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Speaker: Ariana Zenteno- Torres

Report of the 2019 Social Forum

Oral statement submitted by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

And co-signed by

VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

Thank you Madame President,

IIMA and VIDES International welcome the Report of the 2019 Social Forum, which reinforce relevant HRC resolutions on youth (and human rights) and the United Nations Youth Strategy.

Among the Conclusions of the Report presented here today, we would like to draw attention to the following:

1. **Education is transformative and a key tool for child and youth empowerment**, (yet hundreds of millions worldwide remain out of school or do not receive quality education).¹ In particular, human rights education is a lifelong process that fosters knowledge and develops attitudes so that youth can become active citizens.² **Youth are rights holders and key actors in realizing human rights.**
2. However, the transformative role of education cannot be realized when [children and youth] are not empowered to become actively engaged. This implies involving them in all stages of relevant processes. **Participation is a key requirement.**

IIMA and VIDES wishes to highlight the following recommendations:

¹ Report of 2019 Social Forum, p. 17, § 63, UN Doc. A/HRC/43/63.

² Ibidem, § 69.



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1. In line with the plan of action for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, States should establish a national coordinating body involving relevant government and civil society actors, including youth representatives³
2. States should ensure the inclusion of human rights education in formal education and facilitate civil society initiatives for youth in non-formal settings.⁴
3. All stakeholders should strengthen child and youth participation by giving them a voice and engaging with them.⁵

Thank you.

³ *Ibidem*, p. 19, § 82.

⁴ *Ibidem*, § 83.

⁵ *Ibidem*, § 85.