



**Human Rights Council**  
**28<sup>th</sup> session**  
**Item 6: UPR Madagascar**  
**19 March 2015**



*Speaker: Ms. Maria Verwoerd*

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Mr. President,

Franciscans International, IIMA, VIDES International, and Apprentis d'Auteuil welcome Madagascar's support to a significant number of recommendations made by Member States during its second review under the UPR. We would like to call attention to recommendations that have particular relevance for the rights of children, and highlight the under-exposed vulnerability of children in street situations.

We appreciate Madagascar's support of recommendations to provide free education for all, particularly their commitment to addressing the girls and children who had dropped out of school during the political crisis. As Madagascar committed to ensuring free education in the first UPR cycle, we strongly encourage the government to move forward and implement these recommendations. Currently, primary education is not free, as fees are often requested from parents to compensate for teachers' low wages. In order to effectively guarantee the right to education for all Malagasy children, we urge the government to give particular consideration to the most vulnerable children and to the overall quality of the education system.

We share the serious concern expressed by Mexico about the protection of children in street situations.<sup>1</sup> We express regret that this issue did not receive significant attention during the review as many of these children are deprived of their basic social and economic rights, and are exposed to discrimination and abuse. In line with the recommendation made by Turkey,<sup>2</sup> we call on Madagascar to develop a coherent and efficient child protection system. The government should support children and their families living on the street in educational, social and economic terms, and continue reintegration programmes in collaboration with non-governmental organisations.

We are convinced that birth registration is a prerequisite for guaranteeing children's rights, and hence welcome Madagascar's intention to improve the civil registration service.<sup>3</sup> In fulfilling the commitment of registering all children at birth, we would like to point the government to the existing disparity between rural and urban areas, and to lower registration rates among the poorest households.

Thank you Mr. President

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation by Mexico: "Reinforce the National Committee for the Protection of the Child to enhance its ability to protect the rights of the child, especially street children."

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations by Turkey: "Consider the elaboration of a national policy for the child, which encompasses health, culture and sports."

<sup>3</sup> Recommendation by Turkey: "Step up efforts to improve the civil registration service so that all children will be registered at birth."