



56th Human Right Council session  
Item 6 – UPR Outcomes of CONGO  
Geneva, 4-8 July 2024  
Speaker: Chiara Merlin

56<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
**ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**  
**CONGO**

Oral statement submitted by  
**VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development**

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

With the support of  
**Institut des Filles de Marie Auxiliatrice – Congo**

Thank you, Mister President.

VIDES and IIMA welcome Congo's acceptance of several UPR recommendations regarding the right to education, and specifically recommendation No. 128.146 to reform the educational system in order to guarantee free compulsory education for all boys and girls, without any distinction.<sup>1</sup>

However, we note with concern that, especially in the rural and most marginalized areas, children belonging to low-income families are denied access to education due to the persistence of indirect school charges.

With regard to the quality of education, the pupil-teacher ratio remains high and the teachers sent to rural areas receive little support or guidance from the government.

**In line with the UPR recommendations, VIDES and IIMA call on Congo to:**

- **Increase the budget allocations for adequate educational materials and infrastructure in order to achieve effective free education.**
- **Ensure quality education for all children, in particular by providing adequate training and support to teachers in rural and remote areas.**

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation n. 128.146 Increase efforts and resources to implement reforms in the educational system that guarantee the right to free compulsory education for all boys and girls, without distinction on sex, socioeconomic or ethnic grounds, among others (Uruguay). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Congo, UN Doc. A/HRC/56/16, 22 March 2024, and its Addendum, UN Doc. A/HRC/56/16/Add.1.