



Geneva, 3 July 2020
44th HRC Session
Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur
on the Right to education
Speaker: Maria D’Onofrio

Oral statement submitted by
IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice
And co-signed by

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

IIMA and VIDES welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the right to education.

The health crisis has aggravated pre-existing inequalities in education, especially for those children at risk of digital exclusion or with special needs. Despite the best efforts of states and other stakeholders to ensure distance learning through online teaching, radio, or television, these measures cannot fully replace on-site schooling in the long term.

We are deeply concerned that, in the most serious cases, school closures have also meant for many children the end of social services and increased exposure to domestic violence.

IIMA and VIDES support the call of the Special Rapporteur to:

- 1. Assess the impact of the closures of educational institutions on different population groups, including an analysis of rising inequalities, and government policies to support the education of disadvantaged groups;**
- 2. Enhance distance learning with effective teachers’ training and improved curriculum;**
- 3. Regulate the massive arrival of private actors seeking to commercialize education for profit through digital technology.**