

**Statement by Slovenia**

**at the**

**52nd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child (Part I)**

**Delivered by Vid Žveglič, President of Slovenia’s Children’s Parliament**

***Geneva, 10 March 2023***

Mister President,

I am honored to have the opportunity to speak as children’s representative in this important meeting. I am giving this statement on behalf of Slovenia's children as president of Children’s Parliaments.

In today’s world it is very important to think about children’s rights in the digital environment, which is a modern times issue. Child safety in digital environment is not written in the Convention on the Rights of the Child~~.~~ I believe that all social actors must be aware of what the digital environment brings and what are its advantages and disadvantages.

Digital environment is close to children, but is characterized by duality: On one hand, it provides unlimited opportunities to improve the quality of life, enables a greater level of equality and social inclusion of children and is a tool for empowerment and support. On the other hand, it represents risk and increases children's vulnerability.

Digital technology helps us in educational context (this was especially seen during the pandemics), is a tool for accessing information in the broadest sense and is also a tool for engaging in social relationships with peers. But we have to be aware that all digital technology should not replace our face-to-face interactions. Children lack the experience and knowledge about risks and consequences of exposing themselves through the digital environment. Cyberbullying, sexsting, grooming, sexual extortion, hate speech are some of the many different ways children's rights can be abused in the digital environment.

As this is an extremely important issue, I would like to stress that we have to pursue the next following three goals:

-Firstly, all children must receive systemic prevention and protection against digital abuse.

- Secondly, quality online contents must enable children to develop digital skills (digital literacy) and other skills necessary for their safety.

- And thirdly, awareness must be raised among parents and educators about dangers in the digital environment.

Thank you.