

Geneva, 15 March 2022  
49<sup>th</sup> HRC Session  
Item 3 –General Debate  
Speaker: Maria D’Onofrio

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**  
And co-signed by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development**

Concerning

**The report of the High Commissioner on the Intersessional seminar on the challenges and opportunities of young people in the field of human rights**

IIMA and VIDES welcome the report of the High Commissioner. **We stress the need to promote a much improved mainstreaming of youth rights in existing human rights mechanisms.**

Therefore, among the Recommendations of the Report presented, we would like to draw attention to the following:

- **States** should involve youth during the preparation, drafting and follow-up to national reports for the universal periodic review and treaty body reviews.
- **Treaty bodies** could consider addressing youth-specific issues in the list of issues prior to reporting, as well as through questions addressed to Government delegations during State party reviews.
- **The Human Rights Council** should consider:
  - o Establishing an annual panel on youth and human rights;
  - o Including an age dimension in special procedures mandates;
  - o Including a youth speaker in all panel discussions taking place at the Council;
  - o Extending an invitation to the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth for a discussion or dialogue with the Council on the implementation of human rights of youth in the context of the United Nations Youth Strategy.

Thank you