

39th Session of the HRC
Geneva, 11th September 2018
Item 2: General Debate
Speaker: Elizabeth PAREDES GUEVARA

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT – a human rights perspective

Oral statement submitted by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

And co-signed by

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

Mr President,

IIMA and VIDES welcome the Report of the High Commissioner on “Youth and human rights”.

While we acknowledge efforts have been made to ensure the rights for young people, we are witnessing a deterioration in their position within society. Unemployment and precarious working conditions undermine youth presence in the political debate and their underrepresentation in these structures weakens democratic processes.

Youth involvement is the driving force for change towards a more sustainable future and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. This implies the empowerment of young people so that they can fully exercise their human rights and assume leadership roles and responsibility in society.

In light of this and in compliance with the Human Rights Council resolution 35/14, we recommend the following:

- Establish a mandate for Special Procedures on youth rights
- Include the youth issue in the annual report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Issue a joint General Comment by treaty bodies on youth rights
- Mainstream youth rights into Treaty Bodies and the UPR.
- Develop policies and mechanisms at national and local level which guarantee young people’s inclusion and participation in decision-making processes

Thank you Mr. President