



Geneva, 24 June 2026

62th HRC Session

Annual Full-Day Discussion on the Human Rights of Women

Panel 2: Commemoration of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy

Speaker: Ms. Mariam Awdishu

Oral statement submitted by

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

And co-signed by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

VIDES and IIMA welcome this panel discussion on women's right to work and representation in decision-making.

While progress has been made, women and girls continue to experience serious challenges that prevent them from accessing decent work and leadership opportunities.

Through our educational and empowerment programmes, we witness these challenges firsthand. In rural and indigenous communities, women and girls face structural barriers to education, employment, entrepreneurship, and economic independence.

Therefore, we call upon States and relevant stakeholders to:

- 1. Ensure equal access to quality education, vocational training, and digital skills for girls and women;**
- 2. Eliminate barriers to decent work, equal pay, career advancement, and leadership positions;**
- 3. Invest in programmes that strengthen marginalized women's leadership, participation in decision-making, and inclusion.**
- 4. Prevent and address gender-based violence and discrimination in both public and private spheres.**

Empowering women through education, decent work, and leadership opportunities is essential for building inclusive, representative, and effective institutions capable of advancing sustainable development and human rights for all.

Thank you.