

World Family Organization

Statement by Isidro de Brito – Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs

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Distinguished leaders, delegates, and representatives of civil society,

Thirty years after Copenhagen, one truth endures: families, in all their diversity, remain the foundation of social development. They are where life begins, where care is learned, and where resilience and solidarity are built.

But we must speak plainly. Many families still face inequality, weak protection, and little say in the decisions that shape their lives. Real social progress will remain out of reach until public policy consistently recognizes and supports families: women and men, children and elders, migrants and minorities alike.

On behalf of families worldwide, the **World Family Organization** proposes four practical steps.

First, make family-impact assessment part of every policy. Understanding how each measure affects family life helps promote inclusion, gender equality, and protection for children, older persons, people with disabilities, and those in vulnerable or mobile situations.

Second, invest in *family resilience*. We encourage the creation of Family Resilience Funds; partnerships between public institutions and private actors that back women's entrepreneurship, youth employment, mental-health support, and care across generations.

Third, establish a *Global Family Data Observatory* under UN coordination. Reliable data on family well-being will allow governments to act on evidence and exchange tested solutions.

Fourth, ensure genuine participation. Families and community organizations should be involved from planning to evaluation, with training and capacity-building that strengthen local leadership.

Experience from many countries shows what is possible: when families are supported, children do better, communities become stronger, and societies grow more cohesive.

The future we seek: fair, inclusive, and peaceful! begins in the family. Let this Summit reaffirm a shared commitment: to place families at the center of strategies for sustainable development, today and for generations to come.

Thank you.