NATIONS UNIES
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HAUT-COMMISSARIAT

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

16 February 2017

Madam,

I have the pleasure to write to you in reference to the Human Rights Council Resolution 32/13, adopted on 1 July 2016, on "The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet".

In 2014 the Committee on the Rights of the Child organised a Day of General Discussion on the "Digital media and children's rights", to better understand the effects of children's engagement with social media as well as information and communications technologies (ICT), to understand the impact on and role of children's rights in this area, and develop rights-based strategies to maximize the online opportunities for children while protecting them from risks and possible harm.

In this regard, I would like to submit the report of the 2014 Day of General Discussion[1] as a contribution to include children's rights in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective.

I would also like to refer to the Committee's General Comment No. 20, adopted in 2016, on the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence,[2] in particular its paragraphs 2, 6, 10, 12, 23, 24, 37 (f), 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 59 and 75, highlighting the importance of digital technology in children's lives and measures States parties need to take to protect and promote their rights, without distinction between boys and girls.

Benyam Dawit Mezmur
Chairperson
Committee on the Rights of the Child
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[1] Available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2014/DGD_report.pdf
[2] Available at https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/404/44/PDF/G1640444.pdf?OpenElement