

50th Session of the HRC
Item 6 - Geneva, 30th June 2022
Speaker: Ariana Zenteno-Torres

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

Thank You Madame President,

IIMA and VIDES International commend the constructive participation of Myanmar in its third UPR.

We welcome the acceptance of recommendation 32.27 aiming to promote the rights of ethnic and religious minorities¹. However, we note with great concern that the ethnic and religious minorities in Myanmar continue to be discriminated against and deprived of basic human rights. In particular, we are alarmed by the continuous implementation of the 1982 Citizenship Law, which restricts ethnic and religious minorities from obtaining legal citizenship and identity, and creates barriers in accessing basic services such as healthcare and education².

IIMA and VIDES call on Myanmar to:

- 1. Repeal and amend the 1982 Citizenship Law, in accordance with international human rights standards, and remove discriminatory prohibitions to citizenship based on religion, race, or ethnicity.**

In regards to the right to education, we welcome the acceptance of recommendation 32.81³ aiming to provide equal access to education for all. However further steps are necessary in order

¹ Recommendation 32.27 “Take necessary measures to promote the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, including by ensuring equal rights and combating intolerance and hate speech against ethnic groups” (Republic of Korea) See Report of the Working Group, UN Doc. A/HRC/47/13, 12 April 2021.

² [The Rohingya and COVID-19 - Towards an inclusive and sustainable policy response.pdf \(reliefweb.int\)](#)

³ Recommendation 32.81 “Continue to provide equal access to education for all” (Malaysia). See Report of the Working Group p.19, UN Doc. A/HRC/47/13, 12 April 2021.

for children and youth to fully realize their right to education. The COVID-19 Pandemic and political turmoil in Myanmar has left approximately 12 million children without structured education and psychosocial support⁴. These events have only exacerbated gaps in education previously present.

We call on Myanmar to:

- 1. Continue to improve the accessibility and quality of education in rural and urban sectors at all educational levels, especially for children without remote learning opportunities, children with special needs and vulnerable youth.**

Thank You

⁴ [Education at risk: A generation of children in Myanmar must have safe, appropriate and inclusive opportunities to continue their learning - Myanmar | ReliefWeb](#)