26th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
CAMBODIA

Statement submitted by
VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development (VIDES International)
And co-sponsored by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Mister President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

VIDES International and IIMA commend Cambodia’s acceptance of several UPR recommendations¹ concerning the right to education and ill treatment and sexual exploitation of children. Nevertheless, we note that further efforts are required to fully ensure children’s rights.

With regard to the right to education for children with disabilities, we report that a high number of these children are still excluded from the education system, while many attending school face physical obstacles to educational facilities. Moreover, we welcome the acceptance of recommendations 118.42² and 118.64,³ but we observe that human rights education is not included in school curricula or in teacher training.

Concerning ill treatment and sexual exploitation of children, we note with concern that sexual or domestic violence affects about 70% of children in Cambodia. Additionally, sex tourism and child prostitution are still common, especially in Siem Reap and coastal areas.

Therefore, VIDES and IIMA call on Cambodia to:

- Promote and support inclusive education for children with disabilities and provide adequate facilities and assistance;
- Effectively implement relevant UPR recommendations⁴ in order to include human rights education in school curricula and in teacher training; and increase human rights awareness through national campaigns;
- Initiate awareness-raising activities for parents and educators on alternative and nonviolent forms of discipline;
- Finally, fight against the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

Thank you Mister President.

¹ Recommendations 118.5, 118.9-11, 118.26, 118.42, 118.62-66, 118.72, 118.75-78, 118.140, 118.153, 118.158-171.
² Continue its efforts for human rights education and training at all levels including for government functionaries (Pakistan).
³ Increase the awareness-raising campaign on the rights of women and children, involving journalists and media professionals as one of its focus groups (Italy).
⁴ In particular, Recommendations 118.42 and 118.64.