Mr. President, Excellencies,
My name is Niraphorn, and I am a 22-year-old human rights defender. I deliver this statement in consultation with other child and youth defenders in the room today.

Madam Rapporteur,
We are excited to see your report to the Council as a first of its kind in recognizing child and young human rights defenders at the forefront of many social justice movements. But our work comes at a cost.

In the United Kingdom, the ‘Prevent’ programme has a chilling effect on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly for child and young human rights defenders, especially Muslim and Neurodiverse children.¹

In Ecuador, only two weeks ago a child climate defender was intimidated in her home due to her activism against routine gas flaring.²

In Thailand where I am from, more than 1600 people, including myself and almost 300 children, have been criminally charged for exercising freedom of expression in both offline and online protests.³ Many have been subject to targeted digital surveillance and the authorities have failed to adequately investigate complaints.⁴ Young women and LGBTI defenders like me suffered violations of our right to privacy. Many of us fear having our private data breached through arbitrary surveillance and it being used to discredit our peaceful activism.

Madam Rapporteur,
In your report you highlight the important need to strengthen digital protection and security with regards to online human rights violations. What else should this Council do to create a digitally secure society where child and young human rights defenders feel empowered and safe to claim their rights?

Let us, as young people and the new generation, collaborate with other generations to design a digitally safe, inclusive, and respectful world for everyone.

Thank you.

*An abridged version of this statement was delivered by Niraphorn, a 22-year-old human rights defender, to the interactive dialogue with the UN Sepecial Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders at the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council.