



Technical Meeting 2022

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SPEECH BY ROBERTO CIAMBETTI

Good morning, everyone,

First of all, I would like to thank Mr Borchia, for welcoming us to the European Parliament in order to host the third technical meeting of experts and signatories of the Venice Charter, which is part of the "Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families" project, and also for his attention and sensitivity in understanding and addressing the challenges of sustainable development.

This initiative is part of the collaboration between the Veneto Region, the UN DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs), IFFD (International Federation for Family Development), and the ELISAN network. These days will also be held with the additional support of IAPF (Institute for the Analysis of Analysis Institute) and Family Talks.

I would also like to emphasize the precious support provided by the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano, South Tyrol and Trento for the organization of this event, allowing us to continue our work tomorrow at their premises. In addition to the organizational issues, the territorial commitment of these Provinces in favour of the centrality and sustainability of the family is remarkable, with innovative strategies and policies.

This is why the Family Agencies could make a significant contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the promotion of the Venice Charter. I am also proud to announce that the Charter is currently enjoying considerable success with a growing number of cities and regions adhering to the Charter, belonging to different countries, from big cities like Sao Paulo in Brazil to the smaller ones like Vicenza in Italy. Another very important City which is preparing to contribute with its experience is the City of Brasilia, whose Mayor, whom I am pleased to greet, will be joining us. Furthermore, during the last delegates meeting held in Mexico on 15-16 and 17 February, the "Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families" project presented by Senator Nancy De La Sierra, who belongs to the Senate of the Republic, increased the participation of several municipalities, like the Mexico City, to adhere to and develop family policies implementing of the 2030 Agenda.

Current context and the Ukraine crisis

In the context of the humanitarian tragedy which the Ukrainian population is experiencing, the key role of family support seems fundamental. Indeed, the unprecedented refugee crisis has a devastating impact on all family members. In particular, the escape from war has led to the division of households, contributing to the vulnerability of the elderly, while the number of unaccompanied minors facing severe psychological trauma is increasing. The solidarity for the reception of families is essential.

Through the exchange of good practices, we could increase the responsiveness and resilience of our territories. At this point I appreciate the significant opportunity to have at my side in this table my colleague Marshall Piotr Franciszek Calbecki, who is at the forefront of this dramatic moment, to launch a joint appeal to face these challenges together.

Post Covid

All this happens without forgetting the work we continue to do in the ongoing impact of Covid 19. We need to seize opportunities for change by rethinking the way we see and experience the world. The Pandemic shook up the old world and exploded its contradictions. We saw how home and family became the centre of the new life. The home proved during the pandemic to still be the privileged place for the care of the sick, with great savings in terms of both economic and social costs and excellent health results. The home, thanks to the spread of smart working, has become a place of production and thanks to e-learning has also become a place of study.

The indication is clear: the home and the family are at the centre of the new world, and the new urban planning of our cities must take into account the needs of citizens and families.

The services they need, the need for intelligent mobility, reconciling quality planning extended by the possibilities offered by technologies with key elements, harmonizing development with the affirmation of human rights, real participatory democracy the protection of the highest possible level of health, defined by the WHO as "a state of total physical, mental and social well-being" and not simply "absence of disease or infirmity".

Prospects for tomorrow's city

If we look at the Venice Charter we will see that some of these elements had already been identified and in some cases even surpassed: e future: just think of how the Venice Charter looked at the family and the home as the ideal moment for caring for the weak, not only the sick but also the elderly or disabled. And for this we must be grateful to the IFFD and Ignacio Socias, who were able to foresee well in advance the fundamental issues that are marking the turning poin for the future: just think of how the Venice Charter looked at the family and the home as an ideal place for caring for the weak, not only the sick but also the elderly or disabled; let us think of how the role of technology was envisaged to reduce commuting, domotics for safe living, the



circular economy to promote forms of eco-sustainability and environmental protection, and so on. But the Venice Charter, thanks to the stimuli of the IFFD and organizations such as the ELISAN network, not to mention the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs of the United Nations, now represented by Renata Kaczmarek - Focal Point on the Family, has gone further because if we have all understood the role of housing and the family, in the Venice Charter we also indicated the community strategy to overcome and avoid the risks of isolation, poverty and technological addiction: the home cannot become a prison. Living, yes, but in a community. And the first important thing is to have a neighbourhood. The new city must be created through new services and public transport. Co-housing and social-housing are clear objectives, but the organisation of the neighbourhood is less clear, which must have key points and a series of services, such as medical and nursing services 24-hour, pharmacies, but also 'neighbourhood' urban police centres that, working in synergy with the neighbourhood watch, guarantees safety, and cultural spaces such as libraries, cultural centres, registry and information services of the public administration, schools for students up to the age of 16, parks and gardens, sports centres, intelligent mobility with cycle paths and protected pedestrian routes. Please note that some of these services can also be carried out or provided by private structures or companies, voluntary associations and not only supported by public funds. This is why we say that we have to re-invent a new model of public and private cooperation: today we must seize the opportunity provided by combining the social and cultural needs of family protection with the fight against climate change and the opportunities of the newly advanced economy. The eco-sustainable city is an extraordinary opportunity for renewal. To sum up, we need to rethink the city, starting from the needs of the family and decent housing, drinking water, electricity, connection to computer networks, as well as a series of general services that the neighbourhood needs to ensure: "The city is a place where people can live and work: we need to identify all the best practices that can enrich the service system.

Ways forward - UN megatrends

It is essential to identify possible ways of positively meeting the needs of the family, the home needs and neighbourhoods, with the circular economy and therefore with the forms of recovery, reuse and recycling, thus reducing the waste of irreproducible resources. Every sector of the economy must be involved in the organisation of the new city. We can no longer admit absurd waste. Moreover, the devastating impacts of Covid have contributed to further diminishing the prospects of achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, with the greatest negative impacts falling on the most vulnerable and already at risk of being left behind. This calls for an active involvement of local public and private actors to address and drive the five trends highlighted by the United Nations UN's 75th-anniversary report "Shaping the trends of our time".

These trends, namely climate change, urbanisation, the emergence of new technologies, demographic change and inequalities, identify a series of policies and interventions on which I propose to work together to reshape our cities and territories. On the basis of these changes



and in order to continue our work, I extend to your attention an invitation to the next World Urban Forum organized by UN-HABITAT in Katowice (Poland) from June (Poland) from 26th to 30th June.

To sum up and conclude, the key will be to organize and build the new, not to rebuild the old, using the rubble of the world in which we live. The new city must see families as protagonists in the defense of the quality of life, which passes above all now through the defense of peace and solidarity. An ancient proverb of the Iroquois Indians of America says that "Peace is not only the opposite of war, it is not only the temporal space between two wars...peace is more. Peace is the law of human life. Peace is when we act fairly and when justice reigns among every single human being" And we are all here today to do that. Thank you.

