



Geneva, 6 March 2024
55th HRC Session
Item 3 – *ID with the Independent Expert on Albinism*
Speaker: Chiara Merlin

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

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

Thank you, Mr. President,

IIMA and VIDES welcome the Independent Expert's report on the right to education for persons with albinism. They, in fact, lack adequate access to structures and tools for better learning and education. More so, they are victims of discrimination, stigmatization, and social exclusion due to superstitious beliefs related to witchcraft.

There is therefore a need to raise awareness on the issue and develop an education that takes into account their needs and specificities, promoting an environment of acceptance, respect, and support to facilitate their full development and social inclusion.

IIMA and VIDES support the Independent Expert's recommendations¹ that states provide capacity-building, assistance and training to educators and persons with albinism, ensure access to assistive devices for learners with this condition, and establish programs to promote school attendance for these students, including social protection schemes for families.

IIMA and VIDES recommend, as well, to Member states to:

1. Enforce awareness raising programs and strategies on albinism in order to eradicate preconceptions and beliefs;
2. Ensure that perpetrators of physical, verbal and psychological violence against children with albinism are duly punished;

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ [A/HRC/55/45 Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond](#)