

## Statement

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Distinguished delegates, experts, colleagues and friends,

Today, the International Day of Families reminds us that the gap between policy design and impact on real families is itself a form of inequality — and closing it is the work that matters most.

This year's theme, *"Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing,"* calls for stronger investment in integrated, family-oriented policies to reduce disparities and support healthy child development. IFFD fully endorses this call. And we bring to this room not only global recommendations, but concrete proof that they work.

In **the Philippines**, a law — Republic Act 11908 — now mandates parenting support for every family in the country, including a dedicated module to guide parents through the digital environment. IFFD The Philippines, with the policy approved, is leading its Implementation as a program.

In **Kenya** — the host of this Action Plan — the National Family Policy, co-drafted with UN-DESA, Strathmore University and IFFD Kenya and other civil society organizations, is now moving from a document to a National Action Plan. That transition — from aspiration to implementation — is the most important step in the fight against inequality.

And in **Colombia**, the city of Envigado embedded family support into its municipal budget, reaching 750 families — without waiting for extraordinary resources. Local government acted. And Envigado is not alone: it is part of a network of more than **250 cities and regions** that have signed the Venice Declaration on Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families encompassing more than **25 million people** across Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Europe, all committed to making family-friendly policy a daily urban reality.

IFFD, present in 68 countries across five continents, has learned one thing in five decades: families do not need to be told what to do. They need governments and civil society to remove the barriers — economic, digital, social — that stand between them and their own potential.

The architecture is in place. The normative framework is strong. What the world's families need now is the political will to act — at every level, from this room to the ground.

Thank you.