ANNEX: Information on the activities undertaken by the Special Rapporteur from August 2020 to June 2021

1. Country visits

1. Activities undertaken by the Special Rapporteur from May to July 2020, are outlined in her first reports to the General Assembly (A/75/210). Since then, the Government of Montenegro has agreed to a country visit from 8 to 16 September 2021. The Special Rapporteur is grateful to the Government of Montenegro for agreeing to her request. She regrets that due to travel restrictions imposed on account of the pandemic, she was not able to conduct country visits in 2020. She looks forward to agreeing on new dates for the visit to Ukraine which, in consultation with the Government, had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The Special Rapporteur also sent requests for country visits to the Governments of Botswana, Liberia, Mauritius, Kenya, Philippines, Senegal and Tanzania.

1. Conferences, seminars and engagement with stakeholders

2. On 2 March 2021, the Special Rapporteur remotely presented her thematic report on the sale and sexual exploitation of children to the Human Rights Council and engaged in the subsequent interactive dialogue with representatives of Member States and civil society. The thematic focus of the report was on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on increased risk and various manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children. The Special Rapporteur outlined the push and pull factors, protection challenges and good practices, and provided recommendations on measures to address the heightened risks of sale and sexual exploitation of children, both online and offline, during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and the ensuing lockdowns.

3. The Special Rapporteur participated remotely in a number of events and meetings during the period under review. On 4 August 2020, the Special Rapporteur held an online consultation with Geneva-based global network of child rights civil society organisations to discuss the thematic and country priorities and to explore the avenues of cooperation. On 12 January 2021, the Special Rapporteur participated in a webinar organized by the American Bar Association on the theme "Child Pornography: A Lifetime Stigma: Legal Challenges", where she spoke about the obligations of States parties under the OPSC and the global approaches towards the protection of children from sale and sexual exploitation.

4. The Special Rapporteur was invited by the Government of Ukraine to make a pre-recorded intervention on the theme "Online Safety: Contemporary Challenges 2020” at the International Film Conference organized by the Ministry of Digital Transformation in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the European Union Advisory Mission in Ukraine. Her intervention was centred on the fact that online child safety issues are global and international cooperation is vital to address them. The video was released on 19 January 2021.

5. As part of the celebration on Africa Safer Internet Day 2021, the Special Rapporteur was invited by Child Online Africa supported by the ITU Africa, to deliver a pre-recorded statement on the importance of keeping children safe online by implementing strategies for an effective child online protection system in Africa. The event was aimed at promoting an Africa-wide education and awareness on the importance of the Child Online Protection initiative guidelines and raising awareness with governments, industry, educators, children and parents.

6. On 5 March 2021, the Special Rapporteur delivered a keynote address at a side-event organised by Jubilee Campaign at the margin of the 46th session of the Human Rights Council, on the theme of “No One Left Behind: Stemming child, early and forced marriages and conversions of minority women and girls”. The Special Rapporteur stressed the importance of enacting laws that criminalize forced conversion through forced marriages of children and suggested that legislations alone may not be sufficient to address this problem, and that data collection was necessary to determine the extent of the problem to enable targeted intervention, awareness raising and education.

7. On 30 March 2021, the Special Rapporteur virtually met with the Council of Europe’s Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and abuse (the Lanzarote Committee) to discuss her thematic priorities, to identify areas of common interest and to present the key findings of her thematic report to the Human Rights Council on the impact of COVID-19 on the heightened risks of sale and sexual exploitation of children.

8. On 12 May 2021, the Special Rapporteur attended a special briefing organized by the OHCHR B-Tech Project on business and human. The briefing was attended by some of the world’s leading social media and telecommunications companies and was aimed at exploring how they are implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The discussion centred on technology company efforts to respect human rights in the context of Special Procedures mandate holders work and priority areas.

9. On 18 May 2021, the Special Rapporteur presented as a keynote speaker at a meeting on "Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation" hosted by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and contributed to the subsequent interactive discussion with the parliamentarians.

10. On 7 June 2021, the Special Rapporteur contributed as a speaker to the panel on “Shaping digital spaces: Technology solutions to keep children and young people safe online”. The panel was held at the margin of the RigthsCon annual meeting, hosted by AccessNow, a grass-root organization defending and extending the digital rights of users at risk, and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

11. On 17 June 2021, the Special Rapporteur contributed via a video address to the closing conference of the Council of Europe's End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse@Europe [EndOCSEA@Europe project](https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/endocsea-europe), which aims to combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of children online.

12. On 14 June 2021, on the occasion of the International Day and Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, the Special Rapporteur contributed to a webinar organised by the NGO Committee on Migration and the Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, to raise awareness and call attention and action on the vulnerability of children to trafficking in the context of migration, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and the heightened risks created by the pandemic.

13. On 24 June 2021, the Special Rapporteur contributed to the virtual side event on “Ensuring the Human Rights of Children Online: Examining the Role of the Private Sector” held at the margin of the 47th session of the Human Rights Council.

14. The Special Rapporteur sent communications in the form of allegations and urgent action letters on violations of children’s rights falling under the scope of her mandate to concerned Member States and private entities. These communications and the responses received are publicly available in the joint communications reports of the special procedures submitted to the Human Rights Council.[[1]](#footnote-1) During the reporting period, the Special Rapporteur issued press releases, both alone and jointly, to raise concern and call for action on specific thematic issues related to her mandate.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)