



**35<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the HRC – Geneva**  
**ITEM 3 General Debate**  
**(following thematic reports by the High Commissioner)**  
**12<sup>th</sup> June 2017**  
**Speaker: Berangere Gramaccioni**

Oral Statement submitted by  
**VIDES International**

Co-sponsored by  
**IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice**

Thank you Mr. President.

VIDES International and IIMA wish to welcome the analytical study of the Office of the High Commissioner on the relationship between climate change and the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of the child (A/HRC/35/13).

As a contribution to it, we conducted a joint study in the field which revealed the precarious situation of children already experiencing the effects of climate change: family displacements, school dropouts, higher rates of child labour. Also, careless resource managements contaminate lands, water and air, causing children health problems, restricted freedom and even death.

Therefore, we appreciate the particular attention given to environmental education in order to reach Target 4.7 during the Human rights Council Panel Discussion. As recommended during the Panel, environmental education needs to be incorporated not only in the education system, but also in work places and local government, to empower both children and adults to be actors of change. As Pope Francis states, there is the need of a comprehensive “ecological conversion”<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, we also recommend Member States to:

- 1) Assess implementation mechanisms for children’s rights, into national and local policies, in order to fully comply with international commitments on climate change;
- 2) Review legislation and waste policies, to ensure the right to a clean and healthy environment for children;
- 3) Enhance cooperation with civil society, including data exchange on climate change and environmental education, as stated in Articles 4.1 and 7.2 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Thank you Mr. President.

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<sup>1</sup> “*Laudato Sii*”, para. 216-221