



45th Session of the HRC
Item 6 - Geneva, 28th September 2020
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Oral statement submitted by
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education
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And co-signed by
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VIDES on behalf of this coalition commends the constructive participation of Lesotho in its third UPR.

We welcome the acceptance of recommendations 109¹ and 113², aiming to make primary education inclusive, compulsory, and free for all. However, we are deeply concerned with the dropout and low enrollment rates in secondary schools, reported at 56% in 2017³, and disproportionately affecting children living in rural areas. Additionally, hidden fees in primary education and high fees for secondary education, exclude disadvantaged children in realizing their right to education⁴.

Moreover, we welcome the acceptance of Recommendation 152⁵ to combat the elimination of child labor. However, children in Lesotho continue to be exposed to the worst forms of child exploitation including herding, domestic work and sexual exploitation⁶.

¹ Recommendation No. 110.109. "Maintain and intensify all measures to enhance the right to education for all and organize outreach campaigns to promote increased access for children in rural areas (Djibouti)". See Report of the Working Group p. 16 UN Doc. A/HRC/44/8, 18 March 2020

² Recommendation No. 110.113. "Continue efforts to implement national strategies aiming at ensuring the right to education for all (Sudan)". See Report of the Working Group p. 16 UN Doc. A/HRC/44/8, 18 March 2020

³ Data provided from UNESCO Statistics, <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ls>

⁴ Concluding observations on the second period report for Lesotho, CRC/C/LSO/CO/2, 28 June 2018

⁵ Recommendation No. 110.152.110.152 Implement the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and address the factors that promote child labour (United States of America); . See Report of the Working Group p. 18 UN Doc. A/HRC/44/8, 18 March 2020

⁶ 2018 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Lesotho, U.S Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/lesotho>

Therefore, we call on Lesotho to:

- 1. Allocate resources to subsidize school-related expenses for disadvantaged students in primary school and facilitate access to secondary school through the progressive elimination of fees, especially in rural areas.**
- 2. Fully implement the National Action Plan For the Elimination of Child Labour and the Children's Protection and Welfare Act of 2011 to eliminate worst forms of child labor.**
- 3. Adopt policies and programs to eliminate all forms of exploitation, violence, and gender discrimination against women and girls.**

Thank You