



# ***FAMILY MATTERS***



**Circular No. 26**

*Follow up of the International Year of the Family*

**June 2000**

## **FAMILY UNIT**

The Follow up to the International Year of the Family is the responsibility of the Family Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The follow-up activities to the International Year of the Family 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].

## **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS [IFTDO]**

The International Federation of Training and Development Organisation, Ltd. presented an award to the Family Unit within the Division for Social Policy and Development. This Award testifies to the close collaboration between the United Nations and IFTDO in providing a valuable resource to policy makers on the important issue concerning the organic linkage between family support and the economic productivity of individual family members.

The Award was presented in London on the occasion of IFTDO's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Conference during the period of the conference 3-6 April 2000.

## **THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY**

The Family Unit will be responsible for coordinating the preparation for and observance of, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IYF.

The idea for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family arose in late 1999. The deliberations of the Third Committee during the 54<sup>th</sup> session

of the General Assembly in October 1999 led to, among other things, the introduction of a resolution entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family". It was sponsored by the representative of Benin on behalf of Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Botswana, Cameroon, the Congo, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, France, the Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Madagascar, Malta, Mongolia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution and Bangladesh, Burkina Faso and Nigeria withdrew their sponsorship.

The text of General Assembly resolution 54/124 of 17 December 1999 entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family" is below.

### **RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **54/124. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995 and 52/81 of 12 December 1997 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,*

*Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,*

*Noting* that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

*Emphasizing* that equality between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large,

*Noting with concern* that the contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities have steadily decreased, reducing its resource base, and that, unless this trend is reversed and the Fund strengthened, many priority concerns relating to family issues will not be met,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family (A/54/256),

1. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary General and the recommendations contained therein;*

2. *Invites Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, inter alia, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;*

3. *Urges Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and applied research, to promote the role of families in development and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;*

4. *Recommends* that all relevant actors including Governments, research and academic institutions and civil society, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation

within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies, to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional meetings and relevant research;

6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of the family in 2004, bearing in mind that, in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

83<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting  
17 December 1999

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**Family Unit**

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