



# FAMILY MATTERS

Circular No. 47

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

December 2003

## PROGRAMME ON THE FAMILY

Preparations for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2004) is the responsibility of the Programme on the Family, Division for Social Policy and Development within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

### The Launching of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 2004

The launching of the tenth anniversary took place at UNHQ on 4 December 2003. A message of the Secretary-General was distributed worldwide. The message is cited below:

#### *Message of the Secretary-General*

*15 May 2004*

*Nearly ten years ago, in 1994, the international community heralded the proclamation of the International Year of the Family. This was a global development initiative to improve well-being for families. It was, in effect, a vision enhancing the inherent capacity of families for self-reliance. Now, in 2003, we prepare to observe the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to build upon that vision and pay tribute to families worldwide.*

*The Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family is not only a reaffirmation of*

*noble principles and objectives, but also a commitment to put families at the centre of public concerns on a long-term basis. The Tenth Anniversary is an auspicious moment for celebration as well as dedication, for serious reflection as well as novel creativity, for building capacity as well as giving expression to an integrated perspective on the family. Finally, it is a call to the global community to further a culture of partnership and patterns of cooperation that have proved important since 1994.*

In addition, the Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA, co-sponsored, with a coalition of 19 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council an exhibit on the family. The exhibit was opened on 4 December 2003 by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. José Antonio Ocampo. H.E. Mr. Luis de Matos Monteiro da Fonseca, Acting President of the General Assembly, made an address. Also, a High-level Seminar on the Family, organized by the IYF + 10 Committee, in collaboration with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See and the Permanent Mission of the United States, took place at UNHQ. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made the opening remarks. Members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff, representative of non-governmental organizations and the media attended .

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