ECPAT International convened the session as chair with participation from other members of the coalition. There were three new members who were added to the coalition this year—Allanah and Madeline Foundation of Australia, Eitesal Egypt, and DISC Foundation from UAE.

The session was well represented by different member categories—Industry (IWF, Microsoft), civil society organizations (ICMEC, Digital Chancen, International organizations (ITU and UNICEF), and government representatives from MCIT Egypt along with non member participants.

The focus for this year’s session was developing relevant indicators for child sexual abuse materials for advocating at higher policy level and within the post 2015 UN processes and brainstorming how the members can contribute in the process. There were three presentations made (By INHOPE, IWF and the Financial Coalition against child pornography) during the session that highlighted the scale and scope of the problem of child sexual abuse materials on the Internet with trends that indicated that in some countries the content is not removed for long period of time even after reporting to the ISPs. The data from IWF and INHOPE reflected on the increase of child sexual abuse content depicting victims under 10 years old and the emergence of non white victims being reported by South African Hotlines. The presentation from FCACP also highlighted the impact of the work of the financial coalition on commercial transactions related to child pornography making it increasingly difficult for traders to do open business using electronic payments. Which also indicated the shift into the more hidden parts of the Internet (such as the Darknets) where the proliferation of the child sexual abuse content is difficult to measure without suitable law enforcement investigations.

John Carr, ECPAT’s newly appointed global advisor on child online safety led the session related to the development of indicators for child sexual abuse materials with the introduction of the situation in UK where the leading law enforcement representative for fighting child sexual exploitation online confessed in public about the explosion of content and increase in offending that the law enforcement is unable to deal with adequately. Reference was given to INTERPOL representative having similar opinion about the scale of the content globally and it was pointed out that unless a suitable way was formulated to capture the data and figures, it would not be possible to approach the world leaders to confront this issue adequately. In the same session another project from ECPAT International was introduced – related to development of International definitions related to child sexual exploitation which was very much
supported by the members of the coalition and expressed clear need for such references.

As a follow up to the meeting, it was agreed that information regarding the process of developing indicators for the child sexual abuse content will be shared with the members and continued through online communications. ITU volunteered to provide an online space for hosting content and resources as well as facilitate online web based communications. Microsoft also shared a survey that they have produced to understand the knowledge of users using their windows platform for security purposes and opened up the possibility of inserting relevant questions that may provide information related to child protection online. This is clearly an area where ECPAT can provide feedback to increase understanding and awareness on child online protection and also gather relevant global data regarding the vulnerabilities children are exposed to while they use the Internet.