



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 on Violence against Children

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 statement and thanks the Special Representative for her report.

The protection and promotion of children's rights remain a long-standing priority for Italy. We are deeply concerned by the alarming increase in violence against children in recent years, a trend exacerbated by conflicts and crises.

As highlighted in your report, one of the most pressing challenges is the rising rate of child trafficking for various forms of exploitation. We are appalled over this trend, and we deplore the fact that young women and girls are being disproportionately affected, including through sexual exploitation, slavery and child, early and forced marriage.

Italy is dedicated to ensuring that children and adolescents have access to dignified living conditions, and committed to building a world where every child can grow up in safety, security, and with ample opportunities to thrive. Combating violence against children, including child trafficking, and holding human traffickers accountable can only be achieved through strong international cooperation and collective commitment towards a brighter future for children and youth worldwide.

Madame Special Representative, what concrete measures can the international community take to ensure that the trafficking of children does not go unpunished?

I thank you.