



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 Human Rights Council
Item 5 – Interactive Dialogue with the Human Rights Council
Advisory Committee
oral statement delivered by
Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice – IIMA
and co-sponsored by
VIDES Internazionale
on the topic of
Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Human Rights
on September 20, 2016

Thank you Mr. President.

IIMA and VIDES welcomes the progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the global issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights.

At IIMA, we are committed to the right to education for all. Unaccompanied migrant children are a vulnerable segment of society whose access to primary or secondary education is interrupted when they are forced to leave their home countries due to conditions that are beyond their control. Access to secondary education is of particular importance as it allows adolescents who are transitioning to adulthood to discover and develop their skills and find their purpose in the world.

Thus, in accordance with existing international legal frameworks, including but not limited to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we call upon States, in particular States of origin, transit, and destination, to:

- Ensure that unaccompanied migrant children have access to primary and secondary education and that all government educators and professionals are adequately qualified to work with unaccompanied migrant children.
- Coordinate and cooperate more effectively with each other, especially in regions experiencing major migration flows such as the Central American Northern Triangle, in order to protect and guarantee the human rights of unaccompanied migrant children in accordance with the guiding principle that the best interests of the child shall be of primary consideration in all State actions.
- Develop additional best practices for the care and education of unaccompanied migrant children with a particular focus on adolescents who transition to adulthood.

To conclude, we look forward to the Advisory Committee's final report on this study and we encourage States to maintain constructive dialogue and collaboration with civil society on tackling this important issue.

Thank you Mr. President.