

Oral Statement

62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (2024)

Madame Chair/ Mr. Chairman, Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Since 2018, a group of transnational and regional organizations have been fully involved with the Preparations of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The commitment aims to turn the Anniversary into a substantial and enriching discussion to bring the role of the family unit and policies towards social development into reality.

In order to make every effort count, the alliance of non-governmental organizations has been working on a Civil Society Declaration. The Civil Society Declaration tries to integrate family needs into the various Megatrends proposed by the United Nations' Secretary General, be an effective instrument to foster partners' support and share substantial contributions from experts.

As the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 (IYF+30) is here, more than 25 civil society organizations signing below, declare their resolution to contribute and work together with the UN-System, Member States, other stakeholders and in particular with the Division for Inclusive Social Development of United Nations DESA (DISD) in the preparations and celebrations.

We call on governments, national and international organizations, academic and research institutions, donors and the private sector to:

1. Plan and implement family-responsive urban spaces that are inclusive, safe, resilient, healthy, affordable and sustainable in order for families to thrive.
2. Support positive economic, social and environmental links in urban settlements and rural areas by strengthening family engagement in national and regional development planning with the creation of family councils integrated by all members of the family.
3. Provide assistance, care and protection for all family members taking into account longer life expectancy, growing numbers of dual-worker households, declining fertility, higher rates of family breakdown and changing family patterns, particularly through the evaluation and development of the healthcare, pension systems and care policies.
4. Develop, promote and implement policies aimed at ending child poverty through the eradication of family poverty, while encouraging social, economic and educational policies to prevent intergenerational transmission of poverty; strengthen job security, promote the provision of integrated services for families and family-friendly fiscal policies and practices, including reduced taxes on goods and services for early childhood products and services.

5. Promote initiatives on early childhood development through allowing parents and primary caregivers to spend more time with their children to bond and to secure attachment in the first years, as well as to provide better access to health and child development services, affordable childcare, parental leaves; and other effective ways to cultivate children's potential and improve their wellbeing.

6. Develop, invest in and implement programs for family strengthening and parenting education, to emphasize positive parenting and prevent corporal punishment and domestic violence.

Thank you, Madame Chair / Mr. Chairman