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High-level panel discussion on the fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training: good practices, challenges and the way forward

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Oral statement submitted by

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

Co-signed by

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VIDES and IIMA welcome this high-level panel discussion on the fifteenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

“Human rights education – including education concerning human rights and digital technologies, the environment and climate change, and gender equality – empowers children and youth to take action and uphold their human rights and those of others and to participate in public affairs and democratic decision-making processes.”¹

If human rights education is key to empowering children and young people to build a peaceful, just and sustainable world, then their meaningful participation—as active rights holders and agents of change— is equally essential to advancing the protection and promotion of their human rights.²

In this regard, we call upon States and other relevant stakeholders to:

- **Develop a comprehensive human rights education strategy for children and youth to be adapted to national contexts, in accordance with the *Plan of action for the fifth phase (2025–2029) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education*.³**
- **Raise greater awareness among children and youth of international human rights mechanisms to uphold their human dignity, “*which the international community is called to protect and promote*”.⁴**

Thank you.

¹ Human Rights Council, *Plan of action for the fifth phase (2025–2029) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education*, A/HRC/57/34, 19 August 2024, § 8, p. 3.

² Ibidem.

³ Ibidem, § 3, p. 2.

⁴ Leo XIV, Encyclical Letter *Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence*, 15 May 2026, § 54.