

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

19 SEPTEMBER 2023

6:30 TO 8:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM 6, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

The role that digital technology plays in our daily lives is continually expanding. One in three internet users globally is a child; and these children are accessing the Internet at younger ages and spending growing amounts of time online. Cyberspace is not designed and regulated with children's safety and protection in mind, leaving those accessing it vulnerable to a range of risks, including those related to sexual exploitation and abuse, privacy violations and the prioritization of profits, which often prevail over safety and protection.

The international community, national governments and lawmakers must take concerted and immediate action to prevent the multiple harms caused to children and society, as well as the proliferation of sexual abuse material on the Internet. A significant milestone was reached when 75 United Nations Member States joined a [Call to Action to remove sexual exploitation and abuse materials](#) (CSAM) in Vienna in June 2022.

Collectively, we can ensure that children are able to safely enjoy the digital world and are protected from any forms of exploitation and abuse.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Welcome Remarks: **H.E. Antonio Tajani**, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy-Prime Minister

Keynote Remarks: **Ms. Amina Mohammed**, UN Deputy Secretary General (TBC)

Speakers

- **Ms. Ghada Waly**, Director-General/ Executive Director of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)/ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- **Ms. Dubravka Suica**, European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography
- **Ms. Caterina Chinnici**, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights
- **Ms. Lianna McDonald**, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Child Protection

Closing Remarks

Dr. Najat M'jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC)

Moderator: **Mr. Emilio Puccio**, Secretary-General of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights

This event will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in New York and co-organized by the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights, the Government of the United Kingdom and UNODC.