**Submission to the Special Rapporteur’s Call for Input on Existing and Emerging Sexually Exploitative Practices against Children in the Digital Environment**

The Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia emphasizes the protection of minors' rights on the Internet, conducts activities to raise awareness about safe internet usage rules, and investigates the causes of sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the digital environment.

Two videos were produced with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency. One video focuses on children's online identity and parental control tools (<https://www.youtube.com>) , while the other addresses information security and preventing the upload of personal data to suspicious environments (<https://www.youtube.com>).

In collaboration with the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia, the "Union of Operators of Armenia," NGO and the CIS Regional Office of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), round-table discussions were held on the topic of "Children's Online Safety" (<https://hightech.gov.am/01> , <https://hightech.gov.am/02> ).

As a result of the development of information technologies, communication channels have been formed and are becoming widespread, ensuring users' anonymity on the Internet, thereby promoting more extensive distribution of sexual exploitation of children, child pornography in wider circles of society. If previously child pornography was available exclusively on the Dark Web, access to which presented a certain difficulty for a wide range of users, then the possibility of an anonymous resource via Telegram and other similar applications is available to everyone who has Internet access, for whom there is no need to have above-average computer knowledge, just download the application. In Telegram and other applications, open groups are created through which the distribution of child pornography materials becomes widespread, encouraging their consumption and supporting the possibility of paying with cryptocurrency to access and view such materials, thereby facilitating their exploitation for such purposes.