



54th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

IFFD Oral Statement

Family Support Services and Impact of the Coronavirus Disease on Food Security, Nutrition and Well-Being

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated disruption of many education, health, social, and family services have emphasized the importance of family support services, including health care and mental health services, child protection, supports towards basic material needs such as food and housing, and specialized services for vulnerable families. Since a whole range of needs has to be addressed simultaneously when targeting families, the challenge for policymakers is to develop a package to tackle the needs of different families and delivered in an integrated manner across different public agencies and a range of service providers.

Our Federation is proud to have contributed in a recent OECD report on family support services meant to help policy-makers, family professionals and researchers. The report analyzes some key aspects for the theme of this Commission. It features that the supply and quality of family support services vary across and often within countries, but sharing evidence on good service delivery practices and efficient service organization is crucial to ensure that the services provide benefit to families who need them most.

In fact, the pandemic has shifted earlier thinking on broader questions of sustainable food systems. What we have lived during the past year has underlined the importance of this topic, as we can see some evidence from the impact of COVID-19, especially in the areas of incomes, supply chains, and programme delivery.

In this regard, following-up on the Secretary-General's report for this Commission we are committed to support family-responsive legislation to transform the food supply and demand as well as institutional reforms. Families around the globe must be well-nourished and healthy to achieve the goals and objectives of the IPCD and SDGs.

Finally, we celebrate the Civil Society engagement that the Commission's Bureau has shown this year. We have been able to actively advise on the future role and organization and be heard on substantial changes in the side-events organization procedure. We look forward to more ways to enrich the Commission's work.

Thank you Chair.