



**IIMA**  
Human Rights Office  
Istituto Internazionale  
Maria Ausiliatrice



Geneva, 20 September 2022  
51<sup>st</sup> HRC Session  
Item 3 – General Debate  
Speaker: Marian Belarmino

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**  
And co-signed by

**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development**

With the support of

**Laura Vicuña Foundation Philippines (LVF)**

Concerning

**The report of the High Commissioner on Human rights implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on young people**

IIMA, VIDES, and Laura Vicuna Foundation, Inc welcome the report of the High Commissioner and fully acknowledge that the pandemic has had a systematic, deep, and disproportionate impact on young people.<sup>1</sup> In particular, we share the concerns for the aggravation of pre-existing challenges in education, employment, protection of young people from violence, and their right to participate in shaping their lives.

The pandemic has indeed “created a crisis for realizing youth rights, but it has also shown young people’s power and their important role in responding to economic, political and social crises, advocating for human rights, and effectuating social change.”<sup>2</sup>

In my country, the Philippines, the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in learning losses, economic pressures to combine schooling with any available job, and increased anxiety about an insecure future. The youth generally faced these challenges with creativity and resilience and mustered all their inner resources to cope one day at a time.

We fully support all recommendations addressed by the High Commissioner to Member States in its report, and we particularly stress the importance of **mainstreaming youth rights at the national, regional and international levels** as well as the **leading role that the Human Rights Council must play as a driving force for the empowerment of young people.**

As youth, we ask the Member States to trust us and be audacious in the initiatives the Human Rights Council can undertake to systematically address the rights of young people.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/51/19, § 6.

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/51/19, § 94.