



**New York, 12th February 2023.** - The International Federation for Family Development organized last Thursday their annual Briefing, co-organized by the United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development and with the collaboration of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations. The **#IFFDBriefing** has been held at the UN Headquarters in New York during the Session of the Commission for Social Development every year since 2013.

The meeting was attended by members of the national delegations present at the Commission, members of the permanent missions, United Nations staff and representatives of civil society organizations, as well as some academics from different American universities.

The welcoming remarks were delivered by Nora Urrea, vice-president of the International Federation for Family Development and president of Family Enrichment USA, who expressed her wish for the event to help understand how the social and political reality shows the family's contribution to social development, within the confines of existing public policy mechanisms.

This year's edition was focused on the work of Family Science scholars and professionals across many careers, how they create a better understanding of families, and they empower families to contribute to the well-being of their members and become actual development agents.

To this end, Joseph G. Grzywacz, Norejane Hendrickson Professor at the Florida State University, explained how family scientists make an impact in society, using the unique approach of Family Science as a relationships-focused, evidence-based, preventive, strengths-oriented and translational discipline.

The keynote speech was followed by an interactive discussion with three young scholars and practitioners who spoke about their contribution to social wellbeing – Francisca L. Tettevie, a graduate teaching assistant from Ghana; Abigail T. Stephan, a postdoctoral fellow at Clemson University; and Virginia Hernández, secretary of youth at the regional government of the state of Queretaro in Mexico. The panel was moderated by Carlota Nalda, from the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

As usual, the **#IFFDAwards** were also presented during the event to the persons or territories distinguished by the promotion of family values. The awardees this year were the government of Slovenia and the Brazilian Instituto de Desenvolvimento Familiar Chieko Nishimura.

The Award to the Instituto de Desenvolvimento Familiar was presented by Sharifa Noaman Al Emadi, Executive Director of the Doha International Family Institute, 2018 IFFD Award. It was received by Jorge Nishimura, president and administrative board member of the Jacto Group into which it was developed. He highlighted in his words of acceptance the importance that his group of companies, present in more than 100 countries with high-technology products and innovative solutions for agriculture, has always given to the support they can provide to their employees and their families.

The Award to Slovenia was presented by Nora Urrea, from IFFD, and accepted by Sašo Furlan, cabinet chief of the national Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in presence of the permanent representative to the United Nations, H. E. Boštjan Malovrh. In his speech, Mr. Furlan detailed some good practices of their inclusive approach to family policies that have placed for many years the country among the top countries in the world for generosity to new parents.

The final remarks were made by Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point of the Family at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who stressed the need to build links between Family Science and policymakers, to develop the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to the preparations and celebrations of the International Year of the Family.

[More information, images and documents about the event](#)

[More information about IFFD](#)

Contact: Alex Vazquez, [un@iffd.org](mailto:un@iffd.org)

---