*Check against delivery*

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

**Annual full-day meeting on Rights of the Child**

**How legal and policy frameworks for upholding children’s rights in the digital environment can be strengthened**

**10 March 2023**

**Statement by Austria, Croatia, Slovenia**

Mister Vice-President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Austria, Slovenia and my own country, Croatia.

As digital technologies engulf daily lives of children, societies around the world witness benefits and challenges that digital tools bring into their real lives.

Considering the fact that the digital environment that children experience changes dramatically, legal and policy frameworks must be adaptable to stay relevant.

We therefore welcome all efforts by various stakeholders on international and regional levels. The general comment No. 25 of the CRC, the Council of the EU conclusions on media literacy in an ever-changing world and the Council of Europe guidelines and relevant recommendations are some of the good examples.

Our countries believe that full, equal and meaningful participation of all children in policy-making discussions that affect their rights is one-step in empowering children in digital age.

Mister Vice-President,

It is important for children to develop digital skills but it is essential to educate them on the online safety. Most children nowadays have practically unrestricted access to internet while not being aware of its risks.

Providing tools to teachers, parents and children themselves to help prevent cyber violence and harassment and responding in a timely, child friendly manner, creates a safer digital environment and a more positive experience that can contribute to exercising rights of the child.

Our countries are committed to strengthening protection and empowerment of children in the digital environment, including by adapting the legal and policy frameworks, offering psychosocial counseling, raising awareness and strengthening available education and trainings.

*Could distinguished panelists elaborate how can States use better the existing human rights tools in their efforts to develop legal and policy frameworks that prevent risks of discrimination that artificial intelligence can pose to the enjoyment of the rights of the child?*

Thank you.