

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

Thank you, Mr. President

VIDES International, present in 43 countries, together with IIMA, is committed to protect and promote the Rights of children, particularly those at risk.

We are deeply concerned for the current situation of migrant children who, by force, are being separated from their families as part of the illegal immigration policy of some government. Children who are already fragile and vulnerable by nature do not deserve such inhuman treatment. This separation causes suffering, trauma, and harm to children. More so it violates the child's basic human rights. The best interest of the child, no matter what his or her migrant situation is, must be given primary consideration for no child must be left behind.

We call on the international community to protect the fundamental freedom and the human rights of all migrant children and ensure that children are treated with dignity, respect, and care regardless of their parents' migrant status.

Therefore, we appeal to the Member States to :

- Ratify the Convention on Migrant Workers;
- Cooperate more effectively with civil society actors to ensure the reintegration and the reunification of unaccompanied or separated children with their families;
- Guarantee migrant children's access to quality education at every stage of the migration process;
- Promote comprehensive policies for the assistance and the education of migrant children and youth.

Thank you, Mr. President.