



Annotated Agenda

United Nations Expert Group Meeting,
New York
14 – 15 May 2015
Conference room 12

“Family policy development: achievements and challenges”

14 May

9:00-9:30

Registration

9:30-10:00

Opening Session

Welcome & opening remarks

Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting

Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)/Departments of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Introduction of participants

10:00-12:00

Session I

Changing families: regional trends & policy implications

Moderator – **Frank Furstenberg**

Introductory remarks – **Livia Olah** “*Changing families in the European Union trends and policy implications*”

Issues for discussion

- Family formation, fertility & ageing: demographic and socio-economic trends in major regions
- Family composition, structure & stability
- Changing families & inequality

Roundtable discussion

12:00-13:15

Lunch Break

13:15-14:45

Session II

Family laws & their impact on family policy development, family well-being, gender equality, individuals' rights: recent trends and policy implications

Moderator – Marwa Sharafeldin

Introductory remarks –

Patrick Parkinson “*Family laws and access to justice*”

Clare Huntington “*Family law achievements and challenges in the United States*”

Issues for discussion

- Trends in family laws in Western world
- Marriage, divorce & custody laws
- Rights of women & gender equality
- Rights of children
- Rights and obligations in non-marital cohabitation
- Family instability and access to justice
- Dispute resolution and family law courts

Roundtable discussion

14:45-15:00

Break

15:00-16:45

Session III

Family laws: regional perspectives

Moderator – Allison Gibbons

Introductory remarks – Flavia Marco “*Family laws in Latin America*”

Questions for discussion

- Family laws in developing countries
- Recent family law reforms
- Discrimination against women in family laws
- Maintenance and inheritance laws
- Protection of older persons
- Protection of persons with disabilities

Roundtable discussion

16:45-17:00

Summary & policy recommendations by Moderators

15 May

9:00-10:30

Session IV
Violence in families: types, causes & consequences

Moderator – **Srimati Basu**

Introductory remarks – **Mihaela Robila** – *“Policies on family violence in Europe: developments and challenges”*

Issues and questions for discussion (sessions IV, V & VI)

- Types of family violence
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse and neglect
- Son preference
- Abuse & neglect of older persons
- Abuse and neglect of persons with disabilities, with special focus on children with disabilities
- Child, early and forced marriage
- Harmful traditional practices, including FGM
- ‘Honour’ killings
- Causes and consequences of violence, including its intergenerational transmission

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:00

Session V
Promoting inclusive societies with access to justice for all (SDG16)*: prevention of violence in families: legal provisions, regional perspectives & good practices

Moderator - **Mihaela Robila**

Introductory remarks – **Allison Gibbons** – *“Family violence in the Caribbean”*

Additional issues for discussion

- Implementation of international and regional instruments (CEDAW, CRC) & the role of families
- Individual or family-oriented solutions?
- The role of men in family violence prevention

- Changing social norms on violence acceptance

Roundtable discussion

12:00-13:15

Lunch break

13:15-14:45

Session VI: Observance of the International Day of Families



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY 2015

**Men in charge? Gender equality and children’s rights
in contemporary families**

Moderator: Patrick Parkinson

Presentations:

Frank Furstenberg *“Changing families around the world: The American family in a global context”*

Marwa Sharafeldin *“Gender and equality in Muslim family law”*

Fareda Banda *“Gender equality and children’s rights in family laws: An African perspective”*

Srimati Basu *“Family violence prevention in South Asia with a focus on India”*

Issues for discussion with audience participation

- Changing families and need for policy response
- Family laws and gender equality
- Family laws and children’s rights
- Family laws and their impact on family policy development
- Child marriage - a family decision?

14:45-15:00

Break

15:00-17:00

Session VII

Families & sustainable development goals: Advancing family policy development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda*

Moderator & introductory remarks – [Renata Kaczmarska](#), Focal Point on the Family, DSPD/DESA

Issues for discussion

- Family-centered policies as part of an integrated, comprehensive and inclusive approach to development
- Family-oriented policies for the achievement of several sustainable development goals:
 - ensure access to justice in family laws
 - end poverty & ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
 - achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 - reduce inequality
 - promote full & productive employment (work-family balance, value of unpaid work)

Roundtable discussion

17:00-17:30

Session VIII
Distillation of findings, finalization of recommendations
Concluding remarks, farewell and closing

Moderator: [Renata Kaczmarska](#), Focal Point on the Family, DSPD/DESA

* Draft sustainable development goals

- Goal 1 **End poverty** in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, **full and productive employment and decent work for all**
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 **Reduce inequality** within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide **access to justice** for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development