



FAMILY MATTERS



Circular No. 30

Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2004) February

FAMILY UNIT

Preparations for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2004) is the responsibility of the Family Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Activities are in accordance with intergovernmental mandates e.g. General Assembly resolutions 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, and 54/124 of 17 December 1999 respectively. [The Family Unit welcomes ongoing information and data on family-related policies and programmes from concerned actors and focal points].

Deliberations of the 39th Session of the Commission for Social Development

During its review of United Nations plans and programmes of actions for situations of social groups this morning, the issue of family dominated the general discussion of the Commission. A number of speakers called on governments to pay more attention to protecting and assisting families so that they might fully assume their social responsibilities within their communities.

The Commission for Social Development approved a draft resolution on the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family without a vote. Ms. NICOLE ELISHA (Benin), Vice-Chair of the Commission, introduced the draft resolution on "Preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" (document E/CN.5/2001/L.6). The resolution urges the General Assembly to urge governments to identify and elaborate issues of direct concern to families by 2004. Governments were strengthen mechanisms to coordinate activities of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Member States would be invited to consider activities in preparation for a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national level.

The Commission will recommend the draft to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, who in turn, would recommend its adoption by the General Assembly.

The draft resolution is cited below.

Draft Resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997 and 54/124 of 17 December 1999 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

"Recognizing that the preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provides a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

"Recognizing that the follow-up to the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2004,

"Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the area of research and information,

“*Emphasizing* that it is necessary to intensify and improve coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family related issues so as to contributed fully to the effective preparation for an celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

“1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family and the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and the recommendations contained therein;

“2. *Urges* governments to view 2004 as a target year by which concrete achievements should be made to identify and elaborate issues of direct concern to families and also to set up and strengthen, where appropriate, mechanisms to plan and coordinate activities of governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations;

“3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to review annually the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as part of its agenda and of its multi-year programme of work until 2004;

“4. *Invites* Member States to consider organizing activities in preparation for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national level;

“5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council on the preparation for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at all levels.

The tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family constitutes an important opportunity to give a new impetus to the follow-up of the Year. In its resolution 54/124, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the follow-up to the Year and of the observance of its tenth anniversary.

The objectives of the tenth anniversary of the Year would be to:

- (a) Increase awareness of family issues among governments as well as in the private sector;
- (b) Strengthen the capacity of national institutions to formulate, implement and monitor policies in respect of families;
- (c) Stimulate efforts to respond to problems affecting, and affected by, the situation of families;
- (d) Undertake at all levels reviews and assessments of the situation and needs of families, identifying specific issues and problems;
- (e) Enhance the effectiveness of local, national and regional efforts to carry out specific programmes concerning families, generate new activities and strengthen existing ones;
- (f) Improve collaboration among national and international non-governmental organizations in support of families.

Family Unit

Division for Social Policy and Development

*Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, DC2-1302
New York, N.Y.10017
Tel: 212-963-3238
Fax: 212-963-3062
Email: ghaleb@un.org*
