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Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children

16 March 2023

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Mister President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and thanks the Special Representative for her report.

The protection and the promotion of children's rights are traditionally Italy's utmost priority for its action at both national and international levels. We are strongly committed to preventing and combating all forms of violence and abuse against them, even the new emerging ones, especially in the digital environment.

From cyberbullying to hate speech and fake news, from sexual harassment to privacy violations, risks online are increasing at a worrying rate and children are among the most vulnerable and exposed to these dangers. The continuum between violence online and offline, highlighted in the report, is also alarming.

Children need special protection online and have to be aware of potential risks. In this vein, last year Italy published a translated version, together with a child-friendly version, of the General Comment n. 25 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ("On the rights of minors in relation to the digital environment").

Madame Special Representative,

Italy joins your call and encourages all Member States to keep the promise made through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs to end all forms of violence against children. It's time to accelerate our efforts to leave no child behind.

I thank you