



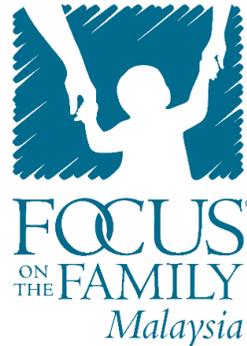
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Inclusive Social Development

## CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON PARENTING

### Doha Briefing (Side Event)

February 12, 2019 - CR 12 (11:30 am to 12:45)

CSocD57, UN Headquarters, New York



World Family Organization  
Organisation Mondiale de la Famille  
المنظمة العالمية للأسرة



IFHE  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

## PURPOSE

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation, in partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) aims to organize a Doha Briefing to present the 'Civil Society Statement on Parenting', launched at the meeting for civil society organizations, hosted by DIFI in partnership with IFFD on October 22, 2018<sup>1</sup>.

The discussion will explore possible interventions to support parents in their voluntary dedication of time, effort and resources while bringing up a family, such as;

1. Enabling work-family balance by offering flexible working and leave arrangements, parental leave, affordable, accessible and quality childcare and by taking initiatives to promote shared responsibility at home.<sup>2</sup>
2. Investing in parenting education programs that take into consideration various parenting needs and dimensions;
3. Making the wellbeing of parents, other caregivers and children the explicit objectives of parenting policies and programs;
4. Investing in program evaluations and impact assessments of parenting policies and programs so that parents' and children's wellbeing and development can be better understood by all stakeholders;
5. Recognizing the contribution of men to families, develop policies to promote fathers' engagement in parenting and family life and address the consequences of their absence<sup>3</sup>;
6. Acknowledging the contribution of grandparents to parenting and intergenerational relations, living arrangements, inclusive urbanization and social cohesion;<sup>4</sup>
7. Creating an enabling environment for meaningful contributions of civil society organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of family policies and programs, removing barriers to the establishment, work and funding of non-governmental organizations.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.difi.org.qa/difi-unveils-civil-society-statement-on-parenting/>

<sup>2</sup> A/Res/72/145

<sup>3</sup> Doha Call to Action, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> A/Res/72/145

<sup>5</sup> Doha Call to Action, 2014.

## BACKGROUND

There is growing evidence confirming the importance of positive parenting to health, education, poverty eradication and overall wellbeing outcomes for children, including adolescents. Supporting families, parents and caregivers in their crucial role in social development is key for the education and socialization of children, while providing material and non-material care to all family members, especially those in vulnerable situations<sup>6</sup>.

The role of the family in development is supported by a whole array of UN documents; namely, the Human Rights Declaration has set the family as fundamental group unit of society and entitled it to protection by society and the state (Art. 16.3); the Human Rights Committee has identified the potential of families in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially by breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty, recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work and creating just, inclusive and secure societies<sup>7</sup>; and the Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended that every child should grow up in a family environment, an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding towards their full and harmonious personality development<sup>8</sup>.

The decisive role of the family in society depends on its support, cohesiveness and sustainability. Within the family, parents are, for the most part, the primary constant during children's development, critical for their wellbeing, adjustment and success. Evidence-based programs supporting parents are cost-effective ways to support all family members, from children to grandparents. Such programs support parents in building better relationships between spouses and among family members, providing care, improving health habits, enabling safe environments, assuring access to quality education and developing resilience.

## OBJECTIVES

The Doha Briefing aims to provide a platform for a diverse set of stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and United Nations entities to undertake a policy dialogue to enable a better understanding of progress made and challenges faced by families, and to exchange experiences and lessons learned concerning new evidence and innovations targeted at families.

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<sup>6</sup> A/66/62-E/2011/4

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly Report A/HRC/31/37. Par, 4 (<http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/31/37>)

<sup>8</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, Preamble, A/RES/44/25, A/RES/50/

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What measures can Governments take to support parents in performing the essential functions of procreation and socialization of their children, to enhance all family members' capacity for nurturing, caring and socialization of children and to facilitate intergenerational transfer of knowledge and traditions that support adult children in caring for elderly parents and support grandparents in caring roles for their grandchildren?
- What steps can Member States take to support meaningful contributions of civil society organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of family policies and programs, removing barriers to the establishment, work and funding of non-governmental organizations?

## FORMAT

Moderated panel discussion followed by Q&A, among representatives of Government, civil society and UN entities. After panelists speak, the floor will be open for questions and comments on panelists' interventions and/or the event's theme.

## PARTNERS

- The International Federation of Family Development (IFFD)
- World Family Organization
- International Federation for Home Economics
- Focus on the Family Malaysia
- Investing in Children and their Societies
- Fathers in Africa,
- Ngala Parenting with Confidence
- European Large Families Confederation
- Parents Forum

# AGENDA

## CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON PARENTING

Doha Briefing Side Event February 12, 2019

CR12 (11:30 am to 12:45)

CSocD57 UN-HQ, NY

11:30-11:40

### Opening Remarks

#### **HE. Sheikha Alya Al-Thani (tbc)**

*Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations*

#### **Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi**

*Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)*

*Moderator:*

#### **Eve Sullivan**

*Co-Founder and President, Parents Forum*

11:40-11:50

#### **Ron Ferguson**

*Director, The Achievement Gap Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School*

11:50-12:00

#### **Anis Ben Brik**

*Director of Family Policy Department, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)*

#### **Rashed Al Dosari**

12:00-12:10

*Executive Director, Family Consulting Center (WIFAQ)*

12:10-12:20

#### **Ignacio Socias**

*Director of Communications, International Federation on Family Development (IFFD)*

12:20-12:30

#### **Renata Kaczmarek**

*Focal Point on the Family  
Social Inclusion and Participation Branch | Division for Inclusive Social  
Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)*

12:30-12:45

### Discussion