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54th HRC Session
Panel Discussion on Cyberbullying against Children
Speaker: Ms Giulia GEDDA

Oral statement submitted by
VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development
And co-signed by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

VIDES and IIMA welcome this panel discussion on cyberbullying against children.

We note with concern that cyberbullying¹, digital violence and abuse are indeed increasing in the recent years, also as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

By way of illustration, out of a total of 274 girls, adolescents and young women between the ages of 10 and 19 interviewed in Ecuador in 2021, 3.6% stated that they had experienced situations of violation in the area of digital technology management. The most common forms of abuse include threats of sexual violence, offensive language and sexual harassment.

We recognize that, being at the intersection of bullying and digital technologies, cyberbullying involves some unique connotations of the digital environment that can lead to specific challenges.

Effectively addressing cyberbullying against children needs to put children's rights at the center of all actions to tackle this phenomenon.

Therefore, we call upon States and other relevant stakeholders to:

- **Undertake concrete actions to empower children in the digital sphere, including through their active participation.**
- **Promote the correct use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) through adequate sensitization programs to prevent cyberbullying and digital violence against children.**
- **Protect children from cyberbullying and digital violence in compliance with international human rights law.**

Thank you.

¹ "Cyberbullying" is generally used to describe situations where someone repeatedly and over time uses technology to demean, inflict harm, humiliate or cause pain to another person. As a category of bullying, cyberbullying can affect anyone, regardless of age.