



**IIMA**  
Human Rights Office  
Istituto Internazionale  
Maria Ausiliatrice



Fondazione Marista  
per la Solidarietà  
Internazionale ETS  
**FMSI**  
Per il Bene dei Bambini



56<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC  
Item 6 – UPR Outcome of Nigeria  
Geneva, 4-8 July 2024  
Speaker: Emily Grace Pauwels

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

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

**FMSI – Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale**

With the support of  
**Salesian Sisters of Nigeria**  
and  
**Marist Brothers of Nigeria**

Thank you, Mr. President.

This NGO coalition commends the constructive participation of Nigeria in its fourth UPR and the acceptance of several UPR recommendations regarding the rights of children<sup>1</sup> and people with disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

While Nigeria has made primary education free and compulsory, 10.5 million children ages 5 to 14 still do not attend school.<sup>3</sup> We remain concerned by disproportionately high dropout rates for girls, insufficient teaching staff and classroom facilities, and disparities in access to education in rural areas, where long walks to school can place children, particularly girls, at risk of violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendations n. 152.26-27, 119-121, 125-134, 136-150, 187-192, 194-208, 285-296. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria, 26 March 2024, UN Doc. A/HRC/56/7 and its Addendum UN Doc. A/HRC/56/7/Add.1.

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations n. 152.306-307. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria, 26 March 2024, UN Doc. A/HRC/56/7 and its Addendum UN Doc.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/education>

We are also concerned for vulnerable children in situations of child marriage, child labor, abuse, and trafficking.

In addition, people with disabilities in Nigeria continue to face barriers to accessing employment, housing, quality education, and healthcare due to discrimination, stigmatization, and inaccessible infrastructure.

**Therefore, we call on Nigeria to:**

- **Continue its efforts to address school dropout especially for girls, in coordination with other initiatives to eradicate early marriages.**
- **Increase the accessibility of education for children living in rural areas, ensuring the safety of girls traveling to attend school and the need for educational continuity through incentives for teachers.**
- **Eradicate all forms of violence against children, especially girls, through preventive measures, rehabilitation and compensation of victims.**
- **Enact existing relevant laws to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities through effective policy implementation.**

Thank you.