



## Human Rights Office

*Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice -IIMA*

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

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Thank you Mr. President.

IIMA appreciates the serious attitude demonstrated by the Delegation of Honduras during Universal Periodic Review and thanks the Honduran government for accepting majority of the recommendations.

First of all, IIMA acknowledges the efforts of Honduran Government in the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. IIMA, however, remains concerned about the low quality of education in the country. While 90% of Honduran children attend primary school it takes them more than 9 years to complete grade I to VI due to repetitions which are attributed to poor conditions of the family, inadequate classrooms, teachers' absenteeism, inefficient teaching methods and deficiency of books and school materials.

**The Honduran government should take concrete actions to guarantee quality education by increasing budget allocations and by providing subsidies to poorest families, the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and those in rural areas and indigenous communities**

Second. Despite national laws<sup>1</sup> explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment, several cases of violence against children in the homes and in schools persist. Honduran children are also victims of abuses, domestic violence and trafficking.

The measures taken by the Honduran government has been insufficient. **A more effective and concrete actions should be taken, including the implementation of the existing laws and the prosecution of perpetrators.**

Third. IIMA remains extremely concerned about the high number of children suffering from hard labor because of poverty, unemployment and lack of education. IIMA suggests that the government **undertake awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat the economic exploitation of children as well as initiate programmes to support disadvantaged families by helping them in finding alternative source of income.**

Finally, IIMA remains concerned about the around 10.000 children living in street situations<sup>2</sup> who survive through begging, stealing, and prostitution. **The Honduran government should provide these children with adequate housing, nutrition, healthcare and educational opportunities as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Honduras is a Party.**

Thank you, Mr President.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 134 of the Public Education Code (1923) and the General Public Education Act

<sup>2</sup> Honduras National Plan of Action for the Social Integration of Children and Women Dependent on the Street