



Geneva, 20 September 2012

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

Statement submitted by
International Voluntarism Organisation for Women, Education, Development VIDES)
and cosigned by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice
and
Association Points Coeur

(Thank you for giving us the floor)

Madame President,

VIDES, on behalf of NGO coalition, welcomes the constructive participation of Brazil at the Universal Periodic Review. However, difficulties still persist in the full implementation of the **right to education for all**.

While education in Brazil has become widely more accessible over the past years, there is still a high illiteracy rate across the country, a high grade repetition rate, the incapability to respond to special needs of children with disabilities, and low quality education especially in rural areas and at secondary level.

In this context, **indigenous children** are particularly discriminated. Despite the increased number of indigenous students, we perceive major issues such as: low attendance rate in primary and secondary schools, compared to Brazilian non-indigenous children; lack of school facilities and appropriate equipment in indigenous areas; insufficient number of indigenous teachers, the limited scope of their training and inadequacy of school materials. In addition, indigenous people are often victims of prejudice and discrimination because of their socio-cultural and physical features.

We call on the Brazilian government to:

- **Take adequate measures to combat illiteracy and make quality education equally accessible for all, including indigenous children and students living in vulnerable situations;**
- **Continue its efforts to improve quality of education, *inter alia*, by increasing financial resources to school infrastructures, especially in rural areas; providing adequate transportation and teacher training; and developing appropriate teaching materials to reflect local realities.**

Thank you.