



Geneva,  
61<sup>st</sup> HRC Session  
Item 3 – ID with Special Rapporteur on the sale,  
exploitation, and abuse of children  
Speaker: Lucia Actis Alesina  
March 9, 2026

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**

IIMA and VIDES welcome the Special Rapporteur’s report on progress achieved, emerging challenges and the way forward to protect children from sale, sexual exploitation and abuse.

We share serious concern about the misuse of digital technologies to perpetrate these crimes. Online platforms are increasingly used to facilitate abuse particularly against children and youth, with heightened risks in sectors such as tourism and adult entertainment in many countries.

In responding to these challenges, we strongly emphasize that children and young people are not merely victims of these violations, but key partners and agents of change. They must be meaningfully involved in the development and implementation of solutions. In this regard, we welcome the appointment of a Youth Adviser to the Special Rapporteur.

While girls and young women worldwide are disproportionately exposed to digital threats, boys and young men must not remain invisible victims. All children and youth, without discrimination, are entitled to protection and justice.

In this context, we support the Special Rapporteur’s call to:

1. Address persistent implementation gaps through child-centred, gender-responsive and trauma-informed approaches.<sup>1</sup>
2. Introduce compulsory, age-appropriate digital literacy education in all schools and strengthen awareness programmes for parents and educators.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, (23 February–2 April 2026), A/HRC/61/45, § 57 (p), p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*, § 57 (k), p. 19.

3. Enhance international cooperation and cross-border information-sharing to disrupt criminal networks and illicit financial flows.<sup>3</sup>

I thank you.

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibidem*, § 57 (r), p. 20.