



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

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58th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

12th March 2025

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

Mr. President,

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

In recent years, as armed conflicts have multiplied across the globe, millions of children have been forced to endure the harsh realities of war.

The alarming number of minors killed, maimed and abducted in ongoing conflicts is deeply disturbing. We are particularly concerned by the disproportionate effects of conflicts on young women and girls. We also strongly condemn the recruitment of child soldiers, a reprehensible practice that robs children of their innocence, safety, and future.

We strongly support the mandate of the Special Representative and we join her call to all parties in any armed conflict to put an end to all violations against children.

Italy remains steadfast in its commitment to securing a better future for children. To that end, we organized a side-event, together with the Special Representative, on the protection of children in armed conflict, emerging technologies, and WPS principles in arms control. The event also showed that only through international cooperation and collective action can we build a world where every child has the opportunity to grow up in safety and security.

Madame Special Representative, what concrete measures can the international community take to ensure safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to children in the context of armed conflict?

I thank you.