



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

**52nd session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with UN SRSG on children and armed conflict**

Delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi, Permanent Representative of
Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Chair,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and it reiterates its full support to the Special Representative's mandate.

As witnessed by the most recent events in Ukraine,

Violations and abuses against children affected by armed conflict continue to take place in the world at a faster pace than ever. Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan are just three tragic examples. We call on all States and all parties to a conflict to immediately stop, address, and prevent these grave violations and we urge them to keep engaging with the SRSG and her Office.

We are deeply worried by the growing obstacles to the access to education for children, especially girls, affected by armed conflict, exposing them to further violence, exploitation, and abuses, and impacting on their future. It is imperative to fulfil the International Humanitarian Law obligations in protecting educational facilities and their personnel, as enshrined in the Safe Schools Declaration, that we urge all UN Member States to sign and respect, as recalled many times by the SRSG herself.

Madam Special Representative, how can the Human Rights Council contribute to supporting you in ensuring better dissemination of the SSD and increase the protection of conflict-affected children, especially girls?

Thank you Chair