



Oral Statement. Commission on Population and Development

Madame Chair/ Mr. Chairmen, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

According to the latest Report of the Secretary General on Sustainable cities, the share of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to increase from 55% in 2018 to 60 % in 2030. The speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges for all family members such as children, parents, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons. City leaders must move quickly to plan for this growth, while the capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure a safe growth of all family members in the city.

The International Federation for Family Development, present in 66 countries, is leading the Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families Project in the context of SDG11 and the New Urban Agenda. The project has held two focus group meetings in the Veneto Region, Italy and Sao Paulo, Brazil, with experts, policy-makers and civil society members. The objective is to find out their inputs on how modern cities need to be resilient and constantly diagnosed of their urban strength, so that families can find a proper place to live in them.

Madame Chair/Mr. Chairmen,

Experts and other stakeholders of the project have agreed that the main points of the Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families project are the following:

Cities design should consider all family situations and social groups, flexible urban and environmentally sustainable planning, and social services for all. They should also facilitate access to housing including promotion of smart cohousing solutions, efficient energy-saving and intergenerational arrangements to provide care for older persons and affordable housing for youth.

Improve the link between new technologies and social inclusion, to bridge the digital gap via training of older persons, professional carers and families in vulnerable situations.

Focus on accessible and affordable childcare facilities close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education, intergenerational educational strategies targeting the youth and older persons.

Establish specific programs to recognize the value of unpaid work and care, and address the needs of families in vulnerable situations, including single-parent families, large families, migrant families, etc.

Creation of a welcoming environment in the streets based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through instruments like promoting volunteers, a neighbourhood police, the use of cameras and public lightning, information and training on how to behave in case of natural disasters, terrorist attacks, etc.

Thank you, Madame Chair / Mr. Chairmen