



International Day of Families 2010
“The impact of migration on families around the world”
15 May 2010 (observed 13 May)

Information Note

The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1993 (A/RES/47/237) and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. The International Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The Day may become an opportunity for all countries to demonstrate support to families. Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and individuals are encouraged to organize observances of the Day to promote a better understanding of the functions, problems, strengths and needs of families.

The 2010 observance, with a theme: "The Impact of Migration on Families around the World" is organized by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A panel discussion will take place at a DPI/NGO briefing on 13 May (10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) at the Church Center for the United Nations, 777 First Avenue at 44th Street. All are invited to attend.

The panel discussion will focus on the following:

- International migration trends and their effects on families.
- Benefits and challenges for families when family members migrate.
- Challenges faced by migrant families in the countries of immigration (e.g. adaptation to new environment, different educational system for children, discrimination, limited job opportunities).
- Challenges faced by family-members left behind in the migrants' countries of origin (especially children and older persons).

- Policies and initiatives supporting migrants and their families at national and international levels (e.g. promotion of family cohesion, family reunification policies, social protection mechanisms, human rights framework).
- International initiatives/instruments and their role in protecting migrants and their families (e.g. Global Forum on Migration and Development, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families).
- The role of civil society in support of pro-family migration agenda.