

Geneva, 22 June 2022
50th HRC Session
Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur
on the Right to education
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

IIMA and VIDES welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education.

As a result of the pandemic, digital education has proved to be a valuable resource in emergency situations, but it has also shown its limits compared to face-to-face education. As stated by the Special Rapporteur, “The potential benefits of digital technology for the right to education are great [...]. However, they [...] depend on the context and policies deployed.”¹ Accordingly, “digital education must be accompanied by significant **investment in the human factor**, most particularly teachers, who remain key to the implementation of the right to education.”² **Special attention should be paid to benefit those in rural and remote areas where basic educational structures are wanting so as to leave no one behind.**

IIMA and VIDES fully support the Special Rapporteur’s recognition that **what counts from a right to education perspective is not so much to introduce machines and programmes to ‘deliver’ education, but to empower people with the needed digital competencies to actively and freely participate in all dimensions of human life and to become active citizens.**³

Thank you.

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, p.8, § 35, UN Doc. A/HRC/50/32, 19 April 2022.

² *Ibidem*, p. 3, § 4.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 8, § 36.