



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY [2025]

Observance of the

2025 International Day of Families

15 May, 1:15 – 2:30 pm, UNHQ, New York, CR8

***Family-oriented Policies for Sustainable Development:
Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development
2025***

Background Note

The 2025 observance of the International Day of Families aims to:

- Note the importance of family policy focus in the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development
- Present an analysis of family policies and issues in National Voluntary Reviews 2020-2024
- Review the major initiatives undertaken as part of the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+30)
- Present good practices in family policymaking at regional and national levels
- Recommend family-oriented policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

As part of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and its thirtieth anniversary, the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has been exploring the cross-cutting relationship between family policy issues and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development concluding that it is imperative that family-oriented policies effectively respond to the numerous challenges faced by families in a rapidly changing world impacted by megatrends.

Second World Summit for Social Development 2025

The Second World Summit for Social Development to be held in November 2025 in Doha, Qatar is taking place amidst global challenges and only five years before the end date of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit is expected to give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and is to strengthen the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion and assess progress in the implementation of Copenhagen commitments.

The 1995 **Copenhagen Declaration** of the World Summit for Social Development recognized the family as the basic unit of society and acknowledged that it plays a key role in development and is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. Governments further recognized that the family should be strengthened, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members. The Summit also recognized that “in different cultural, political and social systems various forms of family exist.”

The World Summit for Social Development in 1995 pioneered the concept of work-family balance recommending fostering policies that enable people to combine their paid work with their family responsibilities. It further acknowledged the importance of promoting equal partnership between women and men in family and community life; emphasized men’s shared responsibility and promoted their active involvement in responsible parenthood.

The observance will note the importance of the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development and the three pillars of Copenhagen, focusing, on decent work through work-family balance and social inclusion through intergenerational solidarity, attempting to demonstrate that further advancement of family policy in the context of the 2030 Agenda depends on how well issues of family policy are integrated into the overall development planning at national levels.

Family policies and issues in the Voluntary National Review reports (2020-2024)

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports are a central element of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The framework is built around voluntary, participatory, country-led processes that track progress on the SDGs, with a focus on people furthest behind – including individuals and families in vulnerable situations. The VNRs serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Research paper *Family Policies and Issues in Voluntary National reviews 2020-2024* to be launched at the observance is to analyze the importance of family policies and their contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, especially those relating to SDGs 1-6, 10-11 and 16. Moreover, the paper is to offer examples of good practices in family policy making relating to the megatrends impacting families, including technological change, demographic trends, urbanization, migration and climate change.

Regional perspectives and good practices in family policymaking

The conclusions of the **Asian Family Summit “Towards a better tomorrow for families: partnership, collaboration and action for sustainable development”**, jointly organized by the Consortium of Institutes on Family in the Asian Region (CIFA), the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Hong Kong and various Hong Kong, SAR Government entities will be featured, highlighting good practices in family policymaking in Asia.

Further, the observance will highlight the conclusions of the **2024 Doha Conference “Family and Contemporary Megatrends”**, hosted by the government of Qatar and organized by the **Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)**, with support from DESA. The Conference adopted a *Doha Call to Action* focusing on family-oriented policies in response to megatrends. Good practices in family-oriented policies in Middle East and North Africa will be noted as well.

In addition, the work of the **Centre for Family and Business Reconciliation of the IAE Business school at Austral University**, active in promoting work-family balance policies in the private sector will be highlighted. The centre issues *Guide on Good Practises in Work-Family Balance*, where family-friendly practices from the business sectors of Latin and Central America are featured.

Finally, the **International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)** has recently organized a working group composed of more than fifty young researchers from eighteen countries, who have conducted literature reviews and prepared proposals for the Second World Summit. One of them will present some of the findings, focusing particularly on the importance of social inclusion and intergenerational solidarity.

The event is open to the public and will be webcast. Those without a valid UN ID should contact kaczmarska@un.org.

References

Report of the Secretary-General on Preparations for and Observance of the International Year of the Family, 2024, (A/80-61-E/2025/11)

General Assembly Resolution on the Observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024, (A/RES/79/150)

Maria Del Rosario Esteinou “*Family Policies in Voluntary Nations Reviews, 2020-2024*” May 2025, forthcoming.

“A Declaration on Future Generations,” UN Summit of the Future, <https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/declaration-on-future-generations>

Doha Call to Action, available at https://www.difi.org.qa/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/241128_Doha-Call-to-Action-2024-EN.pdf

Civil Society Declaration – 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, available at <https://familyperspective.org/2023/02/23/civil-society-declaration-30th-anniversary-of-the-international-year-of-the-family/#>