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55th Session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Geneva, 12 March 2024

Joint Statement by UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP

Thank you, Mr. President.

This statement is delivered on behalf of UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP.

We thank the Special Rapporteur for highlighting the critical contributions of child and young human rights defenders.

We are deeply concerned by the increasing threats against child and young human rights defenders, including digital threats, hate speech and misinformation, and disproportionate attacks against girls, children and young people with a disability, and children and youth identified as LGBTQIA.

Yet, child and young human rights defenders continue to mobilize and stand up for their rights and those of their communities. Despite a shrinking civic space, bureaucratic restrictions, lack of recognition of their autonomy and voice, persistent age- and gender-based discrimination, and insufficient resources, they are applying new and innovative strategies to push forward for human rights. These strategies and practices must be amplified so they can be replicated by others facing similar challenges.

UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP welcome the Special Rapporteur's recommendations. We remain ready to support States in their implementation to ensure that the rights of child and young human rights defenders are safeguarded and protected.



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Dear Special Rapporteur,

What can we do jointly to ensure an enabling and safe environment for the meaningful participation of child and young human rights defenders here in the Human Rights Council?

Thank you.