

03 C0835 Note verbale from Secretariat UN Usa - 20-113 (Orgs)
Follow-up to the International Year of the Family and beyond

In line with General Assembly Resolution A/RES/74/124 and the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to eliminate hunger and to fight poverty, FAO acknowledges the importance of the objectives of the International Year of the Family for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and processes. Poverty and hunger cannot be eradicated without addressing the inadequacy of employment conditions and opportunities faced by over three quarters of the world's poor living in rural areas and many of them depending on agriculture to earn a living. The Organization recognizes that family-oriented policies can contribute to actively promote employment and decent work in rural areas, in particular for young women and men, and including preventing and eliminating child labour in agriculture as form of violence against children.

In accordance with the resolution requesting to submit a report, which will focus on emerging issues relating to SDG16, mainly targets 16.2 & 16.9 on ending violence against children and providing birth registration, FAO wishes to provide inputs on the following points and stands ready to contribute to the observation of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024.

Contribution of FAO to report on
Follow-up to the International Year of the Family and beyond

(a) Family-oriented policies and programmes that enhance strong intergenerational interactions, such as parenting education, including for family caregivers, and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary care caregivers;

- The entry of young people into farming is widely recognized as a key driver in fostering agriculture and food production and maintaining the vitality of rural areas, contributing to ending poverty and hunger. However, young people who aspire to a future in farming currently face multiple structural and institutional barriers. Family support and strong intergenerational interaction, including attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can have positive effects on decent youth employment promotion. To guarantee the generational sustainability of agriculture, it is vital to enhance strong intergenerational interactions and promote mechanisms that facilitate the intergenerational transfer of tangible and intangible farming assets.
- As a concrete example, under the second phase (2015-2018) of FAO's Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agri-food system in Guatemala, working with families to get their authorization and support to allow young women and men to participate in training activities far from home was key to the project's success. It also had positive effects on enhancing the responsibilities of young people in family farming. Along the same lines, engaging families in the training process of rural youth as agents for rural development (of the Factoria social business laboratory) contributed not only to guarantee family

support, but also to increase the joint engagement of adults and youth in community businesses or to foster the transition of land to youth to initiate their own production.

(c) Measures taken to prevent all forms of violence against children;

- As states in the UN GA resolution 74/124, “the International Year and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for initiatives [which] contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” One of the better outcomes for children, allowing to break the poverty cycle, and end deprivation and exploitation as violence against children would be ending child labour in agriculture. 71% of child labour worldwide is found in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry. That is 108 million children. More than two thirds of these girls and boys are unpaid family workers and many tasks they undertake in agriculture are hazardous. Child labour endangers the health and education of children and hampers their future ability as youth to secure decent livelihoods and employment. It represents an obstacle to sustainable agricultural development and food security.
- FAO acknowledges that child labour is often a coping strategy for poor families whose livelihoods and food security depend from agriculture, and therefore promotes efforts to boost the incomes of families so that they have the means to send their children to school rather than work. FAO mobilizes and enhances the capacities of agricultural stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices, allowing to end the functional and economic dependency of families, communities and producers from child labour.

(f) Ways and means to observe the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, which may include proposals of topics to be addressed, national, regional and international meetings and awareness raising events and other initiatives.

- In observance of the 2021 International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour, decided by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2019 (A/RES/73/327), FAO intends to organize several events and step efforts in terms of knowledge generation and advocacy on child labour in agriculture. FAO plans in this context to have several studies and papers that would look into the share of child labour in family farming in different sub-sectors of agriculture and the households division of tasks, with a special attention to girls and women’s time burden. FAO would be willing to disseminate the knowledge products as widely as possible as a contribution to the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024.
- Furthermore, FAO intends to increase the engagement of families in decent rural youth employment promotion, especially with regards to facilitating the intergenerational transfer of tangible and intangible farming assets issues of intergenerational transfer, such as land and responsibilities in the family farm. FAO would be interested in debating and sharing experiences in this field as contribution to the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024.