

CPD55 STATEMENT April 26, 2022 Global Helping to Advance Women and Children.

Delivered by Annie Franklin

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, Global HAWC is grateful for this opportunity to address the Commission. Our organization chairs the UN Family Rights Caucus, with members in 170 countries. **In this statement we wish to underline the centrality of the family as the authentic starting point for policy on population and development.**

The family as the basic unit of society contributes immensely to national development and to the achievement of major objectives of every society including the eradication of poverty, the protection of children, the right to education and health, the empowerment of women and girls, and the creation of stable peaceful and secure societies.

Nations have the well-founded right, indeed the obligation to place the protection and support of the family at the center of their development policies; we congratulate the Member States and the observers who consistently note the critical role of the family in UN forums making sure that it is recognized, supported, promoted and protected and given its due place within the UN agenda, recognizing the premiere and unique status of the family. Indeed 110 Member States clearly recognize the family in their own constitution.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and no less than 5 binding UN treaties reaffirm that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society” and that the family “is entitled to protection by society and the State”, recognizing among other things the important role the family plays in bringing up children and in generating intergenerational solidarity.

In the same spirit, Mr. Chairman, I remind the commission of the historical statement of UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, “The very achievement of development goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the achievement of those goals.” (SG 2011 Family Report (A/66/62–E/2011/4))

We encourage governments to formulate family sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education in order to create environments supportive of the family, remembering the primary role of parents in the education of their children.

The pivotal role of the family in society is intimately linked to the topics considered in this august Commission. This pivotal role should be recognized in the documents being negotiated here. I thank you.

