



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

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

33rd Session of the HRC
Geneva, September 22nd 2016
Item 3–Panel Discussion on Youth and Human rights
Speaker: Ms. Eugenia Emili

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Co-sponsored by
European Youth Forum

With the support of
CODAP

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Thank you Mr. President,

IIMA [on behalf of co-signing NGOs] welcomes Human Rights Council resolution 32/1 on youth and human rights and the Panel Discussion about this issue.

Nevertheless, we note with deep concern that youth are facing serious challenges in regards to the full enjoyment of their rights.

Among many obstacles faced by young people, we consider inadequate political and social participation, barriers to quality education, unemployment and lack of decent work as the main causes of current inequalities suffered by youth.

Moreover, the exclusion of youth from exercising their human rights not only impacts young people but society at large: in fact, if properly empowered, youth have the potential to be active promoters of human rights and sustainable development. As stated in the World Youth Report of 2016, the role of “young people as social actors, as citizens or as active participants in decisions and processes affecting their own lives”¹ should be greatly valued.

New spaces for participation have to be defined in all environments. For instance, we highlight the need for creating democratic educational institutions by moving away from passive learning environments to active learning ones.

In compliance with the HRC resolution 32/1, we call on Member States to:

- Take concrete actions at local and international levels to empower young people and promote their human rights.
- Ensure that youth rights issues are addressed by the Human Rights Council by:
 - Requesting a Report to be prepared by the OHCHR or the Advisory Committee on the topic.

¹ See World Youth Report 2016, page 282



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- Establishing a mandate for a Special Procedure on youth rights.
- Call for a joint General Comment or joint Statement by Treaty bodies on youth rights.
- Systematically mainstream the implementation of the human rights of youth into Treaty Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.

- Undertake all possible measures to implement the SDGs, especially regarding the empowerment of young people in the exercise of their right to a quality education and to decent work.

Thank you, Mr. President.



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