



Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Baku Declaration, 1 June 2017

Approved by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, on the occasion of International Children's Day, at its meeting in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 1 June 2017

We the parliamentarians of Greater Europe, gathered at the Parliament of Azerbaijan (*Milli Mejlis*) in Baku on 1 June 2017, International Children's Day, in a meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly,

- i) Aware of the fact that communication technologies are evolving rapidly, permeating all spheres of society to the benefit of many, including children, and enabling various opportunities to learn, participate and socialise,
- ii) Equally aware of the fact that children in particular are exposed and vulnerable to the numerous risks inherent in digital communication tools, including inappropriate and harmful content, bullying, violence and online and offline sexual abuse and exploitation,

Commit ourselves to:

- iii) Promoting the rights of the child in the digital environment within our national parliaments and in our contacts with other national and international stakeholders (government agencies, private sector, NGOs etc.);
- iv) Putting in place and monitoring legislative frameworks for the protection of children from cyber-bullying and exposure through self-generated sexual images and videos, harmful content, online and offline violence and abuse;
- v) Initiating, promoting and monitoring policies aimed at implementing specific legislation at various levels, taking into account the specific needs of children for online protection and safety when accessing the digital world, including at school and within their families;
- vi) Also initiating policies which are aimed at empowering children and their families in the digital environment by helping them to develop awareness of online risks, the capacities to avoid risky behaviour and positively influence their peers, as well as the willingness to report such behaviour to reference persons, in order to protect themselves and others,;
- vii) Involving all stakeholders in the development of such policies, including children themselves through relevant child participation mechanisms, and also families and educators;
- viii) Continuing to promote relevant Council of Europe conventions and standards within our respective countries.