

Geneva, 26th June 2024

56th HRC Session

Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur on the trafficking in persons

Speaker: Lina Margarita Cabrera Vital

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

IIMA and VIDES welcome the reports of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which address the varied forms of trafficking in persons and provide recommendations so as to further prevent the trafficking of children, girls, and women, thus, guaranteeing their protection and ensuring accountability measures¹

In the Special Rapporteur's report on her visit to Colombia she underscored the country's commitment to combat all forms of trafficking in persons and commended the establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Operations Center and its territorial mechanisms.

However, this coalition is deeply concerned about the constant increase of violence in Colombia due to armed conflict, school desertion among youth and vulnerability in its borders, which is reflected on the significant number of children, youth, and women who fall victims to human trafficking.

IIMA and VIDES support the Special Rapporteur's recommendations to the Colombian Government to

- Strengthen coordination with anti-trafficking committee at the departmental level and ensure adequate budget allocations to implement prevention, assistance and protection measures;
- Ensure the full implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration and strengthen long-term social inclusion and reintegration measures for children affected by armed conflict, including children who are victims of trafficking, by expanding access to education, training and ongoing psychosocial and medical assistance.²

Thank you.

¹ Trafficking in persons, mixed migration and protection at sea, Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, A/HRC/56/60, 25 April 2024; Visit to Colombia, Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, A/HRC/56/60/Add.1, 20 May 2024.

² Visit to Colombia, Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Siobhán Mullally, A/HRC/56/60/Add.1, 20 May 2024.