



35th Regular Session of the HRC – Geneva
ITEM 3 General Debate (following thematic reports by the High Commissioner)
12th June 2017
Speaker: Katherine Webber

Oral Statement submitted by
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Co-sponsored by
VIDES International
and
European Youth Forum

Thank you Mr. President,

IIMA [on behalf of co-signing NGOs] welcomes the summary report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussion on youth and human rights, requested through Human Rights Council resolution 32/1. The importance of addressing the issue of youth and human rights was clearly stated during the panel discussion and we look forward to further discussion on the matter.

We note with concern the serious obstacles youth are currently facing which impedes the full enjoyment of their human rights, including inadequate political and social participation, challenges in accessing quality education, and the lack of decent employment opportunities available to young people.

Noting that the world is currently experiencing the highest number of youths in history¹, we draw attention to the fact that empowerment and encouragement of youth, on both local and international levels, as human rights promoters is essential for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

In light of this, and in compliance with the Human Rights Council resolution 32/1 we make the following recommendations to the member states:

- Ensure that the Human Rights Council continues to address this issue through an added analytical report and by the establishment of a mandate for a Special Procedure on the rights of youth.
- Call for a joint General Comment or General 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.
- Take all possible measures to implement the SDGs with special regards to the empowerment of youth through quality education and the right to decent work.

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ See Executive Summary of the Panel Discussion on Youth and Human Rights A/HRC/35/7