



IIMA
Human Rights Office
Istituto Internazionale
Maria Ausiliatrice

58th Session of the HRC

Item 3: ID with the SRSG for children and armed conflict

Geneva, 12th March 2025

Speaker: Beatrice Sala

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

VIDES and IIMA welcome the report of the Special Representative on the situation of children in armed conflict.

Education is both a fundamental right and it is essential for the realization of other human rights. Yet, in conflict zones, attacks on schools result in the loss of learning opportunities, making children more vulnerable to exploitation and recruitment. Girls are particularly at risk since their schools are more frequently attacked and they are often being abducted on their way to school. Ensuring the right to education is critical to breaking cycles of violence and poverty.

A concerning trend in conflict-ridden zones is the lack of guarantee for the right of birth registration. Undocumented children are invisible and therefore more vulnerable to abduction, trafficking, and other serious violations. Unregistered children who are separated from their families face even greater challenges.

VIDES and IIMA recommend Member States to:

- 1. Guarantee education for all children in armed conflict, with specific measures to ensure girls' access to education.**
- 2. Ensure birth registration for all children affected by armed conflict and prioritize family reunification for separated children. When reunification is not feasible, provide high-quality, community-based alternative care solutions (for children separated from their families.)**

Thank you