



**Statement of Ireland**  
**52nd session of the Human Rights Council**

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*Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children*

**15 March 2023**

Mr Vice- President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Representative for her presentation.

We remain concerned by continued vulnerability of children to violence, which has been exacerbated worldwide by multiple and intersecting crises.

We welcome in particular the Special representative's timely focus on violence against children in the digital environment. Last week, this Council heard directly from children who spoke of the opportunities and challenges they face online. We echo your call for cross-sectoral child and gender-sensitive protection and violence prevention. We also appreciate you highlighting in your report the role of children as agents of positive change.

Your assessment of the risks and violence facing children online makes for extremely worrying reading. Ireland is all too aware of the challenges facing children and young people online.

In this regard, last December, Ireland enacted the Online Safety and Media Regulation Act. This Act establishes a regulatory framework for online safety to protect the public, including children, from serious forms of illegal and harmful content.

The Act provides for a new regulator, Coimisiún na Meán, which is responsible for enforcing the regulatory framework through binding online safety codes and will ensure any online service user has access to an effective complaints mechanism operated by the online service.

*Special Representative, how can States ensure that protective or preventative frameworks put in place are child and gender-responsive?*

Thank you.