



36th Session of the HRC
Geneva, 21 September 2017
Item 6 – India UPR outcomes
Speaker: Shea THROCKMORTON

36th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
INDIA

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, Mister President.

VIDES International and IIMA appreciates India's acceptance of several UPR recommendations regarding a child's right to education- specifically, No. 161.63 pertaining to expansion of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act as well as the promotion of human rights education in the school curriculum. However, we note that further efforts are needed in order to fully enable the rights to education for all Indian children.

In rural areas, children are vulnerable to marginalization due to the ineffective implementation of legislation such as the short-comings of the universal birth registration. This can lead to missed opportunities for the child such as an inability to attend school, and the increased family costs to obtain a child's birth registration.

In addition, the shortage of teachers and its resulting impact on the high student-to-teacher ratio has a detrimental effect on education quality due to the inadequate amount of attention necessary for the child to succeed. Children who struggle in this setting are often found to be left behind. We also note with concern that the deficient quality in education contributes to the high drop-out rate of school children, particularly in rural areas.

In response, VIDES and IIMA call on India to:

- **Accelerate and improve the birth registration service delivery system within rural and remote areas.**
- **Create a standard of oversight that monitors the adequacy of teachers to ensure that all children receive a quality education, while increasing the amount of funding necessary to hire more teachers in over-crowded schools.**
- **Ensure the effective implementation of UPR recommendations through the establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up as a permanent governmental mechanism.**

Thank you, Mister President.