



Commission for Social Development

Fifty-second session

Thursday, 13 February 2013 (3-6 p.m.)

High-level Panel Discussion on the Family in Observance of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In its resolution 2013/27, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission for Social Development to continue reviewing the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as part of its agenda and to hold a panel discussion in observance of the anniversary at its 52nd session.

The objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up process have mainly focused on: (1) raising awareness of challenges faced by families (2) advocating for strengthening of national institutions to develop, implement and monitor family-centered policies (3) improving the collaboration among national and international civil society organizations in support of family-oriented activities (4) building upon the results of major events of concern to the family and its individual members (5) reviewing challenges and recommend solutions (6) supporting families in their functions (7) sharing good practices.

The preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family were guided by the objectives above. In addition, the Commission has decided on the following themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth anniversary:

- (a) Confronting family poverty and social exclusion
- (b) Ensuring work-family balance
- (c) Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities

Purpose of the panel discussion

The main goal of the panel is to present regional achievements in family policy development and their contribution to overall development efforts. It is also expected that the panel will offer recommendations on how to advance family issues at regional and international levels. The panel may also reflect on how to anchor family policy development in post 2015 development agenda: how family perspective can contribute to the achievement of its goals/priorities & how new development agenda may influence social policy development & its impact on families.

Structure of the panel discussion

The panel discussion will focus on regional overviews of family policy development in the following areas: (a) family poverty and social exclusion; (b) work-family balance; (c) social integration and intergenerational solidarity.

Within these broad areas, the following topics have been identified by several Member States as worth focusing on: demographic challenges, parental leave, working life and fertility; the pivotal role of universal child care provision and parental support (arrangements, how to reach target groups and type of support). Other topics for discussion suggested are family life education for young people for the prevention of conflict, divorce and violence in the family and the promotion of responsible fatherhood and enhanced men's involvement in family life. Children in vulnerable situation, time use surveys and their inclusion in national accounts and policy development based on their results could also be considered by the panel.

Each panelist will have 10 minutes for a presentation. Presentations will be followed by interactive discussion with participants from the floor. The Moderator will make opening and concluding remarks. The total duration of the event is 3 hours.

Panellists & Moderator

The panellists will represent the following regional groups: African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Western European and Other States (2 panellists). The panel will be moderated by the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean group.

Venue, date and time

The panel will be held in Conference room 4, North Lawn Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York on Thursday, 13 February 2014 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.