



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2015

Introduction

In 2015, IIMA carried out various activities in accordance with the following Pillars of Action: Advocacy, Training and Capacity Building, and Communication.

Pillars of Action

1 – **Advocacy**: we provide UN experts and Member States representatives with relevant and reliable information on how human rights are being implemented at the local level, including denunciation of violations. IIMA Human Rights Office carries out this action in close collaboration with local members. Moreover, we provide local human rights defenders, including educators and youth, with the possibility to participate in relevant UN meetings and to advocate for their own rights.

2 – **Training and Capacity Building**: we organize training courses, in Geneva and at the local level, to make Human Rights Defenders aware of the UN international mechanisms and procedures intended to protect human rights.

3 – **Communication**: we disseminate information in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national level.

Within the above-mentioned pillars of action, we work in synergy with other NGOs and Institutions in order to bring major issues to the attention of the international community and to identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

The pillars of action are further defined below, and include their relationship to the strategic objectives of the organization.

2015 Activities

Pillar of Action	2015 Activities
	<p>➤ Objective 1: IIMA enables local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.</p>
Advocacy	Universal Periodic Review (UPR)



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- Produced **reports** for human rights defenders in the field on the UPR sessions of Spain, United States of America, Panama, and Lebanon.
- Issued a **joint submission** for the UPR of Lebanon.
- Delivered **oral statements** during the 28th and 29th sessions of Human Rights Council Item 6 General Debate, pertaining to the UPR of Madagascar, Italy, El Salvador, and Spain, respectively.
- Prepared UPR **questionnaires and consultations** with human rights defenders in Venezuela, Togo and Haiti in order to submit UPR reports for these countries in 2016.

HRC and Treaty Bodies Participation

- Attended the **Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies sessions** for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the Committee Against Torture (CAT), the Committee on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR).
- Produced **reports on treaty body sessions** for human rights defenders in Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, and Cuba (CRC); Colombia, Spain, China, Hong Kong, and Macau (CAT); Lebanon, Portugal, Madagascar, and Russia (CEDAW); South Korea and Austria (CCPR); and the Holy See and Italy (CERD).

Human Rights Council (HRC)

- Produced six additional **oral statements** with other contributors at the HRC on various themes, including, youth empowerment, sale of children, and the right to education.
- Made an oral intervention on the topic of Youth Empowerment at the HRC Advisory Committee Session.

Other Advocacy activities

- Participated in the Informal Consultation of the Open



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	<p>Ended Inter-governmental Working Group on a draft UN declaration on the right to peace and delivered two oral statements on the issue in January 2015.</p> <p>Research-based reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Produced a joint position paper, "A holistic approach of education," for the NGO Platform on the Right to Education on the Post-2015 Education Indicators proposed by the Technical Advisory Group of UNESCO.
<p>➤ Objective 2: IIMA reinforces the use of the defense mechanisms for children and youth rights among both IIMA educators and society at large.</p>	
<p>Training and Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided two training sessions for human rights defenders, especially educators, who operate at the local level through courses, seminars and interactive workshops, to raise awareness on Human Rights and the UN mechanisms for the protection of these rights.Provided training for eight youth activists who worked in the IIMA office and participated in the HRC.
<p>➤ Objective 3: IIMA shares advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.</p>	
<p>Communication & Fundraising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Disseminated information through the IIMA blog (iimahumanrights.blogspot.ch) in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national and international levels. Thirty-nine (39) blog posts were produced in 2015. Information on IIMA's activities was also posted on Facebook and LinkedIn.Participated in various NGO working groups and platforms such as the Right to Education, the Right to Solidarity, the Catholic NGO Forum, and the International Catholic Center of Geneva.