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Co-organized by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations,
the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD),
the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI),
UN-DESA Division for Inclusive Social Development,
with the collaboration of the International Federation for Home Economics

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Is Target 5.4 a Utopia?

Tuesday, February 12, 2018, 1.15-2.30 pm – Conference Room 7, United Nations HQ, New York

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Opening Remarks

H.E. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani (TBC)
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the
United Nations (3 min.)

Mr. Mario Armella

World President of the International Federation for
Family Development (3 min.)

Panel

Regina Maroncelli

European Large Family Federation
President (6 min.)

Anis Ben Brik

Doha International Family Institute
Director of Family Policy (6 min.)

Brian Mazza (TBC)

Paige Hospitality Group
President (6 min.)

Moderator

Alberto Padova (TBC)
Chief Social Integration Branch. UN-DESA

IFFD 2019 Family Award Ceremony

Annette Ptassek (TBC)
Executive Director of International Federation for Home
Economics (6 min.)

Government of Austria (TBC)
(6 min.)

Statements - Q & A

Closing Remarks

Ambassador Jan Kickert (TBC)
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United
Nations (5 min.)

BACKGROUND NOTE

Every year the Commission for Social Development prioritizes the World Summit for Social Development. And this year, in particular, it aims to support the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues.

Since Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they are committed to reducing inequality between and within countries in its multiple dimensions. Nevertheless, there is broad consensus that, without appropriate policy interventions, the gains from the growth had not trickled down to reduce inequality.

Among the holistic and cost-effective policy interventions, a family responsive legislation is crucial to reduce inequalities and leave no one behind. The family unit is the conduit for social change and the first society where we all grow, learn and develop skills. So, the most promising target within the SDGs to tackle inequalities in this regard is the recognition and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Unpaid work is apt to be overlooked in economic valuations but holds great worth for individuals and society and can be a source of joy and fulfillment for many.

While unpaid work – and especially the gender division of unpaid work – is to some extent related to a country's development level, country cross-sectional data suggest that demographic factors and public policies tend to exercise a much larger impact.

In addition to unpaid work within the household, people also carry out vital unremunerated work for relatives who live outside the household and for the wider community. Voluntary work also contribute to societal well-being but are not included in the traditional economic measures. In other situations, the decision to engage in caring may not necessarily be by choice, but may also reflect systematic disadvantage among carers compared to non-carers (working and caring) in respect of labor market characteristics, including education attainment and previous work experience.

Caring is one of the most difficult tasks on which to collect information. Unlike most other activities, it is often passive and combined with other activities, e.g. cooking while a child is playing in another room or watching television together with children.

The unequal distribution of unpaid care work between women and men represents an infringement of women's rights and also a brake on their economic empowerment. Gender inequality in unpaid care work is the missing link that influences gender gaps in labor outcomes. Unpaid care activities constitute a time and energy-consuming occupation that limits women's access to the labor market, relegating them to low-income and insecure employment.

OBJECTIVES

The 2019 IFFD Briefing will explore ways to overcome inequalities and gender discrimination from a threefold approach: civil society, the private sector and within the families environment. It will try to raise awareness and recommend policies in order to:

1. Recognize and communicate the social, economic and cultural value of unpaid care, domestic work and work-family balance.
2. Develop, provide and communicate comprehensive well-resourced and flexible parental leave entitlements throughout the life course of the family and in periods of transition.
3. Support, promote and communicate part-time working arrangements according to parental choice by ensuring non-discriminatory practices towards parents in the labor market. Promote skill development and learning systems throughout the life course of the family and in periods of transition to facilitate parents' re-entering the labor market.
4. Enhance dialogue and partnerships between social policymakers and relevant stakeholders, including families, family associations, business sector, trade unions and employers to develop and improve family-friendly policies and practices in the workplace.
5. Implement programmes to help parents, particularly single parents, enter the labor market and develop their educational and personal development skills.
6. Support and promote a stronger, integrated, accessible and supported framework to enhance single-parents' opportunities to balance work and family life and therefore fully engage in education, skill development and job advancement.