



IIMA
Human Rights Office
Istituto Internazionale
Maria Ausiliatrice



FMA NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FORUM



Geneva, 25 September 2024

57th HRC Session

Panel discussion on the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members

Speaker: Ms Chiara Merlin

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

And co-signed by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

With the support of
FMA Provincials Conference of India (PCI)
and
National Development Forum (NDF) – India

VIDES on behalf of this NGO coalition welcomes this Panel discussion on the implementation of States' obligations on the role of the family in supporting the human rights of its members. We consider this panel as well as the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, as key opportunities to **strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes that promote and protect the human rights of all family members, as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to development.**

International human rights instruments have long recognized that the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and that it performs valuable functions for its members, especially children, and for the community as a whole.

At the same time, the family can also be the place where violations of the rights of individual family members may occur. In particular, children might find themselves in a situation of vulnerability in the domestic context.

While recognizing that there are situations of abuse that require alternative care and separation of children from their families, ***we highlight the importance of reintegrating the children in***

families whenever possible, and if not, involving relevant stakeholders to build a circle of protection around them and promote personalized and high-quality alternative care solutions, in accordance with the best interest of the child and in line with the UN “Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.”¹

Thank you.

¹ *Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children* was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2009.