FAMILY-ORIENTED PRIORITIES, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AS REPORTED IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS OF
2016, 2017, 2018 AND 2019

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Introduction

• Analysis of 127 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by 114 countries.

• Close to 90% of Member States made specific references to family.

• Governments consider family policies useful for these goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 16.
Member States reporting family-oriented policies

- Peace, justice and strong institutions: 52
- Gender equality: 46
- Health: 44
- Poverty: 33
- Education: 18
- Hunger: 16
- Sustainable cities: 3
SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Out of the 95 Member States reporting on poverty, 33 are developing sound family-oriented policies to combat it.

Two contexts:
• With robust institutional WS: families regarded as active agents
• In challenging institutional contexts: families provided on ad hoc basis

Programmes:
• Work closely with targeted families
• Working with families as co-managers
• Involve parents
1.- Family farming programmes in two contexts:

• In developed WS, as a tool to reinforce big chains of production-consumption to boost agriculture and integrate vulnerable families.

• In countries with major institutional challenges and resulting from hunger, primarily to support vulnerable families

2.- Few MS have developed educational and health efforts aimed at changing parental behaviours to improve children’s nutrition
SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

• Progress in maternal, neonatal and infant mortality rates is addressed primarily through a medical and clinical lens, but insufficient to achieve targets.

• Adolescent pregnancy and the use of contraceptive methods are underreported or a cause of concern. Family policies fall behind

• Gender-bias values are an important obstacle.
1.- Several countries have early childhood education.
   - Only 11 have programmes engaging parents and families as collaborative agents.
   - Some MS extend this to primary education.

2.- New values and soft skills are introduced into the curricula by a few MS, but families not as intergenerational agents.
Member States implementing family-oriented policies to ensure quality education

- Quality educ: new values and "soft" skills: 9
- Early childhood education: empower and engage parents: 7
- Quality educ: new values and "soft" skills: 3
Gender inequality is a great concern.

1.- All MS incorporate Gender Equality concerns through legislation.
   But deep sociocultural barriers grounded in prevailing traditional gender values.

2.- Family work balance programmes are the most effective family policies.
   - 12 MS implementing different, coordinated and comprehensive schemes to improve it.
   - Different schemes of leave, flexible work, childcare facilities
MEMBER STATES REPORTING ON FAMILY-ORIENTED POLICIES TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY

Family-work

- Child and early marriage: 31
- Female genital mutilation: 8
- Maternity leave and childcare: 10
- Maternity, Paternity leave and childcare: 7
- Maternity leave: 6
- Shared parental/family members leave and childcare: 5
- Value unpaid work: 2
24 MS reported progress with respect to inclusive and accessible green and open public areas.

Only 3 involve families, through legislations or programmes,

Example:
Residents deciding where new homes, green spaces and other facilities should go
SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

1.- Violence against children and women are serious challenges in several MS
   - Strategies focus on victim support and legislative measures.
   - Comprehensive, family-oriented policies are either lacking or fragile.
2.- Violence against children by caregivers
   - Reported as a result of domestic violence, rather than harsh parenting practices.
   - Only three MS implement positive parenting programmes.
3.- Violence against women (by age 18)
   - Exerted primarily by intimate partners
   - Noted as an issue of domestic rather than gender-based violence.
Member States reporting on family-oriented policies to ensure peace, justice and strong institutions

- Human trafficking: sexual, labour: 31
- Sexual violence (domestic) to women by age 18: 21
- Domestic violence (children): 13
- Violence to children: criminal Justice: 12
- Violence to children: sexual, school, labour: 11
- Violence to children by caregivers: 3
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

• To accelerate progress towards SDGs, family-oriented policies should be integrated into overall socio-economic policymaking

• Multidimensional perspectives in policy design, including the role of families, must be reinforced

• Health policies must work at the sociocultural level and in coordination with medical programmes to extend the reach of family-oriented policies

• It is necessary to go beyond legislative measures and address socio-cultural barriers to tackle violence against women and children, adolescent pregnancy, child and early marriage and other relevant issues
KEY MESSAGES

• Family-oriented policies and priorities are still absent in most national plans and sustainable development strategies.

• Several Member States address families as beneficiaries but the potential of families as agents of development remains underutilized.

• The integrative nature of the 2030 Agenda demands multisectoral and comprehensive actions and the recognition of spill-over effects between SDGs.

• Many VNRs show a transitional trend towards assuming such approaches but a few Governments have undertaken a family lens approach to combat poverty, hunger; overcome education and healthcare challenges as well as gender inequality and violence against children and women.
Thank you