

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement by Islamic Republic of Iran

Clustered ID with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on

Violence against Children and children and armed conflict

31th HRC session, 8 March 2016

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank both Special Representative of the Secretary-General for their reports.

Violence against children through the Internet and modern technologies becoming one of the main challenges of the whole world. With many more children using digital technologies for educational and recreational purposes, there has been an increase in social problems in cyberspace, exposing them to different forms of cyber violence.

We concur with the Special Representative that it is a high time to address the root causes of violence against children. We firmly believe that the multidimensional nature of violence requires a multifaceted response.

Indeed, child sexual abuse materials are a gross violation of the child's right and exploits children in different ways. We cannot turn a blind eye to what's going on in the shadows and what is at the root cause of it. We should ask ourselves the enormity of the problem — a pornography industry as a whole that generates billions of dollars each year for their culprits.

From another aspect, like the SR, we consider that prevention and protection measures should be put in place for children as a whole. In this connection, we

call upon Special Representative to disregard the hierarchical categorization of children, which undermines the credibility of such an important and considerable report.

Mr. President,

We have witnessed the proliferation and growth of specific states and extremist groups who systemically violate the rights of the child by means of aggression, brutal attacks or occupation like what is going on in Palestine, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Africa and elsewhere.

In fact, they perpetrate acts of violence against children, launch indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations, target schools and health facilities and abduct children in large numbers. These children are displaced and deprived of their basic needs, education and sanitation facilities.

Let me conclude by highlighting that in our view there is an urgent need for the international community to increase their assistance to the victims and for the Council to establish a fact finding mission to investigate promptly the severe crimes committed against children in situations of armed conflict and bring the offenders to justice.

Thank you,
