Children Protection in Cyberspace

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), Lebanon

Beirut, 14 October 2010

www.tra.gov.lb

AGENDA
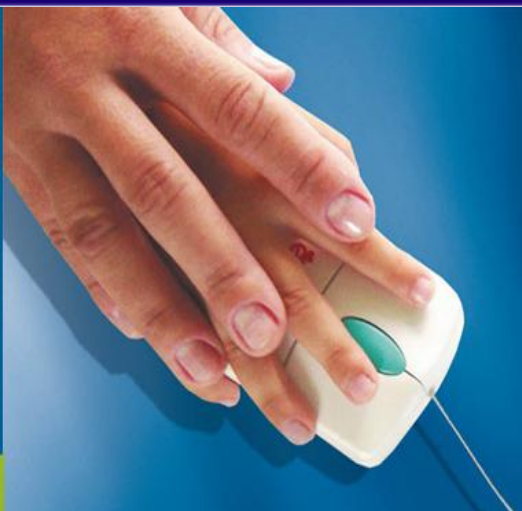
Children, Youth and ICT

✓ Patterns of access & use

Children's Online Safety

✓ Analyzing threats

Lebanese Efforts
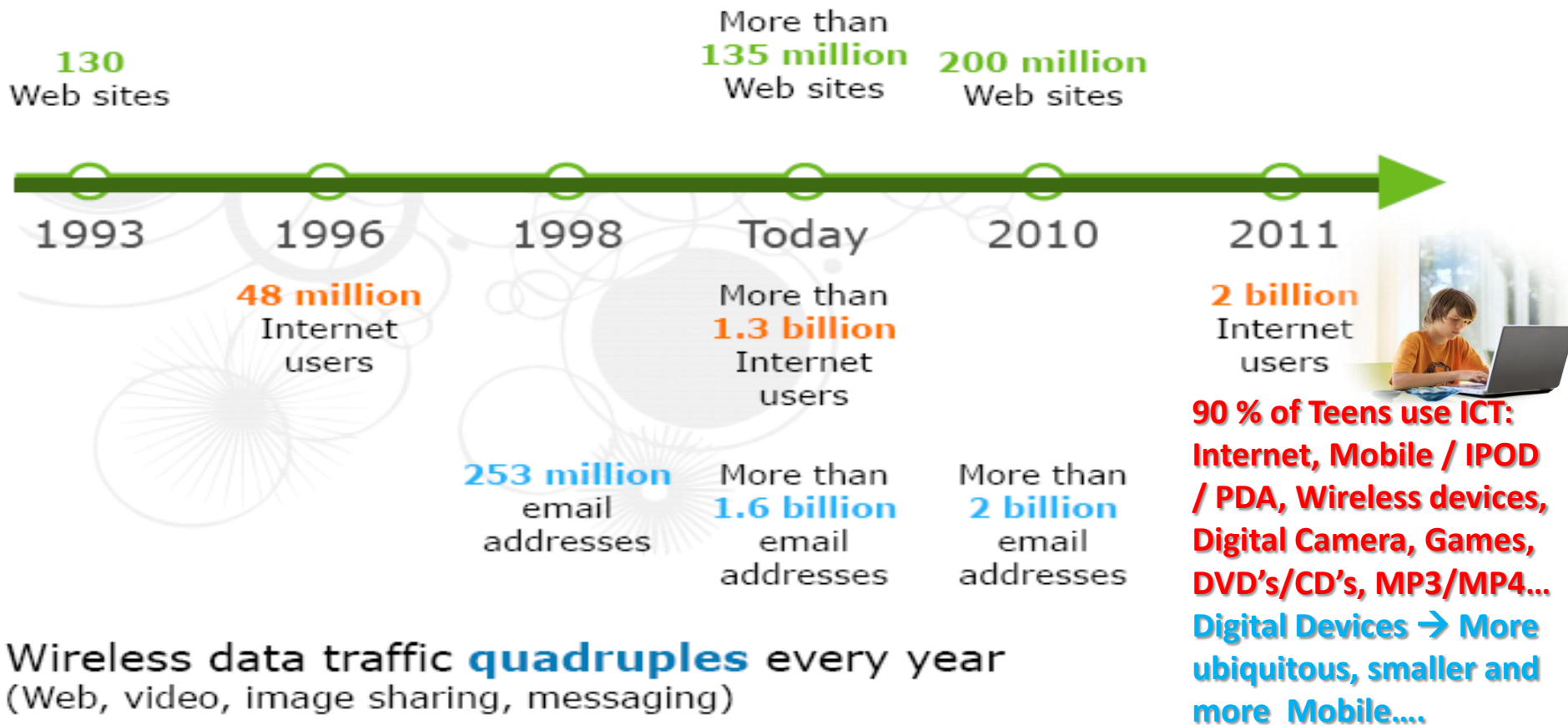
✓ Overview of Children Online Protection

Practical issues

✓ National Strategy Vision

✓ TRA potential role

Teens & ICT

ERA of ICT (AT&T – 2009)

Everything is Moving to IP

			More than		
130 Web sites			135 million Web sites	200 million Web sites	

1993 — 1996 — 1998 — Today — 2010 — 2011

48 million Internet users

More than **1.3 billion** Internet users

2 billion Internet users

253 million email addresses

More than **1.6 billion** email addresses

More than **2 billion** email addresses

Wireless data traffic **quadruples** every year
(Web, video, image sharing, messaging)

90 % of Teens use ICT: Internet, Mobile / IPOD / PDA, Wireless devices, Digital Camera, Games, DVD's/CD's, MP3/MP4…
Digital Devices → More ubiquitous, smaller and more Mobile….

The gap between what Parents think and what their children know is increasing(ITU)

Teens & ICT

Patterns of access & use (Valentine et al., 2005)

"Access to ICT at home is growing rapidly, reflecting parents' desire to provide educational opportunities for their children"…

I have access to a Computer at home… **89%**

"I have a computer in my bedroom…"

41% Year 11
34% Year 9
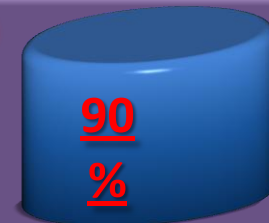**31%** Year 6

Households surveyed…

90% Games console
71% One or more Handheld games machines

I have access to a Mobile Phone at home… **90%**

Children are vulnerable and the cyberspace which they surf daily should be a safe and secure place for all future generations to come.
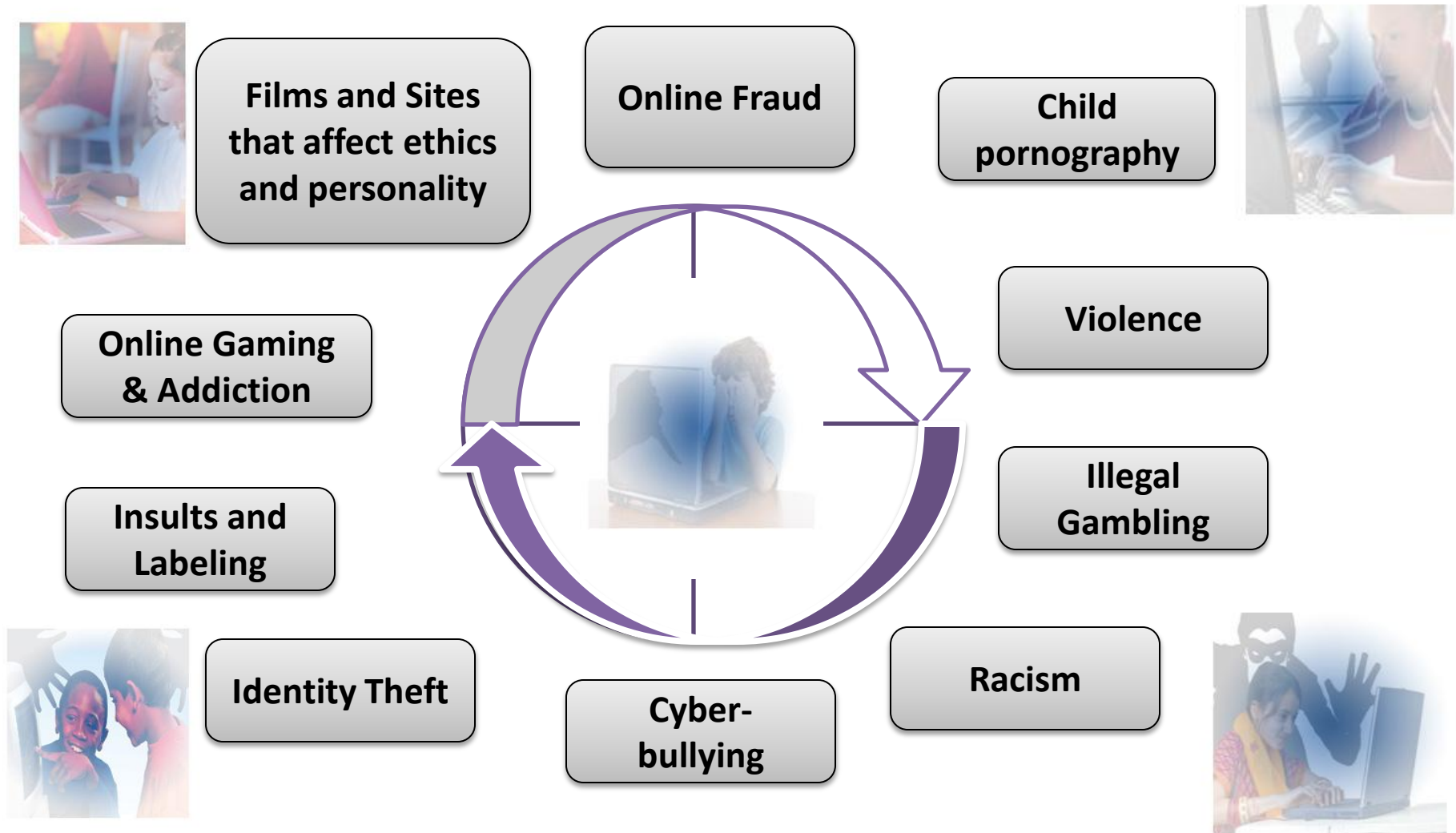
Teens & ICT

Facts from around the Globe (ITU statistics, 2009)

- **In France**, **72% of children surf online alone**, and while 85% of parents know about parental control software, **only 30% have installed it**.
- **In Korea**, 90% of homes connect to cheap, high-speed broadband, and up to **30% of Koreans under the age of 18 are at risk of Internet addiction**, spending two hours a day or more online.
- **In the UK**, **57% of 9-19 year olds say they've seen online pornography**, 46% say they've given out information they shouldn't and **33% say they've been bullied online**.
- **In China**, **44% of children said they had been approached online by strangers**, and 41% had talked to an online stranger about sex, or something that made them feel uncomfortable.
- **Over 60% of children** and teenagers talk in chat rooms on a daily basis
- **3 in 4 children online** are willing to share personal information about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services
- **1 in 5 children will be targeted by a predator or pedophile each year**
- While **30% of teenage girls say they have been sexually harassed in a chat room**, only 7% tell their parents, for fear their online access will be limited and so on...

Children when accessing the internet could be targets of pedophiles, cyber bandits, hackers and online predators.

Teens & ICT

Films and Sites that affect ethics and personality

Online Fraud

Child pornography

Online Gaming & Addiction

Violence

Insults and Labeling

Illegal Gambling

Identity Theft

Cyber-bullying

Racism

Policies and best practices

1. <u>Take actions to enable minors to make responsible use of audiovisual and on-line information services</u> **by improving the level of awareness among parents, teachers and trainers**

2. <u>Draw-up a code of conduct</u> **in cooperation with professionals and regulatory authorities at national and Community level**

3. <u>Adopt a quality label for service providers</u>**, so that users can easily check whether or not a given provider subscribes to a code of conduct**

4. <u>Examine the possibility of creating filters</u> **which would prevent information offending against human dignity from passing through the Internet**

5. <u>Develop measures to increase the use of content labeling systems</u> **for material distributed over the Internet**

6. <u>Explore the possibility of supporting the establishment of a generic second level domain name reserved for monitored sites</u> **committed to respecting minors and their rights, such as .KID.eu**

Policies and best practices

ITU Recommendations (April , 2009)

- **Create Public awareness** in matters concerning the protection of children in Cyberspace, with a clear definition of policies, best practices, tools and necessary resources needed to adapt and use in each country
- **Support efforts** aimed at developing guidelines on the online child protection by policy makers and regulators
- **Identify risks and vulnerabilities** faced by children in cyberspace as ICT technologies (Internet and other electronic resources) are in permanent ongoing expansion
- **Build dedicated containers** of resources for shared use
- **Promote capacity-building** aimed to strengthening the global response to protect children during their adventures in cyberspace

Lebanese Efforts in ICT

The Higher Council for Children Protection in the Ministry of Social Affairs

- **Technical committee**
  - ✓ **develops recommendations on technical solutions (although no final recommendations have been issued yet)**
- **Media committee**

  In charge of:
  - ✓ **awareness campaigns**
  - ✓ **guidance and direction for parents and educational institutions**
  - ✓ **social developments that focus on online risks that children face and the best ways to address them**
- **Legal Committee**
  - ✓ **converts suggestions/recommendations on threats facing children online to the binding legal texts of laws, decrees and other legal/administrative means**

Internet Service Providers (ISP's)

- **Some ISP's have dedicated Parental Control systems that are promoted on their WebPages (at Symbolic fees or free of charge)**
- **Others give tips and hints for parents about buying and downloading children protection tools**

Rate of subscribers using parental control tools is only 0.5%! of the overall internet subscribers at Ogero

Vision of a National Child Online Protection Strategy

Based on international best practices and recommendations

There is a need to set up the Cyberspace Protection Center for Lebanon, which is a jointly Private-Public Administration (PPA) having a dedicated section for online children and youth protection. Other recommendations include:

- **To develop a national strategy to promote the safe use** of ICT, and the dissemination of such "guided" use on all layers of Lebanese society
- **To develop a national strategy to identify all sources of threats and risks** that might face children, not only through the Internet, but that also include all ICT Medias
- **The Establishment of a permanent national cooperation framework** between the government, the public sector, and the private sector to continuously update the protective measures and meet the challenges arising from the ongoing technological advances
- **Making recommendations to the government** for the enactment of necessary legislation and measures
- **Promoting a culture of awareness** that widely explains the foundations of Cybersecurity that are related to risks facing children and minors using any of the communication and information technology means and tools
- **Coordinating and cooperating with other regional and international organizations**, and following up with equipment manufacturers and major ICT solution providers, holding all necessary peer to peer agreements and memos that help deploy appropriate solutions in Lebanon
- **Adopting the recommendations of the European Parliament & ITU** and inspire the models in place by the European countries and developing national policies and ways of application
- **Taking into account in all future legislations children online protection**

Possible regulatory measures to be undertaken by the TRA

The TRA could include special provisions and terms in the licenses granted to service providers, following the consultation with stakeholders in order to

- Contribute to spread the social responsibility and awareness , and ensure the participation / commitment of service providers in the responsibility to draft specific rules of conduct and to adopt self-organization measures to apply these rules

- Provide users with a parental control / filtering system and tools when they adhere to these services and provide dedicated protected services for children / minors

- Conduct advertisements on search engines for the availability of specific hot lines and information on the responsible use of the Internet and build dedicated sections and pages on their web sites to educate parents / children

- Maintain public order and respect for the laws and morals, cooperate with each other and make constant efforts in order to block and prevent illicit sites and activities

- Secure content filtering service on demand, supply special offers for parental control software to users, design and apply appropriate means of protection in close coordination with the TRA

- Adopt / use the necessary protection systems such as robust firewall, Intrusion detection/protection systems (IDS/IPS), anti-virus and anti-spam, and all necessary e-mail filtering systems, protect the confidentiality, security and integrity of personal information and provide access to "officially entitled to officials" when needed

Possible regulatory measures to be undertaken by the TRA

The TRA, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and municipalities may ask owners of Internet cafes to

- **Abide by enforced laws**
  - **Securing protected areas designated for the use of children and minors**
  - ✓ **age verification**
  - ✓ **identity check**
  - ✓ **content filtering and text analysis**
  - ✓ **Checking contents to be used by children**
- **Maintain stored data and traffic** data information and log use in a safe place for a "specific" period of time
- **Provide direct access and necessary facilities "to those legally entitled to" personnel** (having permission according to proper judicial process)
- **Ensure that personal data is**
  - ✓ Appropriate, useful and not excessive and collected and used for the informative use only
  - ✓ Accurate and updated when needed and is retained only for the period for which it was collected
  - ✓ Addressed according to the legal manner and treated in accordance with personnel data rights
- **Take all measures to protect against unauthorized access** such as manipulation / loss of personnel data
- **Protect the privacy of personal information** collected from monitoring the use of children
- **Write a contractual obligation** in which they comply to applied rules related to dealing with data and ensure that above arrangements exist and are in place

TRA believes parents awareness is a critical tool to protect children online and is willingly taking measures to create this awareness as a social responsibility

• The TRA has taken steps to promote children's online protection by hosting round tables and convening internet service providers, software vendors, and NGOs to share visions of online protection, discuss measures to implement, and provide recommendations.

• The TRA is offering information on children's protection on its website (www.tra.gov.lb) and has made several contributions to local, regional, and international conferences and workshops dedicated to all aspects of online child protection in Lebanon, such as legislative, technical, and regulatory issues.

• In addition, the TRA is an effective contributor to committees of the Higher Council for Childhood and is working closely with stakeholders to issue a code of conduct for ISP's and Internet cafes in order to ensure the safest environment on the net.

The TRA is promoting awareness as a critical aspect of developing a knowledge society to protect children online.

THANK YOU