



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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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.