



**Oral Statement made by Alex Vazquez
during the Commission on Population and Development
on behalf of IFFD (6 April 2017)**

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Many observers have recently warned that too often the voice of the elderly and younger members of families is not included in discussions around community life. Generations rely on each other by sharing knowledge, experience and meeting the care needs of their most vulnerable family members. Nowadays, population age structures, ageing, changes in family living arrangements along with urbanisation are increasingly influencing intergenerational relationships both on a personal and societal level.

It is not enough to say that communities that are good to grow old in are also good to grow up in. There must be intentional efforts to build connections between the generations. The double-income family model has become more and more common. Parents, and especially women face an increased double responsibility to provide care for the youngest and oldest in their families. In addition, the cities are attracting the young generations. Which leads to a disconnection between the youth and the elderly rural generation.

Madame Chair,

The International Federation for Family Development, working in 66 countries, is aware of this pressure over intergenerational relations. An ageing population puts more pressure on social protection systems, pension schemes, health care systems, and employment. At the same time, education and care for children, formerly provided by the elderly, are left to the public and private sector.

In line with 2030 Agenda, there is no better perspective to build strong societies and enhance social integration than a family approach. There is a need to re-discover and recognise the essential contribution of families to the well-being of children, youth and elderly. We are committed to promote the transition from a multigenerational society to an intergenerational one, to make sure that no one is left behind.

Such a goal can only be tackled effectively through a multi-stakeholder approach where governments, private sector, civil society and academia work together. Partnerships between all stakeholders should discover opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction in the family, the workplace and society at large.

Thank you, Madame Chair