



IIMA
Human Rights Office
Istituto Internazionale
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63rd Session of the HRC
Item 6 – UPR Outcome of Paraguay
Geneva, 24 September 2026

Oral statement submitted by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco

And co-signed by

VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

IIMA and VIDES commend Paraguay for its constructive engagement in its fourth UPR.

On the **right to education**, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 109.175, 179 and 182¹. We remain concerned by persistent school dropout and unequal access to quality education, especially for children in rural and Indigenous communities and children with disabilities.

On the **rights of children**, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 109.205 and 221², as sexual violence against children and girls as well as gaps in prevention and specialized support still persist in Paraguay.

Concerning the **rights of women**, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 109.201 and 209³. We remain alarmed by gender-based violence and femicide, as we note weaknesses in early-warning mechanisms and unequal access to protection services.

IIMA and VIDES recommend Paraguay to:

1. Ensure equal access to education for all children, especially those in rural and Indigenous communities and children with disabilities, by strengthening inclusive and quality education as key conditions to address school dropout.
2. Strengthen protection for children affected by violence and sexual abuse, facilitating reporting of abuses and providing specialized assistance and psychosocial support.

¹ Recommendations 109.175: Ensure universal access to free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all children and strengthen programmes to reduce school dropout rates (North Macedonia); 109.179: Continue investing in education, with a particular emphasis on expanding access to quality education for children in rural areas and Indigenous children (Marshall Islands); 109.182: Strengthen the national education system by ensuring that education of children is free and accessible, as well as reinforcing the adequate training of teachers (Costa Rica); See Report of the Working on the Universal Periodic Review - Paraguay, UN Document A/HRC/63/8, 26 June 2026 and its *Addendum*, UN Document A/HRC/63/8/Add.1, 28 August 2026.

² Recommendations 109.205: Further increase efforts to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence and violence against children, including by strengthening comprehensive mechanisms of prevention, protection and accountability in this regard (Czechia); 109.221: Expand the national plan to eradicate violence against children, including measures to prevent sexual abuse through comprehensive sexuality education and the criminalization of all forms of sexual violence against children and adolescents (Mexico). *Ibidem*.

³ Recommendations 109.201: Take further measures to prevent and combat violence against women and girls, including femicide, by implementing a comprehensive system of prevention, support and redress (Republic of Korea); 109.209: Strengthen specialized services for victims of violence, including shelters, legal aid and psychosocial support, particularly in rural areas (Mongolia). *Ibidem*.

3. Strengthen the prevention of femicide by ensuring timely risk assessment and protection measures, including access to shelters, legal assistance and psychosocial support.

I thank you.