

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG Représentation permanente auprès de l'Office des Nations unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child The rights of the child and the digital environment Part 1

Luxembourg Intervention

10 March 2023

Mister President,

High Commissioner for Human Rights, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank the Council for having us today and for allowing us to share our opinions. It is a great honour.

When I think about children and adolescents in the digitalised environment, I see them making friends, playing video games and discovering new cultures. But one cannot deny the potential harm of the internet. I am worried about two things: exposure to indecent images and cyberbullying.

I am baffled by how easily children can access adult websites because of the lack of age verification. Or how easily anyone can watch violent videos of people getting shot.

Furthermore, the bullying of children in elementary and high school is truly disheartening to witness. False rumours, threats, and even the sharing of nudes are what children are facing today.

I am fortunate enough to have never had a bad online experience. However, I recognise that this is not the case for everyone. Children are suffering and struggling to share their experiences online with their entourage.

I urge government officials and lawmakers to hold social media groups accountable for their lack of commitment to regulate their platforms accordingly. Schools should introduce awareness campaigns, and online bullies should face the consequences of their actions. I look forward to fruitful discussions.

Thank you for your time.