



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN GENEVA

HRC 52 – Item 3 - Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children 16 March 2023

Statement by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN and Other International Organisations in Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Malta aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and thanks the Special Representative for her report and for the updates on her country visits.

We join the Special Representative in expressing grave concern at the increase in violence against children brought about by the pandemic, conflict and other crises. The report provides a stark reminder that more is to be done if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals.

Children are indeed agents of change, and they need to be treated as such, especially in matters which concern them directly. Malta supports the SR's call for meaningful and representative child participation in government-led action and we applaud her direct engagement with children worldwide, including through the digital campaign.

The digital environment has given children crucial opportunities for their voices to be heard in matters that affect them. However, we support the SR's call for the need to take additional measures to protect children from all forms of online violence, but also minimise their risk as much as possible.

Special Representative, in your report you mention the need for State collaboration with businesses and internet companies to increase protection of children. What immediate steps can States take in this regard?

Thank you.