

Statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family (GFF) at the Commission on Population and Development/ Forty- ninth session

Agenda item 4: General debate on national experience in population matters: “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of 25 Member States of the Group of Friends of the Family. The Group congratulates the Bureau for their election and thanks the Bureau and the Secretariat for all the preparations to having a successful session.

Since it is the first session of the Commission following the adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, we re-emphasize the inter-linkages between successful implementation of the Agenda and the strengthening of the demographic dividends which can also be reinvigorated through ICPD Program of Action.

The family is a central player when it comes to strengthening demographic evidence base for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Successful implementation of both 2030 agenda and ICPD PoA depends on policies that promote the role and stance of the family in all societies, specially should no one be left behind. A strengthened family institution will certainly contribute in the flourishing of the human person and ultimately well-being of our societies.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society that is entitled to protection by society and the State. This message is still extremely relevant within the context of achieving sustainable development. Very recent agreement among UN member states

during the 60th CSW session reiterates such salient role. The Commission recognized the family as a contributor to development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

The family continues to be the basic and primary provider for each individual - being it physical, economic or spiritual support. It is our conviction that we also need to continue to cherish and highlight the support and comfort that the family generously offers to us.

Thank You Madam Chair.

I am now making the following statement in my national capacity