

38th Session of the Human Rights Council  
Geneva, 20 June 2018  
ITEM 3 - Working Group on discrimination against women  
Speaker : Mariko TAKIGUCHI



Oral statement submitted by  
**VIDES International-**  
**Volontariato Internazionale Donna Educazione Sviluppo**

Thank you, Mr. President.

VIDES International, in collaboration with IIMA, devotes particular attention to the empowerment of young girls and women by providing them educational opportunities and Human Rights Education.

It has already been 70 years since equal rights for women was clearly valued in the Universal Declaration of Human Right. It is opportune to further advance Women's right to achieve not only gender equality but, above all, their inclusion in the political, economic, social, cultural, civic or any other fields. There is no doubt that women are key players in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In fact, SDG 5 on Gender Equality aims to “*end all forms of discrimination against women and girls*” and empower them. To achieve this, it would require the International commitment of both States and Civil Society.

Yet, despite the significant progress made over the past 20 years on the issue of gender equality, traditional and cultural stereotypes and biases against girls and women persist. In some countries, they are still considered as household servants or future housewives. Those biases create another cycle of discrimination and violence against girls and women as they are deprived of education, employment, social justice, and active participation into society.

Therefore, VIDES International would like to make the following recommendations:

- Ensure a supportive environment that enables and encourages girls to attend school, thus, preventing them from dropping out of school so as to pursue lifelong quality education.
- Include Human Rights education in the school curriculum.
- Empower girls through Human Rights Education.
- Make effective use of public campaigns to raise awareness and disseminate Human Rights education for the full realization of the rights of girls and women.
- Develop comprehensive strategies to combat gender-based violence against girls and women such as prostitution, trafficking and early and forced child marriage.

I thank you, Mr. President.