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## Commission for Social Development

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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
Priority Theme: “Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

### **Statement submitted by International Federation for Family Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Preparations for the II Summit on Social Development with family-oriented policies for sustainable development.**

As the world gears up for the World Social Summit in Doha 2025, the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) is positioning itself at the forefront of discussions, ready to advocate for the central role of the family in social development. This summit, marking 30 years since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, provides a timely platform for IFFD to strengthen its call for family-oriented policies in tackling global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. For IFFD, the family unit is not just a beneficiary of social programs but a critical driver of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development.

### **The Legacy of Copenhagen 1995: A Turning Point in Social Development**

The World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995 remains a landmark moment in international development history. During this summit, representatives from 117 heads of state and over 180 countries came together to address three critical social challenges: poverty eradication, full employment, and social integration. The summit resulted in the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, both of which set the stage for future international development efforts.

The Copenhagen Summit focused on people-centered development, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that economic growth leads to improvements in the quality of life for all. This emphasis on inclusion, equality, and social progress directly aligns with IFFD's mission to advocate for family-oriented policies as essential to achieving these objectives.

While the Copenhagen Summit set ambitious goals, many of the challenges identified in 1995 – such as inequality, social exclusion, and unemployment – persist today. The upcoming World Social Summit in Doha offers an opportunity to renew commitments to these issues, particularly in light of new global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the digital transformation of work. For IFFD, this represents a critical opportunity to reinforce the role of families as central actors in achieving sustainable and equitable development.

### **IFFD's Commitment to Family-oriented Development**

The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) has long been a champion of family-friendly policies, advocating for the family unit as a key social institution that supports individuals and communities in navigating social, economic, and environmental challenges. As a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), IFFD has participated in numerous international forums, working closely with governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to shape policy discussions.

IFFD's core mission is to empower families to contribute to social progress by promoting intergenerational solidarity, mutual support, and resilience. It believes that by strengthening families, societies can better address issues like poverty, inequality, and social exclusion. IFFD's focus on parenting support, work-family balance, recognition of unpaid care work, and intergenerational solidarity forms the cornerstone of its advocacy efforts at the international level.

## **The World Social Summit 2025 in Doha: Key Themes and Opportunities**

The World Social Summit 2025 in Doha, Qatar will focus on the creation of renewed social contracts and inclusive development models that reflect the realities of a post-pandemic world.

The Doha summit provides IFFD with a unique opportunity to advocate for policies that place the family at the center of social integration, poverty eradication, and sustainable development efforts. IFFD's primary areas of focus for the Doha summit include:

### **1. Strengthening Family Resilience to Address Social Exclusion:**

Social exclusion continues to undermine the well-being of marginalized groups, including women, children, and elderly populations. IFFD's vision for Doha emphasizes the resilience of families as a key driver of social cohesion and inclusion.

### **2. Promoting Gender Equality through the Recognition of Unpaid Care Work:**

A critical issue on the agenda for the Doha summit is the need to recognize and redistribute unpaid care work, which is predominantly carried out by women. IFFD has long been a vocal advocate for the recognition of unpaid care as a key component of economic development. In Doha, IFFD plans to present research on how gender equality can be achieved through policies that acknowledge unpaid care work, promote work-life balance, and encourage shared responsibilities between men and women.

### **3. Fostering Intergenerational Solidarity in the Face of Global Aging:**

As populations age around the world, intergenerational solidarity is becoming increasingly important. IFFD believes that strong family bonds across generations can help address the challenges of aging, including healthcare, financial security, and social isolation. By promoting family-based caregiving, supporting age-inclusive labor markets, and encouraging intergenerational dialogue, IFFD hopes to influence policies that create more inclusive societies for all age groups.

### **4. Enhancing Youth Transitions through Family Support Systems:**

One of the key challenges facing young people today is the transition from education to employment, especially in an increasingly digitized and automated world. IFFD is committed to advocating for policies that support youth transitions, with a particular focus on the role of families in providing emotional, financial, and social support. By enhancing educational opportunities, vocational training, and youth employment programs, IFFD aims to ensure that young people can successfully integrate into the workforce and contribute to society.

## **IFFD's Advocacy at the United Nations: A Strategy for Change**

As part of its preparations for the World Social Summit 2025, IFFD is intensifying its advocacy efforts at the United Nations. Through its consultative status at ECOSOC, IFFD has been actively involved in shaping the global policy agenda, particularly in the areas of family, education, and gender equality.

IFFD has been a consistent participant in key UN forums, including the Commission for Social Development, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, and the UN General Assembly. In these spaces, IFFD has advocated for the integration of family-oriented policies into global development frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. IFFD's work

with organizations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) underscores its commitment to multisectoral collaboration in advancing family-friendly policies.

### **Strategic Partnerships**

To strengthen its advocacy efforts, IFFD has been building strategic partnerships with governments, other civil society organizations, and research institutions. These partnerships have allowed IFFD to engage in evidence-based policy development, ensuring that its proposals are grounded in rigorous research and real-world experience.

One example of IFFD's collaborative approach is its work on the Civil Society Declaration on the occasion of the Thirtieth anniversary of the International Year was led by the International Federation for Family Development and six drafters from transnational organizations. Since 2019 it was shaped by the needs of families together with the input of 53 experts from academia, UN-System and policymakers, resulting in an enriched and comprehensive Declaration. Its relevance is mostly based on how it articulated Megatrends on New Technologies, Urbanization and International Migration, Demographic Shifts and Climate Change with claims and policy recommendations. It has 94 signatories representing 245 organizations in 141 countries.

The Federation actively promoted the anniversary's objectives, mobilizing support and organizing awareness-raising events throughout the year. Notably, the Family Life and New Technologies IFFD Congress 2024 in Cebu, Philippines, played a key role in marking the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. It gathered 1,300 delegates from 40 countries, providing a platform for international dialogue on the UN-identified megatrends, especially new technologies, climate change, urbanization, demographic shifts. The Congress emphasized family-centered solutions and highlighted the Philippines' Parent Effectiveness Service Program Act as a model for fostering parenting education and support at regional and national levels. (<https://iffd.org/iffd-congress-2024/>)

### **Preparing for Doha 2025: IFFD's Policy Proposals**

As the Doha summit approaches, IFFD is preparing a series of policy proposals that will be presented during the summit and related preparatory meetings. These proposals are designed to address the key social challenges identified by IFFD, including poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, with a particular focus on the role of the family in achieving social progress.

#### **IFFD's Key Policy Proposals for the World Social Summit 2025:**

##### **1. Family-Oriented Social Protection Systems:**

IFFD will advocate for the creation of family-oriented social protection systems that provide support to vulnerable families, particularly those facing economic hardship, unemployment, or social exclusion. These systems should include measures such as universal childcare services, family allowances, and parental leave policies that enable parents to balance work and caregiving responsibilities.

##### **2. Recognition and Support for Unpaid Care Work:**

IFFD's policy proposals will focus on the need to recognize and support unpaid care work, which plays a critical role in sustaining families and communities. This includes the adoption of policies that promote shared caregiving responsibilities between men and women, as well as the integration of unpaid care into national accounts to ensure that its economic and social contributions are valued.

### **3. Youth Employment and Education:**

IFFD will call for policies that enhance youth employment opportunities and ensure that young people have access to the education and training necessary to succeed in the modern labor market. This includes promoting vocational education and skills development programs that help young people transition from school to work, as well as supporting family-based initiatives that provide guidance and support during this critical life stage.

### **4. Intergenerational Solidarity and Aging:**

Recognizing the global challenge of population aging, IFFD will advocate for policies that promote intergenerational solidarity and ensure that older adults have access to the care, support, and resources they need. This includes encouraging family-based caregiving and creating age-inclusive labor markets that enable older adults to remain active and engaged in society.

### **Looking Ahead: The Future of family-oriented Development**

As the world prepares for the World Social Summit in Doha in 2025, IFFD is committed to ensuring that family-oriented development remains a key priority in global policy discussions. By advocating for policies that strengthen families, IFFD believes that societies can build the resilience, cohesion, and solidarity needed to overcome today's most pressing social challenges.

Building on the legacy of Copenhagen 1995, IFFD aims to influence the agenda in Doha by highlighting the family's critical role in achieving social integration, poverty eradication, and sustainable development. Through its ongoing advocacy, strategic partnerships, and policy proposals, IFFD is ready to make a lasting impact at the summit and beyond.

### **Conclusion: IFFD's Vision for a More Inclusive and Sustainable World**

The World Social Summit 2025 in Doha represents a pivotal moment for the global community to renew its commitment to social development and create a more inclusive and sustainable future. For the International Federation for Family Development, this summit is a unique opportunity to advance its mission of family-oriented development and ensure that the family remains at the heart of international efforts to promote social progress.

As IFFD prepares to engage with world leaders, policymakers, and civil society organizations in Doha, it will continue to champion policies that empower families to be agents of positive change, contributing to the well-being of individuals and the broader society. The 2025 summit is not just a continuation of Copenhagen's legacy – it is a chance to create a new vision for a world where families are central to achieving social, economic, and environmental sustainability.