



International Federation
for Family Development

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Commission on Social
Development

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familyperspective.org

IFFD Briefing and Award Ceremony 2026

Executive Summary & Policy Recommendations

Care Systems and Social Justice

A central message of the briefing was that care and support systems must be visible, coordinated, and valued.

IFFD's advocacy at the United Nations, including contributions to UNICEF, the UN Statistical Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Population and Development demonstrated that policies cannot effectively address poverty, inequality, or child well-being without recognizing unpaid care, parenting, and mental health as core dimensions of social policy.

Making care visible in data and policy design was repeatedly identified as a prerequisite for equity and justice.

Family-friendly Workplaces

The discussion underscored the importance of cross-sectoral coordination. Integrated approaches linking health, education, social protection, employment, and urban governance were shown to reduce fragmentation, improve access to services, and strengthen resilience for families, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

Regional experiences, particularly from Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, IFFD awardee of 2026, illustrated how multidisciplinary networks, community-based care, active aging policies, and anti-loneliness strategies can prevent vulnerability and promote dignity across the life course.



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Childhood Education
International



Early Childhood Development

The discussions emphasized that no child-centered policy can succeed without equipping parents with adequate time, resources, and support, including access to quality, affordable childcare and family-friendly work arrangements.

Speakers highlighted the need to make care visible in public policy and data systems, recognizing unpaid caregiving as a critical contribution to child well-being and societal sustainability.

Public-Private Partnerships

A key contribution of the briefing was the recognition of the private sector as an essential partner in inclusive and equitable development.

Initiatives such as The Best Place for Working Parents, winner of the 2026 IFFD award demonstrated that family-friendly workplace policies, like childcare support, flexible work, parental leave, and responsible practices deliver measurable returns in productivity, retention, and well-being while directly reducing the risk of poverty and instability for working families.

Policy Recommendations

- **Strengthen** coordinated care and support systems by making unpaid care, parenting, and mental health visible in data, policy design, and delivery
- **Promote** cross-sectoral coordination to advance family-friendly labour policies that support flexibility, work-life balance, and caregiver protection, improving workforce participation, resilience, and social inclusion.
- **Support** private sector engagement linking family-friendly workplace policies to measurable gains in productivity, retention, and well-being while advancing social development.
- **Prioritize** early childhood development and affordable childcare as strategic investments to reduce poverty, promote gender equality, and ensure equal opportunity for all.