



45th Session of the HRC
Item 6 - Geneva, 28th September 2020
Speaker: Maria Lilian Espedilla

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice
And co-signed by
VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Edmund Rice International
New Humanity
MIAMSI - Mouvement International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants

Thank You Madame President,

IIMA, on behalf of this coalition, commends the government of Kenya for accepting the majority of the UPR recommendations, especially those promoting the right to education and eradicating human trafficking. The COVID-19 Pandemic has made even more urgent the undertaking of concrete measures to especially protect the rights of children and young people.

Concerning the right to education, we welcome the acceptance of several recommendations¹ addressing existing challenges especially in the access and quality of education. **In accordance with Recommendations No. 142.208, 212 and 215², we call on Kenya to:**

¹ UPR Recommendations No. 142.59, 191, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222 and 223.

² **142.208** Intensify efforts in the field of education to ensure access to quality education for all, especially for rural populations (Djibouti); **142.212** Consider taking further measures to increase the number of girls and women in secondary and higher education, including through specific measures aimed at ensuring adequate access to education for girls with disabilities (Bulgaria); **142.215** Continue efforts to address access to education by children living in rural areas by ensuring adequate infrastructure and educational resources (Myanmar);

- 1. Continue its efforts to ensure the accessibility of education for all especially for children living in rural areas and for vulnerable girls-- victims of gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and early marriage.**
- 2. Enhance the delivery of quality, inclusive and free public primary and secondary education, by increasing the budget allocation, providing teachers' training and adequate facilities and infrastructures.**

Despite the government's efforts to combat human trafficking, we remain alarmed of the rise of online trafficking, recruitment and exploitation of children. This is further aggravated by the fact that due to the pandemic, children have increased the use of the internet and are therefore more exposed to online abuses.

In accordance with the Recommendations No. 142.171, 172, and 229,³ we call on Kenya to:

- 1. Strengthen national policies and programs for the protection and rehabilitation of children, youth and women victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and violence.**
- 2. Take appropriate measures to investigate cases and prosecute perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.**

Thank you.

³ **142.171** Establish and implement minimum standards ensuring the protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking (Germany); **142.172** Take further steps in combating trafficking in persons and provide sufficient protection to victims of trafficking (Indonesia); **142.229** Continue the fight against discrimination and violence against women and children, including trafficking, forced labour and domestic abuse, and improve reporting and the bringing to justice of perpetrators of such acts (Poland)