



Geneva, June 9, 2011

(Thank you for giving me the floor)

Mr. President,

VIDES International welcomes the constructive participation of Paraguay at the Universal Periodic Review.

Nevertheless, VIDES remains concerned about the human rights situation of indigenous peoples and those living in rural areas, especially concerning education.

While welcoming Paraguay's acceptance of recommendations concerning free education and the improvement of literacy rate in indigenous and rural areas, VIDES is particularly concerned by the fact that only 41% of youth between ages 15 and 17 years have access to secondary education. Among main causes there are: the persistence of school enrolment fees and the concentration of educational infrastructures in cities, which makes the access to higher education non-existent in rural areas.

With regard to quality of education:

VIDES perceive major issues such as: first, several deficiencies in educational infrastructures, often lacking of water and electricity, teaching materials, food and uniforms; second, inadequate qualification of teachers; third, bilingual education has not yet been fully achieved.

VIDES, therefore, recommends Paraguay to:

- **Take all measures to integrate into the educational system children belonging to poorest and vulnerable groups, in particular those living in rural areas and indigenous children.**
- **Take all necessary measures to improve the quality of education.**

Thank you.

