



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2014

Introduction

In 2014, IIMA carried out various activities in accordance with the following Pillars of Action: Advocacy, Training and Capacity Building, and Communication.

Pillars of Action

1 - **Advocacy**: we provide UN experts and Member States representatives with relevant and reliable information on how human rights are being implemented at the local level, including denunciation of violations. IIMA Human Rights Office carries out this action in close collaboration with local members. Moreover, we provide local human rights defenders, including educators and youth, with the possibility to participate in relevant UN meetings and to advocate for their own rights.

2 - **Training and Capacity Building**: we organize training courses, in Geneva and at the local level, to make Human Rights Defenders aware of the UN international mechanisms and procedures intended to protect human rights.

3 - **Communication**: we disseminate information in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national level.

Within the above-mentioned pillars of activities, we work in synergy with other NGOs and Institutions in order to bring the attention of the international community to the major issues and identify top priorities for the human rights agenda.

The pillars of action are further defined below, and include their relationship to the strategic objectives of the organization.

2014 Activities

Pillar of Action	2014 Activities
	<p>➤ Objective 1: IIMA enables local actors, including children and young people, to express their views on the implementation of their human rights and share best practices throughout the world in order to support Governments in complying with their international human rights obligations.</p>
Advocacy	Universal Periodic Review (UPR) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lobbying by participating, together with other NGOs, in



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a UPR-info pre-session on Madagascar to inform Member State representatives of street children's right to education, one month prior to the UPR session.

- Produced **reports** for human rights defenders in the field on the UPR sessions of Chile, Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Italy, El Salvador, and Madagascar; and additionally, on adoption by the Human Rights Council of UPR Outcomes for Chile and Dominican Republic.
- Issued **joint submissions** at the UPRs of Italy, El Salvador, Madagascar, Spain, Panama, and United States of America.
- Delivered **oral statements** during the Human Rights Council Item 6, pertaining to the UPR, for the Republic of Congo, Chile, Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

- Submitted a **joint report** on the situation of children's rights in Chile, with the participation of local human rights defenders and children.

Human Rights Council (HRC) Oral Statements

- Produced eight additional **oral statements** with other contributors at the HRC on various themes, including solidarity, the right to education, exploitative work as a form of slavery, protection of the family and its members, youth empowerment, and women's rights.

HRC and Treaty Bodies Participation

- Participated in the **Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies sessions** for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the Committee Against Torture (CAT), and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

Side Event

- Organized a **side event** entitled "Youth Empowerment



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	<p>through Human Rights: Keeping the Dialogue Alive” with the participation of youth activists from Brazil, Costa Rica, France and USA, as well as 25 Permanent Missions, to share best practices and common strategies for the promotion and protection of youth rights.¹</p>
	<p>➤ Objective 2: IIMA reinforces the use of the defense mechanisms for children and youth rights among both IIMA educators and society at large.</p>
Training and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided three training sessions for human rights defenders who operate at the local level through courses, seminars and interactive workshops, to raise awareness on Human Rights and the UN mechanisms for the protection of these rights.• Provided training for youth activists who work in the IIMA office and participate in the HRC.
	<p>➤ Objective 3: IIMA shares advocacy tools as well as other human rights-based materials with local human rights defenders and international organizations.</p>
Communication & Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disseminated information through the IIMA blog (iimahumanrights.blogspot.ch) in order to raise awareness of human rights at the national and international levels.• Produced the booklet “Youth Empowerment through Human Rights – Keeping the Dialogue Alive”² describing the global youth agenda to be a method to initiate change in society through leadership and responsibility, by adopting the following priorities: to take concrete action to empower young people at local and international levels, to systematically mainstream the implementation of youth human rights into existing UN mechanisms, and to establish an HRC panel discussion to identify challenges and share best practices.

¹ For more detailed information, please refer to the report “Youth Empowerment through Human Rights – Keeping the Dialogue Alive”, June 2014, available at <http://iimahumanrights.blogspot.ch/p/blog-page.html>

² *Ibidem*.