



56<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC

Item 3 – ID on OHCHR report on mapping the work and recommendations of the HRC, OHCHR, the Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council in the field of human rights and new and emerging digital technologies, including artificial intelligence

Geneva, 28 June 2024

Speaker: Chiara Merlin

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di don Bosco**

And co-signed by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for  
Women, Education and Development**

Thank you, Mr. President.

IIMA and VIDES welcome the report of the OHCHR on human rights and new and emerging digital technologies. As highlighted in the report, “The internet is an indispensable enabler of human rights.”<sup>1</sup>

With the rise of digital education, more children and young people are learning online, yet those in economically disadvantaged areas face greater barriers to access. Many young people lack essential digital literacy for navigating online platforms, educational software, and virtual classrooms, particularly among marginalized populations. Cyber bullying, online harassment and rising privacy concerns, especially involving sensitive personal data, are significant challenges for children, adolescents and youth.

IIMA and VIDES support the OHCHR’s recommendation that **States, businesses and other stakeholders should duly take into account and implement the recommendations made by the United Nations human rights ecosystem that apply to the design, development, operation, use and regulation of digital technologies.**<sup>2</sup>

In particular, we recommend to Member States:

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<sup>1</sup> UN Doc. A/HRC/56/45, p.2, § 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*, p.17, § 68 (a).

- 1. Implement laws and regulations addressing issues such as privacy, digital security, hate speech and online discrimination in order to create a safe and secure online environment for children and young people.**
- 2. Develop national educational programs to help educators and young people understand and use information and communication technologies (ICTs).**

Thank you.