



Technical Meeting 2022

Brussels, 30-31 March 1 April 2022

SPEECH BY ANNALISA BISSON

I am really happy and proud to see that this meeting is hosted by the Veneto Region which gives full support to the development of this project. When I was just appointed as Director one of my first meeting in Brussels has been with Ignacio Socias (IFFD International Federation for Family Development) and we spoke about the challenges of the 2030 agenda the organization of this event to develop and consolidate the alliance that has been built to empower families as an agent of development.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge, thank and congratulate the cities and Regions from all over the world who joined our efforts coming from so far to Brussels especially from Brazil: the city of Sao Paulo Pedro Sanches de Frias, Lucas Roberto Paredes Santos from Mexico: Julio César Chavez (Guadalupe); Juan Antonio Baljarg IAPF Instituto de Análisis de Política Familiar, to those who joined us online the Senator of the Republic of Mexico Nancy de la Sierra Aramburu, to Mario Eduardo Garcia (Chihuahua) who in spite of the different time zone connected and stayed online to answer extensively all questions to the colleagues of Kujawsko-Pomorskie, who in spite of the intensive refugee crisis managed to come to Brussels to work together sharing award-winning practices to Carinthia who is always sharing knowledge about concrete successful family initiatives and allow me from my country: the city of Vicenza, the Veneto Region as a whole with a significant project fighting against the effects of the pandemic on teens and young people, and also from Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano without last but not least stress the most relevant support received from the European Parliament with the Hon Paolo Borchia.

Let me share a few immediate reflections inspired by the reports I got these days:

All the experiences were highly useful and valuable whatever their dimension and their diversity we learned from them. They represent concrete examples that can inspire us and yes we will make them available to others through this proposed manual. Thank you to Roberto Ciambetti who suggested it.

Updating the Venice Declaration, yes the world has changed such as our lives have with the absolute need to address simultaneously the triple crisis we are facing: COVID, the war, climate, and now the challenge of the global shortage of food. The role and empowerment of families is key. They are at the forefront not a passive subject of social assistance but protagonists of

change and the well-being of all its members are our well-being and it cannot be achieved without peace.

Violence has been another topic, yes the tensions we are going through like dynamite can explode at any time and even within the family itself, for instance, we saw in confinement sadly how cases of feminicides increased furthermore social, economic violence are sometimes unbearable.

Answers are to be sought together with mutual help, solidarity and inspiration they go through like France, ELISAN and IFFD underlined through careful observation, diagnosis, evaluation, collective thinking about indicators and then implementation of strategies and policies. Common goals may be agreed upon through each answer, each need is linked to a specific territory and may vary according to it.

Finally, going to the next UN Megatrends, As their name suggests, mega-trends are trends that occur on a large scale; they therefore affect large groups of humans, states, regions, and in many cases, the entire world. climate change, urbanization, technological innovation, inequalities, and demographic developments have been identified. Thank you Renata Kackzmarska, Focal Point on the Family Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations for your points on urbanization as an opportunity. The suggestion is to go on tackling these trends within the practices we are now exchanging in the updated to be Venice Declaration. And last but not least we will be happy to go “forward better” thanks to the vision of IFFD with the inspiration of Daniela Bas Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Let me conclude with words of our key note speaker from ELISAN, Jean Max Trouillet, president of ELISAN Advisory Board and Director of the Union Départementale des CCAS des bouches du Rhone.

The HEALTH tragedy with more than 6 million death because of COVID 19 justifies more than ever the need to redefine the future of cities and territories towards an inclusive and sustainable model according to the Venice declaration. This new future is more than ever needed because of the war in UKRAINE that shows the vulnerability of our food provisions which problems will affect above all the most vulnerable ones. After COVID and the war in UKRAINE that we are all hoping will soon end efforts and projects for sustainable and INCLUSIVE cities will have higher costs and will require a lot of courage from citizens and policymakers towards unprecedented changes.

The WORLD CITIES in this moment of the chaotic history of humanity are at the crossroads of NECESSITY, OPPORTUNITY towards a new model that will allow us to face the present crisis- To repair and to give us the means to face tomorrow’s challenges – PREVENTING risks.

And to not miss the wonderful invitation from Marshall Calbecki from the Kujawsko next appointment for the Technical meeting in Poland in the Kujawsko -Pomorskie Region.

