



The family impact report as a tool to achieve family perspective at all levels

*Presentation of the Declaration of the Civil Society launched by IFFD
together with many other International Organizations*

*Speech by Mrs.
Ignacio Socías
The Family Watch
Director of International Relations of IFFD*

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Distinguished Delegates and Authorities,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Marina, dear Friends,

As the consequence of all the actions already mentioned, we propose a Declaration of the Civil Society in which the basic contents of this last resolution and the precedent ones are included, as well as the main recommendations of different Expert Group Meetings, particularly the European one we organized in Brussels.

To this end, we aim to enrol as many politicians, academics and representatives of NGOs in every country as we can, so that we can present it together with the rest of international organizations to the UN. This has been a very successful call, because it is co-sponsored by the European Delegation of the World Movement of Mothers, the World Family Organization, the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development, the World Youth Alliance, the Home Renaissance Foundation, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, the Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe, the European Federation of Parents and Carers at Home, the European Large Families Confederation, the European Christian Political Foundation, New Women for Europe, European Women's Forum, CARE for Europe and the Veneto Region.

Moreover, as many as other 62 national NGOs from 47 different countries have joined it too up to today.

The Declaration is intended to be signed primarily by representatives of the civil society organizations, academics and policy makers.

Its preamble contains most of what has been said about family in the Reports of the Secretary-General and Resolutions about family, such as its crucial role in social development; its primary responsibility for children; and the care and support they provide to its members, especially important in times of increased uncertainty and vulnerability. It also mentions that family-focused policies have proven both valuable and efficient in many areas of social development, and that the very achievement of Millennium Development Goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to it.

The operative clauses include the welcome to the call made by UN to celebrate this anniversary, as an opportunity it provides, among other things, “to integrate a family perspective by introducing a family impact report or assessment as a standing and compulsory part of policymaking.” We feel this is, at the same time, the most efficient recommendation we can make and the task we should face for the next years, because the definition of that report is something that has to be done and explained as soon as possible.

Then, the rest of the Declaration also proposes very concrete and practical policies for each one of the 2014 topics:

- Regarding the need to eradicate poverty, some ways to help to single-parent, large and immigrant families; to aim at ending child poverty through the eradication of family poverty; to promote the provision of integrated services for families and family-friendly taxation policies and practices.
- Regarding work-family balance, comprehensive well-resourced and flexible parental leave entitlements, skill development and learning systems throughout the life course of the family and in periods of transition, promotion of parents' re-entering the labor market and of the dialogue and partnerships between social policy makers and relevant stakeholders.
- Regarding intergenerational solidarity, to facilitate quality couple and family relationships, parenting programmes; high-quality childcare and other ancillary services which support families, as well as active measures to support the psychological well-being of children and youth, and to develop public policies concerning the support to the elder members of the family, especially in situations of particular need.

Other concepts such as family mainstreaming in policy making; sustainable, affordable and quality living conditions for families; and to empower families and recognize their role in social cohesion and economic development are also developed.

The Declaration will be disseminated in all our actions during this year's preparations of the twentieth anniversary. We hope all stakeholders who see it as a valuable instrument to show a common agreement on the purpose of this celebration. That is why we wanted it to be a Declaration of the Civil Society as a whole. We also hope that its contents can become a part for the contents of a resolution by the UN General Assembly on the occasion of this anniversary.

Let me know encourage you personally to sign the Declaration today if you haven't done it yet. Also, please consider the possibility of the entity you represent to become part of it.

And thanks very much for coming here today and giving us the chance to show you our work in favour of the family worldwide. We know these benefits also the whole society, and that is why we are trying to reach as many people as possible and expect to have your help too from today.