



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2022

Introduction

In 2022, IIMA carried out various activities in accordance with the following Pillars of Action: Advocacy, Training and Capacity Building, and Communication.

Pillars of Action

1 – **Advocacy**: we provide UN experts and Member States representatives with relevant and reliable information on how human rights are being implemented at the local level, including denunciation of violations. IIMA Human Rights Office carries out this action in close collaboration with local members. Moreover, we provide local human rights defenders, including educators and youth, with the possibility to participate in relevant UN meetings and to advocate for their own rights.

2 – **Training and Capacity Building**: we organize training courses, in Geneva and at the local level, to make Human Rights Defenders aware of the UN international mechanisms and procedures intended to protect human rights.

3 – **Communication**: we disseminate information in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national level.

Within the above-mentioned pillars of action, we work in synergy with other NGOs and Institutions in order to bring major issues to the attention of the international community and to identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

The pillars of action are further defined below, and include their relationship to the strategic objectives of the organization.



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2022 Activities

Pillar of Action	2022 Activities
<p>➤ Objective 1: IIMA enables local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.</p>	
Advocacy	<p>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produced reports for human rights defenders in the field on the UPR sessions of Timor-Leste, Togo, South Sudan, and Venezuela.• Run consultations with human rights defenders in Argentina, Benin, and Zambia in order to prepare <i>ad hoc</i> training and submit UPR submissions for these countries in July 2022.• Issued joint submissions at the UPR of Brazil, Ecuador, India, Philippines, Argentina, Benin, and Zambia.¹• Participated in the UPR pre-session of Brazil, Ecuador, India, Philippines and prepared the UPR Session Reports for the local members in the countries examined.• UPR advocacy before the UPR Session through the preparation of the Executive Summaries of the UPR Submissions on Brazil, Ecuador, India, and Philippines. These were disseminated to: 34 States for Ecuador; 45 States for India; 49 States for Brazil; 34 States for the Philippines, and to the delegation of the European Union.• Preparation of the Advocacy Assessment Tables for Brazil, Ecuador, India, Philippines in order to assess the impact of advocacy actions undertaken on the UPR recommendations addressed to the countries concerned.• Delivered and co-sponsored oral statements on Item 6: UPR Outcomes during the 49th and 50th sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) pertaining to the UPR of Ireland, Tanzania,

¹ The submissions and the following advocacy actions on Brazil, Ecuador, India and The Philippines were the result of an extensive capacity building initiative addressed to local human rights defenders, as part of a project funded by Misesan Cara. All submissions are available at: <http://iimageneva.org/reports/>



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Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, Togo, Timor-Leste, South Sudan, and Venezuela.² The Office also co-sponsored one statement on the UPR General debate of the 51st HRC session, focusing on how to ensure an effective implementation of the UPR recommendations to advance the realization of human rights, while moving forward to the 4th UPR cycle.³

Human Rights Council (HRC)

- Produced and/or co-sponsored **nineteen additional oral statements** at the 49th, 50th, and 51st sessions of the Human Rights Council on various themes, including the right to education, the rights of indigenous people, the right to development, the rights of children, youth, and women, international solidarity, the right to water and sanitation, the right to an environment free from hazardous substance and waste, the right to privacy in the digital age, the implications of the covid-19 on youth, human rights education, country-specific human rights situation in Venezuela, Ukraine, and Nigeria.⁴
- Participated in the online meeting with the Italian Interministerial Committee on Human Rights ⁵ to discuss the VI national periodic report to the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in preparation for its 72nd session.
- **Contributed to the Informal Consultation for the new HRC resolution on Youth and human rights**, adopted at the 51st HRC session. The resolution establishes a biennial panel on youth and human rights, starting with the 54th session in September 2023. The first panel will focus on "youth engagement with climate change and global environmental decision-making processes." The resolution also calls on the High Commissioner to conduct a detailed study on solutions to promote young people's digital education and ensure their protection from online threats, and to present it to the Council before the 57th session in September 2024.

Research-based reports

² Please note that due to the usual break between UPR cycles, 1 of the 3 annual sessions of the HRC did not include the adoption of UPR outcomes and therefore there was no possibility for NGOs to deliver oral statements under item 6.

³ All statements are available at: <http://iimageneva.org/statements/>

⁴ *Ibidem*.

⁵ Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani (CIDU).



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribution to UNEP, OHCHR and the Universal Rights Group's Global Survey on good practices aimed to support environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs), their work and communities, with inputs from IIMA members in Brazil, Spain and Philippines.
<p>➤ Objective 2: IIMA reinforces the use of the defense mechanisms for the rights of children and youth among both IIMA educators and society at large.</p>	
Training and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided Targeted Online trainings to 22 human rights defenders, especially education coordinators, from Argentina, Benin, Zambia, and Colombia to engage with the UPR of their respective countries.• Contributed to an Online Workshop for around 30 participants from the international students of Auxilium –Rome focusing on the IIMA Human Rights Office commitment to the promotion of Human Rights.• Contributed to the formation of 15 VIDES volunteers⁶ and to 20 VIDES USA on Human rights and volunteerism.• Contributed to an Online Workshop for IIMA coordinators of South-Asian schools, in Cambodia, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau, Japan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Korea, Timor Leste, and Vietnam, focusing on the right to education as cultural right and care for the environment.• Contributed to an Online Event for 55 participants from Austria and Germany respectively, focusing on Human Rights and the Common Good.• Conducted an online meeting for 150 students (14 – 16 years old) from Ecuador to inform them about the recent Universal Periodic Review of Ecuador⁷ and present several opportunities for participation of young people in the UPR of their country.⁸
<p>➤ Objective 3: IIMA shares advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.</p>	

⁶ In the framework of the Program "Servizio civile", promoted by the Italian government.

⁷ The 4th UPR of Ecuador was held in Geneva on November 7, 2022.

⁸ See: <http://iimageneva.org/online-meeting-with-adolescents-in-ecuador/>



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Communication and information

- **Update and development of IIMA website in English and Italian.**
- **Disseminated information** through the IIMA website (www.iimageneva.org) in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national and international levels. In 2022, the following materials were published on IIMA website: six (8) articles,⁹ in English and Italian; seven (7) UPR Submissions; nineteen (19) oral statements.
- **Interview.** IIMA Representative was interviewed by *Jugend Eine Welt (JEW)*- Austria on their 25th anniversary on IIMA's mission in the world.¹⁰
- **IIMA produced a 10-minute video** to share its best practice on **Youth Empowerment for human rights and the common good.**¹¹
- Contributed an article on the website of the Salesian Sisters¹² on the occasion of the 2022 Human Rights Day.
- Contributed an **article** in the international magazine of the Salesian Sisters on **Youth as Human Rights Defenders and promoters of the Common Good.**¹³

Networking: IIMA work in synergy with other NGOs and Institutions in order to bring attention of the international community to the major issues and identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

Networking and Fundraising

- **IIMA participated in various NGO working groups and platforms** such as: the Geneva Catholic NGO Forum, and its Platforms on the Right to Education, the Right to Development and International Solidarity, the Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (WGHREL), the International Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG), and the International Catholic NGO Forum (Rome based),
- IIMA continues to launch the **Project Network of Youth**

⁹ All web-articles are available at: <http://iimageneva.org/blog/>

¹⁰ Interview available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2ztqZjbf5I>

¹¹ The video was submitted at the International Congress as "Apporto delle Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice all'Educazione (1872-2022). Percorsi, Sfide, Prospettive."

¹² www.cgfmanet.org

¹³ Rivista delle FMA DMA (Da Mihi Anima) n°4, 2022.



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Defenders of Human Rights and the Common Good among Institutions of Higher Studies¹⁴ based in the different regions of the world.

- **IIMA works closely with VIDES International** in delivering oral statements and submitting the UPR Submissions of some Countries where its members are present. It participated at VIDES XII International Congress.
- IIMA partners with VIDES International in its advocacy activities for the **Multi-congregational Project: HOW ARE THE GIRLS? – A study on the rights of girls during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Ecuador, Kenya, India, Nepal, Peru and South Sudan**. IIMA intervened in the online event to launch the study with a presentation about Evidence-based advocacy activities carried out on girls' rights.¹⁵
- **2 funding applications** were submitted to relevant donors. Misan Cara approved the project proposal: **The 4th UPR Cycle: an opportunity for improving human rights in Brazil, Ecuador, India and the Philippines** (Beneficiaries: 42 persons).
- **Annual narrative and financial reporting.**

¹⁴ ISS-FMA, *Istituzioni di Studi Superiori*.

¹⁵See: <http://iimageneva.org/how-are-the-girls-a-study-on-the-rights-of-girls-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-ecuador-kenya-india-nepal-peru-and-south-sudan/>