



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Inclusive Social Development

Agenda

United Nations Expert Group Meeting
in preparation for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of Family, 2024
New York, 7-8 September 2022

Megatrends & Families: Focus on Digital Technologies, Migration and Urbanization

Wednesday, 7 September

9:30-9:45

Opening Session

Welcoming remarks

Masumi Ono Chief, Social Inclusion and Participation
Branch, Division for Inclusive Social Development,
DISD/UNDESA

Introduction of participants

9:45 - 11:00

Session I

New technologies and families

Moderator & Introductory remarks: **Renata Kaczmarska**

Focal Point on the Family, DISD/UNDESA

Presenters:

Susan Walker “*Digital technologies: interlinkages with megatrends & regional perspectives*”

Benjamin Freer “*Online child abuse prevention: best practices for parents, communities and Governments*”

Issues for discussion

- Regional perspectives on technological changes & their impact on families
- Interlinkages between digital technologies, migration and urbanization
- Digital inclusion
- Vulnerable families and access to digital technologies
- Digital technologies and family and children’s wellbeing
- Consequences of telework during and after COVID-19 pandemic
- Online child abuse prevention

11:00-12:30

Session II

Urbanization and Families

Moderator: Sharifa Al-Emadi

Presenter:

Bahira Sherif Trask “Urbanization trends around the world: regional perspectives & approaches”

Issues for discussion

- Urbanization trends at global & regional levels
- Vulnerable families and urbanization
- Adequate housing conditions
- Migration and urbanization linkages
- Gender perspective on urbanization
- Intergenerational approaches to urbanization
- Good practices around the world

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00

Session III

Urbanization and family wellbeing – Europe and MENA region

Moderator & Introductory remarks: Ignacio Socias “Urbanization trends & good practices in Europe”

Presenter:

Ahmed Aref “The state of urbanization, migration and the family in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)”

Issues for discussion

- Urbanization trends in Europe
- Urbanization trends in MENA region
- Interlinkages between urbanization and migration in Europe and MENA region
- Vulnerable families and access to decent housing
- The impact of COVID-19

15:00 – 16:30

Session IV

Migration & Urbanization trends in the Americas

**Moderator & Introductory remarks: Alex Vazquez
“Urbanization trends & good practices in Latin America”**

Presenter:

Rosario Esteinou “Migration trends in Latin America and the Caribbean”

Issues for discussion

- Regional migration trends
- Internal, regional and international migration
- Sending and receiving countries
- Family reunification policies
- Families displaced by conflict
- Refugees and displaced populations
- Transnational families
- Transnational motherhood
- Families and mental health

Thursday, 8 September

9:30-11:00

Session V

Migration trends and family wellbeing: Regional Perspectives: Focus on Asia

Moderator: Renata Kaczmarska

Presenter:

Xuefei Ren “Urbanization and migration trends in Asia & their impact on families”

Issues for discussion

- Urbanization trends in Asia
- Urbanization in China and India
- Rural to urban migration in China & India
- Urbanization, migration and family wellbeing in the region

11-12:30

Session VI
Migration and Urbanization trends in Africa

Moderator: Ahmed Aref

Presenter:
Pragna Rugunanan "Migration and urbanization trends in Africa"

Issues for discussion

- Internal & international migration
- Migration and conflicts
- Displaced populations
- Migration and urbanization impacts on families

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch break

13:30-15:00

Session VII
Megatrends and family wellbeing: focus on homelessness, disability and indigenous issues

Moderator: Benjamin Frier

Presenters:

Jean Quinn "Transforming our cities: how empowering families can break the cycle of urban homelessness"

Margo Hilbrecht "Migration and urbanization trends and family wellbeing: focus on disability and indigenous issues: Canadian perspective"

Issues for discussion

- Homelessness in urban areas
- Family homelessness

- Migration and urbanization trends in North America with focus on Canada
- Migration and urbanization impacts on families, focus on indigenous families and families with disabilities
- Good practices

15:00-16:30

Session VIII
Megatrends: Interlinkages & policy implications
Good practices and civil society activism

Moderator: Renata Kaczmarska

Presenters:

Lara Hicks “Climate-induced migration: symptoms, causes, and examples of innovative, locally-led solutions for vulnerable families in the Philippines”
Juan Antonio López Baljarg “Good practices in family-oriented urbanization policies: Mexican perspective”

Roundtable discussion with experts & civil society representatives

Issues for discussion

- Family-oriented policies vis a vis megatrends
- Urbanization, migration and climate change
- Challenges and obstacles to family policymaking dealing with megatrends
- The role of civil society in family policy advocacy & research
- Good practices

Roundtable discussion with audience participation

16:30-17:00

Closing session
Conclusions and recommendations*

Closing remarks: Renata Kaczmarska

*** Final recommendations will be elaborated via email exchanges with participants**

