



**22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council  
Item 6 of the Agenda: General Debate  
March 15, 2013**

**Joint Oral Statement**

**Submitted by**

**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**

**and co-signed by**

**Association Points-Coeur**

**Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII**

**Compagnie des Filles de la Charité de St Vincent de Paul**

**Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)**

**Edmund Rice International**

**Fédération Internationale de l'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture**

**Franciscans International**

**Good Neighbors International**

**International Catholic Child Bureau**

**International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development**

**Marist International Solidarity Foundation**

**Mouvement International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants**

**Save the Children**

Thank you Mr. President.

**IIMA, on behalf of this coalition of 13 NGOs,** welcomes the commitment of Member States to the UPR process in compliance with GA resolution 60/251 (2006) and HRC resolution 5/1 (2007). We acknowledge the great progress achieved so far in ensuring the effective functioning of this mechanism, despite new challenges raised by the second UPR cycle in terms of continuity and implementation of State commitments.

On the other hand, Civil Society Organizations have shown an equally significant interest in and commitment to the UPR, as proven by the increased number of individual and joint submissions and NGO continued participation in all steps of the process.

However, we would like to stress two key steps that can favor full and effective participation of Civil Society Organizations in the UPR process:

- 1) **Clarity and time frame for communication of Acceptance or Rejection of UPR Working Group recommendations by the State under review.** While HRC resolution 16/21 establishes that the State under review should communicate its positions on all received recommendations “prior to the Council plenary”<sup>1</sup>, we strongly encourage all Member States to follow the best practice carried out by some States to clearly communicate its position reasonably in advance of the Consideration of UPR Reports under item 6 of the Human Rights Council. In fact, the respect of clarity and reasonable delay criteria is required for an effective and fruitful debate with Civil Society Organizations.
- 2) **Universal participation of Member States in the UPR Process.** In accordance with GA resolution 60/251<sup>2</sup>, we strongly encourage all States to comply with their obligations within the Universal Periodic Review and to constructively engage in the review process.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 16/21 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 April 2011, Annex, § 16, UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/16/21.

<sup>2</sup> GA resolution 60/251 provides that the Council shall “Undertake a universal periodic review, [...], of the fulfillment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States”. See Resolution 60/251 adopted by the General Assembly on 3 April 2006, § 5 (e), UN Doc. A/RES/60/251.