Increasing accessibility of new information technologies, including high-speed Internet and mobile devices with Internet connectivity, have transformed societies around the world. Children in particular have increased access to these technologies resulting for them to be thoroughly embedded in their lives.

I will be discussing how new information technologies can be misused and how they can facilitate opportunities to abuse and exploit children. Children can easily engage with strangers and exchange large data files, while the possibilities for parental supervision and monitoring are restricted.

The main forms of information technology facilitating child abuse and exploitation can be identified by observing practices. These forms include: child sexual abuse material; commercial sexual exploitation of children; cyberenticement, solicitation and grooming; cyberbullying, cyberharassment and cyberstalking.

Potential offenders are able to gain enhanced access to victims and to child sexual abuse material through the use of new technologies, which increase their pool of potential victims, offer the opportunity of creating false identities, and facilitate the transmission of harmful content to children. Human traffickers may also recruit new victims, including children, and market child sex tourism through the use of these technologies. New technologies can deliver increased profits for criminal enterprises by markedly reducing the costs of production and distribution of child sexual abuse material. Human traffickers may also carry out their activities primarily, or even exclusively, via mobile phone. The use of mobile phones and the Internet further assists offenders in hiding their identities and concealing activities, thus reducing risk of detection.

Efforts to effectively and comprehensively combat technology facilitated child abuse and exploitation necessitate a multistakeholder approach, including and actively involving children, families, communities, governments, members of civil society and the private sector.