



Human Rights Office

Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

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

Geneva, 20 September 2012

21ST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW INDIA

Statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice
and cosigned by
International Voluntarism Organization for Women, Education, Development (VIDES International).

Madame President,

IIMA and VIDES International welcome the attitude of the India during the full UPR process. Nevertheless, major efforts are still required with regard to several issues:

I. Right to education

Despite the progress achieved by the government during the last four years, we still perceive some major issues affecting in particular poor and rural areas such as: **low enrolment rates**, a **high dropout rate**, a **shortage of qualified teachers**, **inadequate curricula**, **lack of quality services**, **poor and unsafe infrastructures**, and **discrimination against vulnerable groups**. As a result, we call the government to:

- **Continue its efforts to achieve universal primary education, compulsory and free of charge.**
- **Provide adequate school facilities, qualified teachers, adequate school materials and updated programs.**
- **Take further initiatives to eliminate any form of discrimination affecting marginalized groups.**

II. Discrimination

In particular rural and poor communities still experience multiple inequalities in India, such as: *Caste discrimination*, particularly against Dalits; *Gender discrimination*, within the family and in the society; *Religion and minorities based discrimination* against Muslims and Christians. In order to combat all these forms of discrimination, we urge the government to:

- **Take steps, in accordance with article 17 of its Constitution and article 2 of the CRC, to abolish the discriminatory practices, prevent caste and tribe motivated abuse; prosecute State and private actors who are responsible for such abuses; and remove obstacles faced by victims when seeking redress through the courts.**
- **Continue its efforts to carry out comprehensive public education campaigns to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination.**

Thank you.