



Geneva, 14 March 2024

55<sup>th</sup> HRC Session

Item 3 – General Debate

Report of the OHCHR on the Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights

Speaker: Fabian Kachi Adindu

Oral statement submitted by  
**VIVAT International**

And co-signed by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**

**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development**

**Edmund Rice International**

**Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul**

**European Youth Forum**

**Office International de l'Enseignement Catholique (OIEC)**

**Centre Catholique International de Genève (CCIG)**

**Dominicans for Justice and Peace**

With the support of  
**VIDES Switzerland**

Concerning

Report of the OHCHR on Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights:

*Young people's engagement with climate change  
and global environmental decision-making processes*

VIVAT International, on behalf of this NGO coalition, welcomes this Report of the OHCHR on the biennial panel on young people's engagement with climate change and global environmental decision-making processes.

The High Commissioner highlighted that decades of youth activism have provided the momentum for many of the advances made in protecting the planet.<sup>1</sup> Young people have been at the forefront of the recognition of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

However, youth continue to face barriers to the effective, active and meaningful exercise of their right to participate in decision-making processes. Such barriers are multiplied for young people with intersecting forms of discrimination and in situation of vulnerability.<sup>2</sup>

We note, even when youth formal participation is ensured, **its influence in the decision-making processes, is very limited. This generates mistrust in political institutions and local authorities and diminishes motivation and engagement among youth. Substantial and transformative participation remains critical.**

To foster this **at the national, regional and international levels**, this coalition calls on the Member States to:

- **Ensure effective and transformative participation of youth in decision-making processes.**
- **Promote systematic mainstreaming of youth rights through existing UN Human Rights mechanisms, especially the UPR and the Treaty Bodies.**
- **Establish a mandate for a Special Procedure on youth rights.**

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the OHCHR on Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights, 28 December 2023, UN Doc A/HRC/55/ 40, p. 3, § 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 3, § 7.