

United Nations Family Programme

As the lead entity for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the Department will stimulate and coordinate activities for the preparation for and observance of the anniversary. To that end, activities will be undertaken on the following five main substantive themes: approaches to family policy development; technology and its impact on the family; parental roles and intra-familial support systems; statistics and indicators for family well-being; and HIV/AIDS and its impact on families.

The Department will support the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development on the tenth anniversary of the Year. Reports and results of expert group meetings will assist the intergovernmental bodies in monitoring the progress achieved in the preparations for the tenth anniversary and provide relevant analysis and information to support the debate on relevant family policy issues.

The Department will undertake a broad campaign to promote the observance of the tenth anniversary at all levels. This will include activities such as the promotion of the annual observance of the International Day of Families inter alia to encourage the active celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national and local levels; advocacy about the importance of family issues in social development planning; and awareness-raising on the pivotal role of families and on their specific needs.

The Department will also undertake studies to increase the knowledge and information about relevant trends in the area of families. The studies will seek to enhance the capacity of Governments for formulating, implementing and evaluating family-related policies and programmes.

The United Nations has completed studies on family issues. A database on family policy has been created, the web site of the Family Unit is periodically updated to facilitate access to information about the work of the United Nations in the arena of families and a directory of national mechanisms on the family will be prepared.

In order to assist Governments in addressing national priorities and emphasizing the family perspective in development planning, the United Nations will strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions, in particular at the national and local levels, through the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities. This will be accomplished by promoting family-specific pilot activities and programmes and supporting policy development in least developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.