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59th HRC Session

Item 3 – ID with the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Speaker: Marina Lourdes Losilla Jiménez

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 appreciate the Working Group's report on the gendered dimensions of care and support systems, calling on States to address structural injustices and inequalities by investing in gender-responsive, inclusive, and human rights-based approaches.

We are extremely concerned that the unequal burden of unpaid care work remains a major barrier to both gender equality and the right to education. In the work we do with girls and young women across over 40 countries, we see how many girls are forced to drop out of school or struggle to combine caregiving with their studies, often with severe consequences for their mental health, development, and future opportunities.

Once again, we are leaving women and girls behind.

Therefore, we urge Member States to:

- 1. Provide gender-responsive and universal basic care and support systems, including healthcare, education, and social protection, and invest in public care services that reduce girls' caregiving burden, so they can continue their education without having to choose between school and their family's well-being.**
- 2. Promote the equal participation of boys and men in unpaid and paid care by integrating care education into school curricula and launching awareness campaigns that challenge gender stereotypes and engage male caregivers.**
- 3. Integrate care and support policies into national gender equality strategies, with specific attention to the needs of girls, and ensure they are responsive to intersecting factors like poverty, displacement, and disability.**

Thank you.