



Check against delivery

Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

## **55th session of the Human Rights Council**

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

*13 March 2024*

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

*Mr. President,*

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the Special Representative for her report. We welcome its focus on the protection of children on the move in times of crisis.

We agree that today, fifteen years since the establishment of the mandate, a stronger action is needed more than ever. In the framework of its response, Italy has established an Information System for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors in order to collect data about their presence in the country and ensure adequate assistance through locally relevant social services.

Child rights are one of Italy's longstanding priorities. For the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Italy pledged to promote the meaningful participation of children and adolescents in decision-making processes for all matters of their concern, through the implementation of national strategies and guidelines. The development of a new action plan to facilitate their involvement at all levels, within families, communities and schools, is also foreseen.

*Madame Special Representative,*

Data are alarming, with an estimated 333 million children globally - 1 in 6 - live in extreme poverty, subjected to increased risk of exploitation and abuse. What should States do to keep the promise made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end all forms of violence against children?

*I thank you*