



GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

**Statement by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the United Nations Mr. Pavel Evseenko
on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family**

**Commission on Population and Development
Fifty-seventh session
General Debate**

New York, 30 April 2024

Madame Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased and honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of 29 Member States of the Group of Friends of the Family which includes Bangladesh, Cameroon, Comoros, Egypt, The Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe and my own country Belarus. Djibouti also joined this statement.

We welcome this opportunity **to reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.**

The 1994 Cairo Conference provided a unique chance **to collectively address critical issues and challenges in the relationship between population and development and established a common ground in this area**, with full respect for the various religious and ethnical values and cultural backgrounds, as part of a global partnership among all countries and peoples, based on a sense of shared but differentiated responsibility for each other and for our planetary home.

However, as we approach the thirtieth anniversary of the Conference, we have to admit that, **despite continuous efforts of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide.**

In this regard, while recognizing the centrality of the ICPD Programme of Action in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Group is convinced that **the right to development, which is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, must be respected and protected** so as to equitably meet the population, development and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Bangladesh

Belarus

Cameroon

Comoros

Egypt

Gambia

Indonesia

Iran

Iraq

Kuwait

Kyrgyzstan

Libya

Malaysia

Nicaragua

Nigeria

Oman

Pakistan

Qatar

Russian Federation

Saudi Arabia

Somalia

Sri Lanka

Sudan

Syria

Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Uganda

Yemen

Zimbabwe

As we mark the anniversary of the ICPD, we cannot help but recall another anniversary that the international community is celebrating this year. We believe that realizing the goals and objectives of the International Year of the Family will contribute to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Actions. Conversely, the successful realization of the outcome document of the Cairo Conference will lead to the overall well-being of the family and its members.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to highlight **the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development** and emphasize the need of providing the family, as a key institution for human capital development, with greater protection and assistance depending on its needs.

The Group is of the view that, given **the cross-sectoral nature of family policy**, its design and implementation should be integrated into overall social policymaking and included **as a cross-cutting issue in development plans and programmes**.

We believe it is also important **to monitor the impact of social and economic decisions and actions** on family well-being and on the family's ability to meet the basic needs of its members.

Because, from our perspective, it is the family that is **the starting point for solving the greatest challenges** of modern life, since **a strong family of today is a sustainable society of tomorrow**.

Madame Chair,

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, allow me, on behalf of the Group, to commend **the important role of the United Nations in strengthening global cooperation on family-related issues**, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data.

For our part, recognizing the critical role of partnerships among all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academia and the private sector, **we are committed to implementing practical initiatives to further develop international cooperation in matters relating to the family** including through concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated, comprehensive approach to development.

I thank you.