INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU):

The ITU is a telecommunications agency of the United Nations established to shape global policy on information and communication technologies and provide standardized communications procedures and practices. It coordinates the use of the electromagnetic spectrum and creation of technical standards for telecommunication and radio communication equipment. Headquartered in Geneva, the ITU furthers the development of telecommunications services worldwide while overseeing global allocation of spectrum for future uses. In October 2007, the TRA became Lebanon's regulatory representative as a Sector Member of the ITU. The TRA takes its place among 191 member states as well as more than 700 sector members and associates, all responsible for playing a role in the development of the global ICT industry. The TRA plays a role in helping the development of the global telecom industry as Lebanon's regulatory representative at the International Telecommunication Union.

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY (WTISD):

World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May **since 1969**, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.   In **November 2005**, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17 May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/60/252) in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May. In **November 2006**, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, decided to celebrate both events on 17 May as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. The updated Resolution 68 invites Member States and Sector Members to celebrate the day annually by organizing appropriate national programs with a view to:

- stimulating reflection and exchanges of ideas on the theme adopted by the Council
- debating the various aspects of the theme with all partners in society
- formulating a report reflecting national discussions on the issues underlying the theme, to be fed back to ITU and the rest of its membership

THEME WTISD 2009: PROTECTING CHILDREN IN CYBERSPACE:

This year, to mark World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, ITU Council adopted the theme: "**Protecting children in cyberspace**". At WSIS, ITU was entrusted by leaders of the international community with Action Line C5: "building confidence and security in the use of

ICTs". The WSIS outcomes also specifically recognized the needs of children and young people and their protection in cyberspace. The Tunis Commitment recognized "the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the protection of children and in enhancing the development of children" as well as the need to "strengthen action to protect children from abuse and defend their rights in the context of ICT". ITU's Child Online Protection (COP) initiative is in line with its mandate to establish the foundations for a safe and secure cyber world for future generations. The need for COP is clear. A decade ago, there were just 182 million people using the Internet globally — and almost all of them lived in the developed world. By early 2009, however, there were over 1.5 billion Internet users worldwide, and more than 400 million of them had access to broadband. With over 600 million users in Asia, 130 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 50 million in Africa, the Internet is a growing common resource — vastly increasing the dangers online, especially for children. According to recent surveys, over 60 per cent of children and teenagers talk in chat rooms on a daily basis. Three in four children online are willing to share personal information about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services. And one in five children will be targeted by a predator or paedophile each year. The COP initiative — an integral part of ITU's Global Cybersecurity Agenda — was presented at the High Level Segment of ITU Council 2008, where it was endorsed by Heads of State, Ministers and heads of international organizations from around the world.

The theme of this year's WTISD aims at ensuring that children can safely access the Internet and its valuable resources without fear of falling prey to unscrupulous predators in cyberspace.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TRA) INITIATIVE:

After having dedicated efforts in 2008 to support the access of persons with disabilities to communications services, the TRA has taken the step to promoting internet parental protection in 2009, and is organizing in coordination with the Higher Council of Child protection in Lebanon, a round table at the TRA premises on Thursday, May 14th, at 10:30 AM, where Internet service providers, NGOs and members of the legislative and internet committees will be sharing their vision of a protected internet space for children and discussing the necessary measures to be undertaken. The TRA is keen on promoting Internet parental protection. The purpose of the round table is to:

‣ To raise awareness at all levels of the Lebanese society starting from parents responsibilities towards the access of their children to inappropriate websites to Internet cafes responsibilities in dedicating areas for browsing for children

‣ To discuss the technical tools available for parental protection, whether through service availability by the Internet Service Providers or by existing softwares available in the stores

‣ To discuss the Legal and Regulatory Framework and its Enforcement regarding protecting children in Cyberspace

POPULAR TOOLS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN AND MONITORING THEIR NET USAGE

Parental control bar (free) http://www.parentalcontrolbar.org

Parental filter http://www.parentalfilter.eu

NetNanny – monitoring/blocking software http://www.netnanny.com

Trend Micro Internet Security – Anti-Virus + Firewall with Parental Controls

CyberPatrol Parental Controls Software – Anti-Virus + Firewall with Parental Controls

Norton Internet Security (NIS) – Anti-Virus + Firewall with Parental Controls

McAfee Security Suite – Anti-Virus (AV) + Firewall with Parental Controls

CA Internet security suite – Anti-Virus + Firewall with Parental Controls

SpectorSoft (www.spectorsoft.com) – monitoring of PC – Key logger included

Google search "internet monitoring software"

RECOMMENDED JOINT EFFORTS BY STAKEHOLDERS TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROTECTING CHILDREN

Parents

- Get familiar with the Internet, computers and the technology children are using
- Take an active interest in your child's online activities
- Periodically check browsing history
- Avoid placing computers in private places
- Limit computer usage and amount of time spent online
- Discuss safety aspects of Internet usage with children
- Install "nanny software" with filtering and monitoring capability

Service Providers

- Adopt Acceptable Use Policies or Terms of Service Agreements
- Promote safe Internet education and awareness
- Create a parent/children education sections on their websites
- Offer filtered content upon customer request
- Offer subscriber bundled "nanny" software

NGO's, Regulatory Bodies, Government

- Monitor social networking sites, forums and chat rooms for sexual predators
- Cooperation between law enforcement & ISP to shut down illegal activities
- Require public internet access to install "nanny filters"
- Kick start a public children information and education campaign (media & schools)
- Develop an awareness and education website specifically for children
- Introduce Internet child protection legislation