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**FOR THE RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS OF
CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS**

Joint presentation of:

Qosqo Maki Association,

Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil International

and

Apprentis d'Auteuil

(Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC)

I. PRESENTATION OF THE AUTHORS

1. **Qosqo Maki** is a non-governmental institution founded in 1991 that acts in Cusco to support **children in street situations, most of whom are workers**. Qosqo Maki provides accommodation in its dormitory, ensuring their safety away from the cold and dangerous streets. Subsequently, it has created technical workshops of carpentry and bakery for a voluntary and alternative training, as well as has implemented recreational-educational, cultural and artistic spaces generating better life and opportunities for these young People.
2. On the other hand, Qosqo Maki is an educational actor and proposes a pedagogical methodology that values the participation of children in street situations. It has demonstrated its effectiveness through the assemblies, where dormitory Users meet weekly. In this space, they are protagonists in the construction of their rules of coexistence, they learn how to solve their problems in a consensual way thanks to dialogue and debate. The educators listen to their demands, accompany, channel and support their initiatives, thus forming of co-management system. This practice is the so-called methodology of "*education in freedom*", which empowers the Young to make their own decisions.
3. For 30 years of activity, the dormitory has received approximately 4,700 Young in street situation. With its links with other organisations in Peru and its participation in numerous international networks, Qosqo Maki's partners appreciate its outcome and qualify it as the privileged observer to understand the problem.
4. **Apprentis d'Auteuil** is a Catholic foundation recognized as a public utility, founded in 1866, and committed to the prevention and protection of Children. It develops programs in France and internationally for the protection, education, training and professional integration of children and young people and support for families. The foundation works in partnership, in the countries where it operates, with several local actors on the issue of Children in street situations, in Peru with Qosqo Maki in particular. Apprentis d'Auteuil also accompanies its local partners in international advocacy actions to obtain concrete and sustainable changes in policies in favour of Children and families, thus obtaining special consultative status with ECOSOC in 2014.
5. Based in Geneva, the **Apprentis d'Auteuil International Foundation (FAAI)** is a public utility organisation created in 2013, which supports Apprentis d'Auteuil's international projects in partnership with local actors. It develops school support and professional integration projects in Switzerland for young people in difficulty and school dropouts. In partnership with local actors, FAAI advocates for the rights of children and young people, especially those in street situations at the United Nations institutions in Geneva.

II. INTRODUCTION

6. **This report considers the reality of Peru in the area of the rights of children in street situations.** This report uses, as its basic framework, the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** ratified by Peru on September 4th, 1990, and the interpretation of the Convention as indicated in the **Committee's General Comment No. 21 on children in street situations**¹.
7. In this report, the term "**children in street situations**", as defined by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its General Comment No. 21 (2017)², is used to refer to "**children who rely on the street to live and/or work, either on their own, with other children or with their family**" and more generally, to "**children who have formed strong links with public spaces and for whom the street plays a central role in their daily lives and identity**".

III. METHODOLOGY

8. The information in this report is based largely on data collected from the consultation of Young in street situation and from the field experience of the organisation Qosqo Maki, based in Cusco, Peru. A focus group was organised on May 31st 2022, to collect recommendations about human rights and life perspectives from Qosqo Maki's Users and former Users, between 16 and 22 years old, who are or have been in street situations. This information was supplemented by further individual interviews that took place during 2022. The words of the Young are included in this report to illustrate and complement the statements³.

IV. REVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED IN THE FIELD OF CHILD PROTECTION

9. **During the last three UPR cycles, the Peruvian State has not received any recommendations regarding Children in street situations.**
10. During the third cycle of the UPR (2017), the Peruvian State has supported several general recommendations on the protection of children's rights, such as access to education, combating child labour and exploitation and the "elimination of discrimination against the most vulnerable groups of children, including indigenous children, children in rural areas and children with disabilities"⁴. The Peruvian government also supported numerous general recommendations on the fight against poverty in various sectors such as education, anti-discrimination and health⁵. **Although these issues directly affect children in street situations, none of these recommendations explicitly refer to this specific group.**
11. Even though the issue of the rights of children in street situations has been absent in the last UPRs of Peru, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has made recommendations in this

¹ The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted on November 20th, 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly, recognizes the rights of all children and adolescents without discrimination and the obligation for the State to ensure their implementation. General Comment No. 21 of 2017 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child focuses specifically on children in street situations and indicates to States the actions to be led for children in street situations to have access to their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

² Committee on the Rights of the Child. General Comment No. 21 on children in street situations, 2017.

³ For security reasons, the testimonies are anonymous.

⁴ Recommendation 111.147 (Poland).

⁵ Among others, recommendations 111.140 (Bangladesh), 111.142 (Thailand), 111.83 (Algeria), 111.85 (Nicaragua), 111.82 (China), 111.86 (Egypt).

regard, in its latest review of the Peruvian State in 2016: **the Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended, among other measures, a complete and serious census for a comprehensive knowledge of children in street situations and to consider them in a comprehensive manner, without criminalising them and, addressing all aspects: food, housing, health and education**⁶. These numerous recommendations, whose implementation is still pending, demonstrate the importance and urgency of acting to enhance the rights of street youth.

V. NATIONAL CONTEXT: THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS IN PERU

12. **Poverty is considered the first reason to explain why Children end up in street situations: they are abandoned or leave their family home to live or work on the streets.** In 2015, 26.1% (1,974,400) of children and adolescents in the country performed some economic activity⁷. Although monetary poverty in Peru had dropped between 2012 and 2019, from 25.8% to 20.2% of the total population, the lack of sustainable investment in the youth and health sector has not allowed to resist the Covid-19 pandemic⁸. **In 2020, in just a year, monetary poverty has risen to 30.1% of the population.** This peak is a serious issue, as poverty is **more prevalent in the child and adolescent population (27.9%) compared** to the adult population (16.5%)⁹. As highlighted by UNICEF, these data "**represent a setback of nearly a decade in the fight against poverty**". These contributions warn of the negative consequences for young people and the impact on the increasing number of children in street situations.
13. **Due to the lack of official census, the exact number of children in street situations in the country remains unknown.** According to the statistical records of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP), 8,074 children in street situations were attended in state centres¹⁰ in 2019, and 6,443 in 2021¹¹. Yet, in 2017, the MIMP and its National Program YACHAY¹² planned to support 50,000 children in street situations in the country in 2021¹³. **However, it is estimated that the number of supported young people is very small compared to the actual number of children in street situations in the country.**
14. **Despite the ratification of several international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the adoption of several laws to protect children, little attention is given to the specific situation of children in street situations in Peru.**
15. **The Article 40 of the New Code for Children and Adolescents, signed in 2000, is one of the few articles that refers exclusively to children working and living on the street.** It establishes

⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child. Concluding Observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Peru. CRC/C/PER/CO/4-5. 2.03, 2016.

⁷ UNICEF. Niñas, niños y adolescentes en el Perú, Análisis de su situación al 2020, Resumen Ejecutivo. Lima: UNICEF, 2021, p. 56.

⁸ OTTONE C., Gissela (ed.): Perú Hoy, Infancia y adolescencia, esos rostros invisibles. Lima: DESCO, 2022, p. 283.

⁹ UNICEF. Niñas, niños y adolescentes en el Perú, Análisis de su situación al 2020, Resumen Ejecutivo. Lima: UNICEF, 2021, p. 80.

¹⁰ Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP). Temporary shelter service, residential shelter center, emergency residential shelter center, street educators. <https://www.mimp.gob.pe/omep/estadisticas-anna.php>

¹¹ UNICEF. Niñas, niños y adolescentes en el Perú, Análisis de su situación al 2020, Resumen Ejecutivo. Lima: UNICEF, 2021, p. 80.

¹² Since 2017, the functions of the YACHAY Program were integrated into the Child and Adolescent Protection Services Unit (USPNNA).

¹³ The Peruvian. The challenge of Yachay, September 19th, 2016. <https://elperuano.pe/noticia/45671-el-reto-de-yachay>

that children working on the street **must participate in specialised programs to ensure their educational, psychological, and physical development**. Similarly, children living on the street **are entitled to participate in welfare programs** aiming at eradicating begging and ensuring the development of the child¹⁴.

16. Among others, the National Integral Program for Family Welfare (INABIF) manages several homes for children in Peru, and the Street Educators Service (SEC) aims at helping children working and living on the streets at the national level and at mediating between them and institutions. However, **the capacity of these government services is largely insufficient to carry out their mission to protect and care for all children in street situations in Peru**.
17. However, Legislative Decree No. 1297 (2018) dealing with "children and adolescents without parental care or at risk of losing it" states that "to combat citizen insecurity, it is necessary to attack its causes¹⁵". **Thus, young people in street situations are invisible because of their situation under Peruvian law and are primarily perceived as a source of delinquency**.
18. **General Recommendation**: In accordance with the provisions of General Comment No. 21 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on children in street situations, and with its recommendations to the Peruvian State during its last review in 2016: **it is recommended that the Peruvian State develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy regarding children in street situations, with an effective budget, including the participation of the aforementioned children in its elaboration**.

VI. CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: MORE UNCERTAINTY AND AN UNCHANGED REALITY

19. The critical situation of children in street situations has not been taken into account during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The closure or very restrictive rules of shelters such as Qosqo Maki forced them to sleep in the streets**. Some have returned to their families with the risk of maltreatment, others went to the countryside in search of work opportunities due to the economic situation, many others were seduced by the payment offered by the mining companies despite of the risk of exploitation. **In the context of continuous curfews, Qosqo Maki found that young people had been chased off the streets without any safe alternative¹⁶**. This phenomenon broke the contact with the child institutions, thus leaving children in street situations in a state of total vulnerability and more invisible than ever.
20. In addition, **children in street situations could not access basic rights granted to the Peruvian population during the pandemic: they could not receive food baskets** because they did not appear in the municipal registry of poor families, nor could **they be recognized as subjects of rights** and registered in the national identity registry (RENIEC) **to receive a family voucher**.

¹⁴ STREHL. Talinay. Street-working and street-living children in Peru: Conditions and current interventions. Foundation for International Research on Working Children (IREWOC), 2010. <https://www.streetchildren.org/resources/street-working-and-street-living-children-in-peru-conditions-and-current-interventions/>

¹⁵ Legislative Decree No. 1297, 2018. <https://busquedas.elperuano.pe/normaslegales/decreto-legislativo-para-la-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-ado-decreto-legislativo-n-1297-1468962-4/>

¹⁶ Emergency Decree No. 001-2020, a decree that modifies Legislative Decree No. 1297, issued at the beginning of the pandemic (2020), has limited the rights of street adolescents. If they had committed any offense before the law and been stopped by the police, they could not be referred to any Residential Care Center. Supreme Decree No. 044-2020-PCM (2020), which declared a state of national emergency, may have been a pretext to expel young people whose specificity, of having left their family home for survival or safety, has never been taken into account.

They could not receive vaccinations either because of the absence of their parents.

21. **The pandemic caused the closure of productive activities, and consequently, poverty increased.** The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) estimates the number of new poor People in Peru at 3 million more¹⁷. **On the other hand, 210,000 children have dropped out of school; economic poverty is the first cause to explain this phenomenon that forces children to leave their family home.** These data allow us to measure the emergency of acting to avoid an increase in the number of children forced to work or sleep on the streets.
22. As an order of magnitude, Qosqo Maki, in the scope of the Covid-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021) has received 152 young people, 22 girls and 130 boys. 20% of this number had health problems and 80% of them had schooling problems.
23. In this context of uncertainty about the number of children in street situations, their needs or their location in Peru, and in accordance with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its latest review of Peru (2016): **it is recommended to the Peruvian State to conduct a census and mapping of the critical situation of children in street situations in the shortest possible time.**¹⁸

VII. A SPECIFIC AND ADAPTED IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

24. Each human right recognised in the international treaties ratified by the Peruvian State and in the Peruvian Constitution must be accompanied by concrete measures, especially for children in Street situations, whose accumulation of difficulties complicates the respect of their rights: to be protected against violence and discrimination, to have access to health, housing and education, etc. This implies the **creation of special services so that they can be cared for with dignity, considering their specificities.**

A. Right to health

25. Each member State of the Convention on the Rights of the Child must incorporate the rights of children and adolescents into its legal system. In Peru, the main instrument to fulfil this objective is the New Code for Children and Adolescents (2000): **"Children and adolescents have the right to comprehensive health care, through the implementation of policies that allow their physical and intellectual development in adequate conditions"** (art. 21).
26. The experience of Qosqo Maki in accompanying children in street situations **who need medical or hospital attention but do not have their identity card** is a recurring situation: **the young people have been rejected for not being able to identify with identity cards.** The educators who accompany them have noted this fact and have had to insist that the right to receive medical attention prevails.

¹⁷ National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). Monetary poverty, 2020. <https://m.inei.gob.pe/prensa/noticias/pobreza-monetaria-alcanzo-al-301-de-la-poblacion-del-pais-durante-el-ano-2020-12875/>

¹⁸ According to Art. 23 of General Comment n°21 (2017) on street children: "In partnership with academia, civil society and the private sector, States should develop systematic, participatory and rights-respecting mechanisms to collect data and share disaggregated information on street children [...].Data collection on street children should be integrated into national-level data collection on children, ensuring that national data are not based solely on household surveys, but also encompass children living outside a domestic environment [...].Street situations change rapidly and regular research should be conducted to ensure that policies and programs are up to date".

27. **Many children in street situations do not have access to health care because no service provided is adapted to their needs**, contrary to what the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child requests in its General Comment n°21¹⁹. If health is recognised as a right for all in Peru, in practice, no concrete action allows children in street situations to receive dignified care despite of their very harsh conditions. These Young accumulate health problems, which hamper their development.

"I've almost never been to a public health centre because when you go there, it is so horrible: the nurses seem to be annoyed, they make you wait for hours, and they tell you to come back the next day, and the next day, if you ask to be treated quickly, they say "where is the blood, are you dying?". That's why I've almost never gone to public health centres²⁰".

28. Therefore, it **is recommended that the State comply with its obligation to provide the necessary and appropriate medical care to children in street situations, including all educational measures for prevention.**

B. Right to be protected

29. As established by the New Code for Children and Adolescents (2000), **the Peruvian State guarantees the safety of children and adolescents in any situation and instance without the need for identification**: they must be protected against any threat to their personal safety. Legislative decree n°1297 (2018) describes the procedure for the protection of children and adolescents. However, it is often not respected, especially for young people in street situations.

"I don't think the police care about anything. When I go to the police station for me, all they think about is getting their pay check. The police hardly do anything. [With street connected children], when they are quiet, they leave them alone. But when they see something suspicious, the police act. The police take them to the police station, and I think if they don't have parents and nobody comes to get them, they start contacting the shelters. If they have committed a crime, they're sent right away to jail²¹".

C. Right to non-discrimination

30. It is very difficult for a **child or adolescent to feel protected in the complicated environment of the street. It is very difficult for them to be taken care of by the police. On the contrary, the police often criminalise their activities without considering their survival needs.**

"I wanted to point out that in Peru today, there is practically no support for the majority of children in street situations who suffer day after day to earn a living, to feed themselves. Nowadays, even the municipality doesn't let us. street vendors are kicked out, there are harassment, abuse, arrests, and most of these children are considered as offenders²²".

¹⁹ Art. 53 of General Comment n°21, Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2017: "Street children should have free access to basic health care services through universal health coverage and social protection schemes. [...] These services should be staffed by professionals trained in children's rights and the particular circumstances of street children".

²⁰ Testimony of a street youth hosted at Qosqo Maki, Discussion Group of May 31st, 2022.

²¹ Testimony of a street youth hosted at Qosqo Maki, Discussion Group of May 31st, 2022.

²² Testimony of a child in street situation, supported by Qosqo Maki, during a meeting of the RIDIAC network, on April 12th, 2022.

31. The Committee on the Rights of the Child had denounced in 2016 the lack of attention paid by the police to **children in street situations** and had recommended to the Peruvian State to **"ensure that children in street situations are not discriminated against, mistreated and harassed by State agents, and that they are not arbitrarily arrested or detained"**.
32. According to the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, **it is recommended that the State guarantee protection against violence and harassment of children in street situations and ensure that the police guarantee their safety, without criminalising them.**

D. Right to housing

33. According to the New Code for Children and Adolescents (2000), they have the right to a home that provides them with safe living conditions, with a family that protects them, provides them with food, health and education, and allows them to develop in conditions worthy of human beings. When they are expelled from their family home due to abuse, neglect, or other reasons, the State must assume their protection in a home or Residential Care Centre that provides them with all the necessary care under a safe roof. However, **closed homes do not give priority to adolescents who have experienced the street, denying these young people access to their right to housing**, which is essential for a child in a street situation because a home provides security and stability²³.

"I wish there were more places like this [Qosqo Maki]. I don't know how many there are, but it seems to me that there are very few, and that's why also the children who are on the street don't know where to go. So, it would be also very important to promote it. The kids who are on the street, they will be interested in coming and seeing what it's like. In time they will get used to it like all the young people here. They will stay, they will learn a lot of things, as well as all the former users. Some of them took this opportunity and ended up very well; I think it would be nice to promote it²⁴".

34. In accordance with the provisions of General Comment No. 21 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, **it is recommended that the State collaborate with and financially support civil society organisations that care for children in street situations.**

E. Right to participate

35. The recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the Peruvian State during its last review in 2016 have already asked the Peru to "ensure that children in street situations are consulted in the elaboration of programs that ensure their protection and encourage their development".
- The more children are involved in the organisation of their space, the more responsible they become and the more they feel included in society. Thus, **in order to support the right to participation of children in street situations, it is important to recognise and support organisations such as Qosqo Maki that open the necessary spaces for expression, listening**

²³ Art. 50 of General Comment n°21, Committee on the Rights of the Child. 2017: "The right to housing is an important component of article 27, especially with regard to street children. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has given it a broad interpretation, defining it as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity, and clarifying that the concept of "adequacy" in relation to housing may take into account legal security of tenure; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; bearable costs; habitability; affordability; location; and cultural adequacy".

²⁴ Testimony of a former Qosqo Maki user, Discussion Group May 31st, 2022

and participation.

"I think, from what I have experienced here, [...] that what I have learned are values [...]. Once a week, there was an assembly, where everyone could give their opinion, everyone gave their opinion on what we could do. The educators proposed a general cleaning at the end of each month, during which food was prepared and shared. So, I think that has helped us a lot²⁵".

F. Right to be protected from exploitation

36. Adolescents have the right to work from the age of 14 and labour is limited for minors according to the New Code for Children and Adolescents (2000). There are some conditions precisely for their protection to ensure that they are not exploited: the State requires the employer to firm a contract that guarantees their physical and emotional safety, that they are not exposed to risky situations such as handling heavy machines, late at night or early in the morning, no more than six hours a day and that is appropriate to their age. Parents in this context can sign the authorisation and demand compliance with the contract. Otherwise, they must report abuse, mistreatment, and exploitation to the corresponding authorities.
37. **Many children in street situations work for economic reasons, to survive.** Sometimes, because they are unable to defend themselves, they have to accept very undignified working conditions that are not adapted to a young age. Many children are unable to exercise their right to education due to lack of resources and are condemned to work. **It is important to protect children from labour exploitation, preventing them from being condemned to work because they are poor, and to support them in exercising their rights to education, health, etc. to create better opportunities for a dignified life.**

"In my opinion, minors should not work, they should be in training centres like here [Qosqo Maki], where there are many activities. I wish there were many workshops where they could train. Because they are minors, they can't work, because it is almost illegal. One solution is to study and do their homework. I wish they [the government] would open more training centres where you could learn everything [...]. If the law states that minors should not work, we should also look for a way for minors not to be in this situation, with more education. There are many ways to solve the problem²⁶".

G. Right to education: for truly free school education

38. Article 32 of General Comment 21 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on children in street situations states that "**providing quality, accessible, free, safe and relevant education is essential to prevent children from ending up on the street and to realise the rights of children already in that situation.** For many children, education represents the last link with the rest of society. States must take appropriate measures, including providing support to parents, caregivers, and families, so that children in street situations can remain in school and their right to quality education fully protected".
39. **Although school education is compulsory in Peru, Qosqo Maki notes that access to it is much more difficult for some children, especially those in street situations.** Some have to work to pay for their schooling including their school supplies, others have to work simply to survive,

²⁵ Testimony of a former Qosqo Maki user, Discussion Group May 31st, 2022.

²⁶ Testimony of a street youth hosted at Qosqo Maki, Discussion Group of May 31st, 2022.

and these particular situations are not taken into account. In these conditions, it is very difficult to have the time and peace of mind to get a quality and long-term education. However, organisations such as Qosqo Maki play a very important role in helping these children to continue their schooling, from the management of the paperwork to the daily accompaniment.

"I came here to Cusco to work, to sell candy, but only on Saturdays and Sundays, not more because the rest of the week I had to study. Mr C. (educator in Qosqo Maki) always told me "Run fast to school, run!"²⁷".

"In my case, I started to study here in Qosqo Maki. I had only finished elementary school, but here I met the educators, and they always helped us a lot, they guided us to continue studying. They've always took us to school and helped us with our homework in some way [...].

I decided to go to college and enrol in science, I think it was the best decision for me²⁸".

"There is also the question of money, isn't there? That is, who is going to pay for the food, and all the other things. It would also be great if parents could donate some money. [Question: What happens if parents can't pay?] The government should, the authorities?²⁹".

40. Thus, **it is recommended that the State ensure that school education is more inclusive and develop a policy of scholarships to enable all children and adolescents to attend school, thus preventing them from being condemned to work to survive.**

VIII. CURRENT PROBLEMS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INSERTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN STREET SITUATIONS

A. Educational value of civil society organisations

41. . The young people consulted underline the importance of organisations, such as Qosqo Maki, which offer an education focused on values, dialogue, peace, expression, co-management of common spaces, which is very complementary to school education. The educational action of these types of organisations has very positive effects, many users and former users recognise its value, especially for socialisation. **Organisations that present a benevolent educational action with children in street situations allow them to acquire positive values and attitudes, opening new perspectives of live.**

"In school, they teach you and you learn, but in Qosqo Maki, they educate you, and it is something very different³⁰".

B. Educational diversity and community education

42. Sometimes, school education is not the most appropriate for children in street situations. **Community education allows the transmission of knowledge adapted to their own realities.** The

²⁷ Testimony of a street youth hosted at Qosqo Maki, Discussion Group of May 31st, 2022.

²⁸ Testimony of a former Qosqo Maki user, Discussion Group May 31st, 2022

²⁹ Testimony of a street youth hosted at Qosqo Maki, Discussion Group of May 31st, 2022.

³⁰ Testimony of a street youth hosted at Qosqo Maki, Discussion Group of May 31st, 2022.

accompaniment of the community educator guarantees the empowerment of the conduction of their lives, providing them with information that is of their benefit. The educator supports young people in their training, education, administrative procedures and in the management of their personal resources. It is a process of social integration through which children and adolescents can easily develop. Over the past seven years, the young people who have left Qosqo Maki have been able to take charge of their lives, acquire alternative technical training and find employment. They know how to manage a budget and maintain contact to share their experiences with the educators of the association, a socio-educational reference point.

43. Based on this experience, **it is recommended that the State actively promote and develop other forms of education more adapted to the realities of children in street situations, including community, technical and professional education.**

C. Technical and professional education

44. Some young people in street situations, for economic reasons, cannot finish high school. However, some users of Qosqo Maki, for example, have been able to take technical training in baking or carpentry which has been very useful for their professional lives even though this training is not officially recognised. **Technical or vocational education through training workshops helps to provide young people with decent work opportunities and knowledge that allows them to be more self-sufficient, especially when they have not been able to complete their secondary education.**

"During my training in baking, I have learned a lot of things. I have learned how to make bread... and everything a baker should know. I know the space I work in very well, and what we do there. I really did well to learn all these things and I am proud to work in Qosqo Maki's bakery because for me it is not only a job. It is also living in family because I have known for many years the girls, the sellers who work there, and everything is fine! [...] I think it is very important, because when you fill your CV, you can put "bakery" and that's what you get³¹".

45. **It is recommended that the Peruvian State recognise the value of professional and technical training for the socioeconomic insertion of young people through an official diploma.**

³¹ Testimony of a former Qosqo Maki user, Discussion Group May 31st, 2022.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PERUVIAN STATE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

46. GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

46.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy for children in street situations, with an allocated budget, including the participation of these children in its elaboration.

47. RECOMMENDATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING AND MEASURING THE PHENOMENON OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

47.1 Carry out a census and mapping of the critical condition of children in street situations in the shortest possible time.

48. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SPECIFIC AND ADAPTED APPLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

48.1 Comply with its obligation to provide the necessary and appropriate medical care to children in street situations, including all educational measures for prevention.

48.2 Guarantee protection from violence and harassment of children in street situations, and ensure that the police keep them safe, without criminalising them.

48.3 Collaborate and support with financial measures to civil society organisations that serve children in street situations.

48.4 Guarantee a more inclusive school education and develop a policy of scholarships to enable all children and adolescents to attend school, thus preventing them from being condemned to work to survive.

49. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INSERTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN STREET SITUATIONS

49.1 Actively promote and develop other forms of education more adapted to the realities of children in street situations, including community, technical and professional education.

49.2 Recognize the value of professional and technical training for the socioeconomic insertion of young people through an official diploma.