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Item 3 – ID with SRSB on Violence against Children
Geneva, 10 March 2026
Speaker: Caten Knopf

Oral statement submitted by
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for
Women, Education and Development**

And co-sponsored by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di don Bosco

Thank you, Mr. President,

VIDES and IIMA welcome the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children. With the surge of digital education, more children and young people are learning online than ever before, yet they face dangerous risks in the online world including cyberbullying. Girls and marginalized young people are especially vulnerable to cyberbullying and online violence.

The growing connection between AI and cyberbullying can greatly increase the intensity of attacks. Many young people lack essential digital literacy for navigating online platforms, educational software, and virtual classrooms, particularly among marginalized populations. Additionally, cyberbullying is persistently underreported; this leads to a rise in abuses, social isolation and can develop into severe mental health consequences for young victims.

Therefore we recommend to:

- 1. Implement laws and regulations that protect the online human rights of children and young people, addressing issues such as cyberbullying, digital security, hate speech, and online discrimination in order to create a safe and secure online environment.**
- 2. Strengthen national educational programs in digital literacy as a crucial measure for preventing cyberbullying, by empowering parents, caregivers, teachers, front-line professionals and children with knowledge and skills and promoting responsible online behaviour.¹**

Thank you.

¹ Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, p.19, § 85, UN Doc. A/HRC/61/38, 24, December 2025.