,000 to improve and refine their solutions.

The final stage of project support will be the launch of joint pilots at the sites of state bodies and local municipalities.

**The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

The rapid development of digital technologies significantly changed social processes in children and adolescents, particularly how children learn, receive information, find friends, spend their free time, etc.

The report "On the Situation of Children in the Republic of Kazakhstan" 2019 highlights that more than 70% of children in Kazakhstan use the Internet, have mobile phones, computers, which makes them vulnerable to cyberbullying and fraud in the Internet space.

In order to counter and prevent Internet threats, the Government is taking a set of systemic measures aimed at improving the regulatory legal framework in this area, increasing the digital literacy of children and teachers, teaching ethics and safe user behavior.

First, with the support of the parliamentarians, changes and amendments are constantly being made to the legislation in terms of toughening punishment for unlawful acts against children, the standards of special social services in the field of protecting the rights of children are being improved, norms are being developed to protect children from the effects of various negative factors, including from information harmful to their health and development.

The range of national tasks in countering the phenomenon of cyberbullying is presented by the Roadmap to strengthen the protection of the rights of the child, counter domestic violence and address issues of suicide among adolescents for 2020-2023, approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 156 dated March 30, 2020.

The roadmap defines the mechanisms and tools to prevent “Internet addiction” among young people and children, protecting the digital reputation of citizens, monitoring and blocking pages on social networks and the Internet, and involves the introduction of children's SIM cards that restrict access to unwanted Internet content.

Second, the authorized bodies constantly monitor the dissemination of illegal content related to the violation of children's rights on the Internet. If illegal information is revealed, the authorized bodies take measures to block this content on the Internet.

Third, the system of domestic education at all levels within the framework of the educational component provides for the constant updating of the content of academic subjects in terms to incorporate modern requirements for ensuring the safety of children, including the formation of the skills of responsible and safe behaviour in children in the information and telecommunication environment. Large-scale information campaigns are carried out on a regular basis: “I am OFFLINE”, “Safe Internet”, “Protecting children from cyberbullying”.

In addition, in the primary grades, the subject "Information and Communication Technologies" is taught, the basic content of which includes the study of ethical standards on the Internet.

In order to increase the digital literacy of children and parents, it is planned to create an Internet portal "On the security of children on Internet".

With the adoption of the State Program "Digital Kazakhstan", the requirements for the training of specialists in the field of "Information Technologies" have been radically changed and updated. Educational programs are implemented through the use of "Big Data", information security, specialists directly working in the IT industry are involved in the educational process.

Along with this, the professional development of teachers and psychologists of secondary schools on the use of digital technologies is provided on an ongoing basis.

In connection with the sanitary epidemiological situation in the country, recommendations for children and parents "On the protection of children from harmful information on the Internet" were posted on the social media network such as Facebook and Instagram.

According to the Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept of Family and Gender Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030, an Information Course for Parents on Protecting Children from Harmful Information on the Internet was developed and disseminated in social networks.

The current legislation provides for the mandatory provision by telecom operators of filtering services for the Internet resource to educational organizations, defines responsibility for non-compliance with this provision.

President of Kazakhstan in His State of the Nation Address to the people of Kazakhstan from September 1, 2020 announced that the Government within the framework of a law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child, initiated by a group of Parliamentarians of the Republic of Kazakhstan, will consider new norms aimed at protecting citizens, including children, from cyberbullying.