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53rd HRC Session

Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

Speaker: Giulia Gedda

Joint oral statement ¹

presented by IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Thank you Mr. President,

IIMA, on behalf of this NGO coalition, welcomes the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education.

The Covid-19 pandemic challenges us to rethink how education models and approaches could be inclusive, effective, and relevant today and directed to the full development of the human being.

We are concerned about the digitalization of education because many disadvantaged students lack access to quality education and to digital technologies. Technology also has a huge impact on their mental and emotional wellbeing. Digitalization should be considered as a tool and not a replacement of education.

This NGO coalition fully supports the Special Rapporteur's call on the importance of increasing the vitality of social and emotional learning as key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IIMA and this NGO coalition recommend that States:

- **Ensure that the education curriculum reinforces critical thinking and develops the social and emotional dimension of the person;**
- **Enforce policies that guarantee online safety, digital literacy, accessible learning platforms and mental health, especially for the marginalized sectors;**
- **Increase government funding towards teachers' training, school infrastructures, and ensure free, quality, and inclusive education.**

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development; VIVAT International; International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC); Edmund Rice International (ERI); Globethics; World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO); Organisation Internationale pour le Droit à l'Éducation et la Liberté d'Enseignement (OIDEL); Dominicans for Justice and Peace; Confédération Internationale de la Société de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul