



COSPRA SUMMIT 2026

COMMUNIQUE



COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE CHILD ONLINE SAFETY, PROTECTION AND REPORTING OF ABUSE IN NIGERIA (COSPPRA) SUMMIT 2026

Date: Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Venue: Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria

Convened by: Ndukwe Kalu Foundation (NKF), established by the Nigeria Internet Registration Association-NiRA.

1.0 Executive Summary

The Ndukwe Kalu Foundation (NKF), established by the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA), as a Special Purpose vehicle to give back to the society, *(referred to as her CSR arm)* convened the Child Online Safety, Protection and Reporting of Abuse in Nigeria (COSPPRA) Summit 2026 on Wednesday, 30 September 2026, in Abuja.

Held under the theme, ***“Protecting Every Child in the Era of AI: Building a Safe and Trusted Digital Future,”*** the Summit brought together stakeholders from government, regulatory institutions, law enforcement, the technology sector, education, civil society, child media organisations and other relevant sectors to discuss practical ways of making the digital environment safer for Nigerian children.

The Summit focused on the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) by children, the emerging risks associated with digital technologies, the need for effective reporting and response mechanisms, and the shared responsibility of institutions, technology companies, parents, educators and communities in protecting children online.

The discussions recognised that digital technology offers children important opportunities for learning, creativity, communication and personal development. However, these opportunities must be supported by appropriate safeguards, responsible technology practices and effective systems for preventing and responding to online abuse.

The Summit affirmed that children should be able to participate meaningfully in the digital world without being exposed to preventable harm. It also recognised that protecting children online requires more than awareness campaigns. It demands coordinated action, stronger institutions, informed families, responsible technology providers and sustained

2.0 Context and Plenary Deliberations

Key Discussions	What it covered
2.1 Child Online Safety in the Age of Artificial Intelligence	The Summit acknowledged that artificial intelligence is changing how children learn, communicate, create content and interact with digital platforms. While these developments offer significant opportunities, they also present new challenges for child protection. Participants' discussions highlighted concerns around AI-generated and manipulated images, impersonation, cyberbullying, online grooming, sexual exploitation, digital extortion, exposure to harmful content and the misuse of children's personal information. The Summit noted that the increasing sophistication of digital tools makes it more difficult for children, parents and educators to identify certain forms of deception and abuse. This calls for continuous public education, stronger safeguards and improved capacity among institutions responsible for child protection. It was emphasised that technological progress must be accompanied by responsibility and accountability. Children's safety and well-being must remain central to how digital products and AI systems are designed, developed and used.

2.2 Privacy by Design and Responsible Technology	The Summit highlighted the importance of building privacy and safety into digital products and services from the outset, rather than treating them as issues to be addressed only after harm has occurred. Children may not fully understand the long-term implications of sharing personal information, uploading images, accepting privacy permissions or interacting with AI tools. Technology providers therefore have an important responsibility to create safer digital environments that recognise children's needs and vulnerabilities. The Summit encouraged technology companies and digital service providers to strengthen privacy protections, use age-appropriate safety settings, minimise unnecessary collection of children's data and provide clear, accessible ways to report harmful content. It also stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in the use of children's information, particularly in the development and deployment of AI systems.
2.3 Digital Literacy and Responsible Digital Citizenship	The Summit recognised digital literacy as one of the most effective ways to help children navigate online spaces more safely. Children need more than access to devices and the internet. They need the knowledge and confidence to recognise suspicious behaviour, protect their personal information, identify misinformation, use AI responsibly and seek help when something goes wrong. The importance of teaching children about privacy, cybersecurity, respectful online communication, consent, digital footprints and responsible content sharing was emphasised. The Summit also recognised that parents, teachers and caregivers need regular guidance to keep pace with changing digital risks. Schools and families should be supported with practical resources and training that help them guide children without discouraging them from benefiting from technology. Digital literacy and online safety education should therefore be strengthened through school programmes, teacher training, parent engagement and community awareness initiatives.

Key Discussions	What it covered
2.4 Reporting Online Abuse and Supporting Affected Children	The Summit identified effective reporting mechanisms as a critical part of any child online protection system. Many children may remain silent about online abuse because they are afraid, embarrassed, threatened or unsure of where to seek help. Some may also fear being blamed or losing access to their devices if they report an incident. The Summit stressed the need for safe, accessible and child-friendly reporting channels that encourage children to speak up and enable appropriate institutions to respond promptly. It highlighted the importance of clear referral pathways connecting schools, parents, child protection organisations, law enforcement agencies, regulators and digital platforms. The Summit further emphasised that receiving a report is only the beginning. Children who experience online abuse need appropriate protection, careful handling of their information, access to relevant support services and follow-up where necessary. All responses must protect the child's dignity, privacy and well-being. Children who report abuse should be treated with compassion and should never be blamed for the harm they have experienced.
2.5 Regional Cooperation and Accountability for the African Child	The Summit recognised that online risks often cross national borders, making cooperation among countries and institutions increasingly important. Online exploitation, harmful content and technology-enabled offences may involve individuals, platforms and infrastructure located in different jurisdictions. No country or institution can effectively address these challenges in isolation. The Summit called for stronger regional and international cooperation in sharing knowledge, building technical capacity, strengthening policy responses and addressing cross-border child online abuse. It also encouraged Nigerian institutions to learn from relevant international practices while developing solutions that reflect the country's legal, social, cultural and institutional realities.

2.6 Government, and Regulatory Responsibility	The Summit reaffirmed the importance of government leadership in creating an environment where children can use digital technologies safely. It highlighted the need for effective implementation of existing laws and policies, stronger coordination among relevant institutions and regular assessment of whether current frameworks adequately address emerging digital risks. The Summit encouraged relevant ministries, departments and agencies, legislative committees, regulatory authorities and law enforcement institutions to strengthen collaboration on child online protection. Attention should be given to AI-enabled abuse, the creation and circulation of harmful manipulated images, online exploitation, misuse of personal data and the responsibilities of digital service providers. The Summit stressed that policies and laws must be supported by clear responsibilities, adequate capacity, public awareness and practical mechanisms for implementation.
Key Discussions	What it covered
2.7 The Shared Responsibility of Families, Schools, Platforms and Communities	Summit emphasised that child online safety is a shared responsibility that requires the involvement of everyone who influences or shapes children's digital experiences. Parents and caregivers should encourage open communication and help children feel safe reporting uncomfortable or harmful online experiences. Schools should promote digital citizenship and strengthen safeguarding practices. Technology companies should take meaningful steps to prevent abuse and respond effectively to reports. Civil society organisations should continue to support awareness, advocacy, education and child protection initiatives. The Summit also recognised the importance of listening to children and involving them appropriately in discussions about their online experiences and safety needs. It was emphasised that protecting children should not mean excluding them from digital opportunities. The goal should be to help them learn, participate and innovate in an environment that respects their rights and protects their well-being.

3.0 Recommendations of the Summit

Following the issues considered, the Summit recommends the following actions.

3.1 Strengthen National Coordination on Child Online Protection

Relevant government institutions, regulators, law enforcement agencies, educational authorities, civil society organisations and technology companies should strengthen collaboration on child online protection.

Clear institutional responsibilities, regular engagement and effective referral arrangements are needed to reduce gaps in prevention, reporting and response.

3.2 Improve Reporting and Referral Mechanisms

Relevant institutions should work towards making reporting channels more accessible, visible and child friendly.

Children and caregivers should have clear information on where to report online abuse, what happens after a report is made and where to obtain help. Reporting systems should protect confidentiality and connect affected children to appropriate support and competent authorities.

3.3 Promote Safer AI and Digital Services

Technology companies and digital service providers should strengthen safeguards against the creation and circulation of harmful content involving children. Privacy protection, age-appropriate design, responsible AI practices, effective moderation and accessible reporting tools should form part of their standard operations.

3.4 Expand Digital Literacy and Online Safety Education

Government, schools, civil society organisations and private sector partners should expand digital literacy and online safety programmes for children, parents, teachers and caregivers.

Training should cover AI awareness, cybersecurity, online exploitation, privacy, misinformation, cyberbullying, responsible content sharing and appropriate reporting procedures.

Learning materials should be age-appropriate, accessible and responsive to the needs of children from different backgrounds, including children with disabilities and those in underserved communities.

3.5 Build the Capacity of Frontline Responders

Relevant institutions should provide regular training for teachers, school administrators, law enforcement personnel, civil society workers, counsellors and child protection practitioners.

Training should equip frontline responders to recognise online abuse, handle disclosures sensitively, preserve relevant evidence, make appropriate referrals and protect children from further harm.

3.6 Strengthen Policy and Legal Responses

Government institutions, the legislature and relevant regulators should continue to review and strengthen the implementation of child online protection laws, policies and guidelines.

Emerging risks associated with AI, online exploitation, privacy violations and digital platforms should receive appropriate attention. Responses should be evidence-based, practical and consistent with children's rights and best interests.

3.7 Deepen Regional and International Partnerships

Nigerian institutions and partners should strengthen cooperation with regional and international organisations working on child online protection.

Partnerships should support knowledge exchange, research, capacity building and appropriate cooperation in responding to cross-border online abuse.

3.8 Improve Research, Data and Monitoring

Relevant stakeholders should strengthen the collection and responsible use of reliable data on online risks, reporting patterns and the effectiveness of child protection interventions.

Programmes should have clear indicators for measuring progress, identifying gaps and improving implementation.

Children's privacy and confidentiality must be protected in all research and reporting activities.

3.9 Sustain Public Awareness and Stakeholder Engagement

Government, NiRA, NKF, schools, civil society, technology companies, development partners, parents and the media should sustain public education and stakeholder engagement on child online safety.

COSPRA and related initiatives should continue to provide opportunities for stakeholders to share experiences, address emerging risks and promote practical solutions.

The Summit calls on all relevant stakeholders to translate the recommendations into practical actions within their respective mandates.

4.1 National Assembly and Legislative Institutions

The National Assembly is urged to prioritise the development and enactment of a dedicated Nigeria Child Online Safety Act that addresses the specific risks children face online. The proposed law should establish clear responsibilities, enforceable protections, accessible reporting mechanisms and appropriate accountability for online abuse, rather than treating child online safety merely as an extension of general cybersecurity laws.

4.2 Government, Regulatory and Law Enforcement Institutions

Relevant government institutions should strengthen coordination, improve child protection and referral systems, and ensure timely investigation and response to reported cases. Clear pathways should connect children to appropriate protection, psychosocial support and justice services.

4.3 Technology Organisations and Digital Platforms

Technology organisations must take the Safety by Design principle seriously by embedding child safety, privacy and age-appropriate safeguards into the design, development and deployment of their products and services. They should have child friendly mechanism and support COP initiatives, these measures **must** address the needs of children and young people,

4.4 Civil Society Organisations and Development Partners

Civil society organisations should intensify advocacy, public awareness, community engagement and policy dialogue on child online safety **and demand accountability from tech organizations and platforms on Child online safety**. Development partners are encouraged to provide technical and financial support for sustained advocacy, research, capacity building and child protection initiatives across Nigeria.

4.5 Schools, Parents and Caregivers

Schools, parents and caregivers should strengthen digital literacy and guide children in recognising online risks, protecting personal information, using emerging technologies responsibly and reporting abuse. COP Ambassadorial clubs should be included in the schools' extracurricular activities alongside other active school clubs

4.6 Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)

NiRA is encouraged to deepen its support for digital inclusion and provide computers and Internet connectivity for underserved schools that lack adequate digital resources. Such support would expand access to digital learning while creating opportunities to promote responsible internet use and online safety education.

4.7 Ndukwe Kalu Foundation (NKF)

NKF will continue to expand its child online safety advocacy and empowerment programmes through increased access to funding and strategic partnerships. Priority should be given to scaling up COSPRA awareness and engagement through mini-COSPRA programmes across additional states in Nigeria, reaching more schools, students, parents, educators and community stakeholders. NKF should also advance the proposed Child Online Abuse Reporting Portal and Call Centre in collaboration with the appropriate government authorities and child protection institutions.

4.8 Implementation and Accountability

Stakeholders should identify practical actions, responsible institutions and timelines for implementation. Progress should be reviewed periodically, with subsequent COSPRA Summits providing a platform to assess achievements,

The Ndukwe Kalu Foundation

Having established clear priorities and identified actionable recommendations during the COSPRA 2026 Summit, the Ndukwe Kalu Foundation (NKF) will use COSPRA 2027 as a platform to review progress, assess achievements against agreed commitments, document challenges and identify practical measures to address outstanding gaps. This review will provide an opportunity to evaluate the extent to which stakeholders have implemented the recommendations and determine the additional actions required to achieve measurable improvements in child online safety and protection.

Through sustained collaboration, strategic partnerships and structured follow-up engagements, NKF will continue to strengthen accountability, track progress and advance the implementation of effective and scalable child online

protection initiatives across Nigeria, ensuring that the recommendations of COSPRA 2026 translate into tangible outcomes for children in the evolving digital environment.

5.0 Conclusion

The COSPRA Summit 2026 reaffirmed that every child deserves to learn, grow and participate in the digital world safely.

Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies will continue to create new opportunities for children.

However, these opportunities must be matched by effective safeguards, responsible technology practices, informed parents, capable institutions and accessible systems for reporting and responding to abuse.

The discussions reinforced the need to move **beyond awareness to practical action, strengthen cooperation among stakeholders and ensure that commitments lead to measurable improvements in children's safety.**

The Summit calls on government, technology companies, educational institutions, civil society, parents and international partners to work together towards a digital environment where children's rights, privacy, dignity and well-being are respected and protected.

The Ndukwe Kalu Foundation, with the support of the Nigeria Internet Registration Association and other key stakeholders, reaffirms the importance of sustained stakeholder engagement in advancing a safer and more inclusive digital environment for Nigerian children.

Protecting children online is a shared responsibility. Every institution, every platform and every adult has a role to play in ensuring that children can benefit from technology without being left exposed to harm.

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For the COSPRA Summit 2026

Ndukwe Kalu Foundation (NKF)

Established by the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA)

THANK YOU!

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