



Geneva, 12 March 2025

58<sup>th</sup> HRC Session

Item 3 – ID with the Special Representative of  
the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

Speaker: Melanie Beatriz Montoya

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**

**VIDES and IIMA** appreciate the Special Representative’s report and engagement with religious and local communities in their role to prevent and safeguard children from all forms of violence.

However, we are deeply concerned about the increasing vulnerability of children as victims of human trafficking in several countries. In **Nigeria**, girls who report incidents of human trafficking have no protection and face potential retaliation. Elements of such atrocities are also seen brewing in other countries: in **India**, children face serious forms of exploitation, including **forced labor, early marriage, and sexual exploitation**.

**In line with the Report of the Special Representative, VIDES and IIMA recommend Member States to:**

1. Enhance measures to eliminate child exploitation and to identify technological solutions that will prevent and tackle the root causes of trafficking.<sup>1</sup>
2. Ensure participation of children- especially the girl and youth victims- in decision making and policy design processes aimed to ensure compensation, rehabilitation, and family reintegration of victims.<sup>2</sup>
3. Strengthen the connection between anti-trafficking measures, border and asylum procedures, and national child protection, law enforcement, and justice systems as a means to ensuring the

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, (24 February– 4 April 2025), A/HRC/58/19, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, (24 February– 4 April 2025), A/HRC/58/19, p. 18.

swift identification and referral of children at risk of trafficking, as well as those who have already fallen victim to it.<sup>3</sup>

Thank you.

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Annual report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, (24 February– 4 April 2025), A/HRC/58/19, p. 17.