



IIMA
Human Rights Office
Istituto Internazionale
Maria Ausiliatrice



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52nd HRC Session

Item 6 - UPR Outcomes - Philippines

Speaker: Leeshia Teresa Rocha

Oral statement submitted by
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for
Women, Education and Development**

And co-signed by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

With the support of
Laura Vicuña Foundation Philippines (LVF)

VIDES on behalf of this coalition welcomes the Philippines' participation in the UPR.

We commend the Philippines' acceptance of recommendation 145.19¹, which highlights the ongoing efforts to strengthen the legislation, awareness-raising, and training of government officers in **combating online abuse and exploitation of children**. We welcome the State's acceptance of recommendations 136² and 144³ to expand access to **quality education** for youth in disadvantaged situations, particularly girls.

We recommend to ***increase budget allocations to ensure children's access to quality education, prioritizing gaps in school infrastructure; recruitment,***

¹ Recommendation 145.19: "Continue strengthening actions in the aspects of legislation, awareness-raising and training of government officers in combating online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (Thailand). See Report of the UPR Working Group, UN Document A/HRC/52/13, 28 December 2022.

² Recommendation 145.136: "Ensure the effective implementation of the Basic Education Development Plan 2030, particularly in terms of expanding access to quality education for children and youth in disadvantaged situations (Malaysia). *Idem*.

³ Recommendation 145.144: "Continue its efforts to make education accessible for all, especially girls and others in vulnerable situations" (Singapore). *Idem*.

training and adequate salaries for teachers; and provision of textbooks and educational materials.

Moreover, we remain concerned about **child labor**, with approximately two million and ninety-seven thousand child laborers in the Philippines, according to ILO⁴. We hereby call on the state to:

1. Continue efforts to strengthen councils for the protection of children by integrating child protection-related measures with specific action plans, monitoring and accountability systems.
2. Promote decent and safe working opportunities for children who are legally allowed to work, and to provide vocational and technical training to increase job skills and entrepreneurial opportunities for them.

Thank you.

⁴ [https://car.dole.gov.ph/news/revisiting-child-labor-related-laws-and-policies/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20International%20Labor,%25\)%20are%20in%20the%20Industry.](https://car.dole.gov.ph/news/revisiting-child-labor-related-laws-and-policies/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20International%20Labor,%25)%20are%20in%20the%20Industry.)