



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development

Annotated Agenda

United Nations Expert Group Meeting,
New York
1 – 3 June 2011

**“Assessing family policies:
Confronting family poverty and social exclusion
&
Ensuring work-family balance**

Convened as part of the preparations for the
twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

1 June 2011

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-9:45 **Opening session**

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Rosemary Lane, Focal Point
on Ageing, Division for Social Policy and Development
(DSPD)/DESA

9:45-10:15 **Introductory Session: Objectives and expected outcomes of the
meeting:** Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family,
DSPD/DESA

Introduction of the participants

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-12:30

Session I: Current trends affecting families: a need for policy response

Moderator – Renata Kaczmarska

Introductory remarks - Bahira Sherif Trask

Issues for discussion

- The significance of globalization for families
- Economic and social trends affecting families
- Demographic trends affecting families
- Changing roles of women, men and children
- Gender equality issues

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-15:15

Session II: Integrating family perspective into overall policy making & family policy as a subfield of social policy

Moderator – Mihaela Robila

Introductory remarks - Karen Bogenschneider

Questions for discussion

- What are implicit and explicit family policies?
- What qualities does a family impact lens bring to policymaking?
- Why should family policy be a subfield of social policy?
- What examples exist of family policies around the world?
- How has research influenced policy decisions?

Roundtable discussion

15:15-15:30

Break

15:30-16:45

Session III: Towards an assessment of family policies

Moderator – Bahira Sherif Trask

Introductory remarks – Henning Lohmann

Issues for discussion

- General perspectives on family policy

- Intended purposes and outcomes of family policies
- Existing frameworks for assessing family policies
- Assessing family policies in the OECD countries
- Assessing family policies at national and regional levels
- Data sources and indicators

Roundtable discussion

16:45-17:00 Policy recommendations from day one compiled by Moderators & Focal Point on the Family

17:15- 20.00 Reception

2 June 2011

9:00-10:30 **Session IV: Family policies around the world: what do they focus on? Are family poverty and work-family balance at the center of attention of policy-makers?**

Moderator – Margaret O’Brien
Introductory remarks – Mihaela Robila

Issues and questions for discussion

- Major focus of family policies around the world
- Family policies and low fertility
- Family policies and ageing societies
- To what extent do policies focus on family poverty?
- Policy-makers and work-family balance
- Specific types of anti-poverty and anti-social exclusion measures focusing on families (e.g. cash transfers, child benefits, tax deductions)
- What types of families are a focus of such policies (e.g. single-parent headed, large families, immigrant families)
- Assessing anti-poverty strategies focusing on families
- Challenges to effective anti-poverty policies with families at their centre

10:30-10:45 **Break**

10:45-12:30

Session V: Confronting family poverty and social exclusion: issues of importance

Moderator - Irma Arriagada

Introductory remarks – Juan Guillermo Figueroa Perea

Issues for discussion

- Poverty as a form of social exclusion
- Gender equality
- Gender roles revisited
- Male unemployment and the crisis of masculinity
- Reproductive and health issues
- Single-parent households, marriage dissolution and poverty

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:15

Session VI: Anti-poverty policies focusing on families: regional overview – Western and Eastern Europe and North America.

Moderator – Henning Lohman

Introductory remarks – Dominic Richardson, Bahira Sherif Trask

Issues for discussion

- Families in poverty and at risk of poverty
- Child poverty and child benefits
- Poverty among older persons
- Focus on care arrangements
- Provision of social services
- Increasing women's labour participation
- Combating social exclusion

Roundtable discussion

15:15-15:30

Break

15:30-16:45

**Session VII: Anti-poverty policies focusing on families:
regional overview: Africa, Latin America & Asia.**

Moderator - Baffour K. Takyi

Introductory remarks - Zitha Segametsi Makomane (Africa), Irma Arriagada (Latin America), Victoria Caparas & Qin Gao (Asia)

Issues for discussion

- Conditional and unconditional cash transfers in Latin America and Africa
- Prevention of inter-generational transmission of poverty
- Education of children
- Combating child labour
- Provision of basic services
- Focus on reproductive health and maternal mortality
- Fighting HIV/AIDS
- Migration patterns and their effect on families

Roundtable discussion

16:45-17:00

Policy recommendations from day two compiled by Moderators & Focal Point on the Family

3 June 2011

9:00-10:30

Session VIII: Work-family balance: the importance of family focused solutions

Moderator - Victoria Caparas

Introductory remarks – Margaret O’Brien, Jonas Himmelstrand, Ignacio Socias, Joan Stevens

Issues and questions for discussion

- Work family conflict
- Work place and working parents
- What are the elements of an effective work-family balance policy?
- Private sector and work-family balance solutions
- Investing in parenting
- Child care provision (family, employer, Government, private)
- Work-life policies that are best for children
- Unpaid work

- Assessing work-family policies
- Impediments to effective work-family policies

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:30

Session IX: Work-family balance: overview of policies in developed countries

Moderator – Karen Bogenschneider

Introductory remarks - Margaret O'Brien, Mihaela Robila, Elena Gastaldo

Issues for discussion

- Parental leave policies
- Parental leave and gender equality
- Focus on fathers
- Caring for children and young adults
- Caring for older persons
- Caring for persons with disabilities
- Access to childcare

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Session X: Work-family balance: overview of policies in developing countries

Moderator – Juan Guillermo Figueroa Perea

Introductory remarks - Zitha Segametsi Makomane, Irma Arriagada, Victoria Caparas

Issues for discussion

- Changes in the extended family structures and policy response
- Parental leave provisions
- Migration and policy response
- Gender equality
- AIDS epidemic, care arrangements and policy response

Roundtable discussion

15:30-15:45

Break

15:45-16:45

Session XI: Distillation of findings, finalization and adoption of recommendations

Moderator – Renata Kaczmarska, Focal Point on the Family

16:45-17:00

Concluding remarks, farewell and closing