



Geneva, 27 February 2023  
52<sup>nd</sup> HRC Session  
Annual High-Level Mainstreaming Panel  
Speaker: Leeshia T. Rocha

Oral statement submitted by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**

And co-signed by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development**

Concerning

***A reflection on five years of the United Nations Youth Strategy (Youth 2030):  
mapping a blueprint for the next steps***

Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming

Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice and VIDES welcome the choice to dedicate this annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming to the theme of youth, and in particular on the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy, in line with the 2021 report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”.

As IIMA and VIDES, we remember when the first resolution on Youth and Human Rights was adopted in 2016 by this Council. We passionately advocated then, and continue to advocate to ensure that youth rights were placed high in the agenda of the Council in the following years.

**It is true that, since then, the Human Rights Council has come a long way in identifying human rights violations suffered by young people, but also in recognizing the great contribution that they make for the promotion and protection of human rights both for their peers and for society at large. We observe how a few recommendations on youth related issues are now raised also in the framework on the Universal Periodic Review and the treaty bodies.**

**And yet, much remains to be achieved, especially regarding the mainstreaming of youth rights at the national, regional and international levels.**

**To adequately address the challenges faced by young people and unlock their potential as human rights advocates, there is a need for systematic and effective mainstreaming of youth rights, through the existing UN Human Rights mechanisms.**

**How can we ensure adequate policies, processes, and platforms for meaningful youth engagement across the UN system, if we do not know youth reality on the ground? How can we ask them to commit, if youth-related issues are still often kept out of the country’s human rights reviews?**

Therefore, IIMA and VIDES call on the Member States and the concerned UN bodies:

- **to realize an effective and systematic mainstreaming of the human rights of youth through all the existing UN Human Rights mechanisms, especially the UPR and the Treaty Bodies.**

Thank you.