

Introducing the IFFD video

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Back in the 1960s, a group of parents from Spain foresaw that parents in coming decades would benefit from sharing experiences. As the international community becomes increasingly aware of the importance of having solid and sustainable families, Since 1978, we at the International Federation for Family Development continue to deliver our Family Enrichment courses across the five continents. Africa's first born was Nigeria in 1985. Kenya was a last born in Africa by 2001. But we are one of those "last borns" that gave courage to the parents to continue having more children and thus a few more children came up in Uganda (2004), Congo (2006), S.Africa (2010), Botswana and Angola (2013),and IFFD Africa continues to have the vision to go to every school, in every village in every town in Africa. In 2013 Singapore was also added to the list while this year new courses have been taken in Slovakia, Sweden and Russia. Several countries organized moderator training sessions in order to be able to offer new courses in their countries. The different international technical committees have made an incredible effort to review all the courses and make them available to Family Enrichment centers. Thanks to the effort and generosity of everyone –moderators, team leaders, management teams and volunteers in the different centers–, we have, once again, made an enormous contribution to the family, and we feel both proud and encouraged for it.

Ladies and gentlemen, please do join me in this brief video that was made as part of the preparation of 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family to get a glimpse of what has been happening around the world!

Introducing Declaration

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

In the outcome document of the last bi-annual Congress of the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD), held in 2010, we mentioned the Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family dated 13 July 2009 when it recalls that “the General Assembly decided to celebrate the anniversary of the International Year of the Family on a 10-year basis and further invite Governments to begin preparations for the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 and use the anniversary to advance family policymaking.”

As part of civil society, we welcomed this new call in the context of the four major objectives of this celebration: to refocus on the role of families in development; take stock of recent trends in family policy development; share good practices in family policy making; review challenges faced by families worldwide and recommend solutions.

Moreover, because of our General Consultative Status at ECOSOC we have felt particularly responsible for promoting and supporting each one of the actions included in the preparations by the said UN entities through:

1. International and regional expert group meetings gathering family experts and practitioners
2. Exchange of good practices in family policy
3. Research activities, including background papers on family poverty, work family balance and intergenerational solidarity
4. Observances of the International Days of Families focusing on the themes for the twentieth anniversary
5. Side events during the Commission for Social Development
6. Government, civil society, academic and private sector initiatives at the national level. IFFD has promoted the celebration of events to prepare the twentieth anniversary in Madrid, Warsaw, Brussels, Lagos, Nairobi, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Mexico City and New York, attended by hundreds of law-makers, academics and Civil Society representatives.
7. We have also implemented an international communication projects to promote the family perspective among governments and international bodies. Of special note is the website www.family2014.org (where all this information and the rest of documents and initiatives regarding the twentieth anniversary are included or linked to).

Ladies and gentlemen, of special mention is the promotion of the *Declaration of the Civil Society on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family*. This declaration was conceived out of an.

International and regional expert group meetings gathering family experts and practitioners organized, together with the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development. This European Expert Group Meeting on the theme “Confronting family poverty and social exclusion; ensuring work-family balance; advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity in Europe”, was held in Brussels, 6-8 June 2012. It explored recent family trends; analyzed family-oriented policies and programs and reviewed good practices in family policy making. We are very grateful because this initiative has had an unprecedented success. As of today, 23 international entities, 240 national organizations from 65 countries have co-sponsored it, and 560 representatives of the Civil Society Organizations, academics and policy makers from 83 countries have joined it.

What is the goal of this Declaration? As the consequence of all the actions referred above, we hope “to encourage and promote the fulfillment of the mission of the United Nations Programme on the family, in particular regarding the integration of a family perspective into policy-making at the national, regional and international levels and support family research and diagnostic studies,” as it was stated in the outcome document of our last Congress too.

To implement this perspective in a practical way, we suggest the introduction of a family impact report, to assess the impact of certain policy measures on opportunities for families. As a long term goal, we aim to identify and describe the key indicators to assess such impact in different situations and for different purposes. In short, we feel that time has come to take steps for empowering families all over the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, seeing you here today is another reason to feel encouraged. Please keep supporting and advocating for family empowering, because we all need it and will benefit for it worldwide, and also help us doing it by joining the Declaration and disseminating our work in all parts of the world.

[Video]

Thank you very much.