



International Day of Families* 2012
“Ensuring Work-Family Balance”
15 May 2012

Information Note

The 2012 observance of the International Day of Families, with a theme: "Ensuring work family balance" is organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the New York NGO Committee on the Family. A panel discussion will take place on 15 May (1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.) in Conference room 6 (NLB) at UN Headquarters in New York. All are invited to attend.

The panel discussion will address the following issues:

- Trends impacting work-family balance, such as growing number of dual earner families, increasing women's labour force participation, competition for jobs, anti-social working patterns
- Impact of work pressures on family life
- Benefits of work-family balance for adults and children
- Gender equality and fair distribution of family responsibilities
- The importance of quality childcare
- Family-oriented responses to ensure work-family balance
- Types of policies and programmes

- Examples of good practices
- Perspectives on the role of Governments, UN entities, civil society, private sector and academia in advocacy, design and implementation of work-family balance policies and programmes

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* 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.