

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)
in collaboration with the
Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development

Expert Group Meeting

“Family policy in a changing world: Promoting social protection and intergenerational solidarity”

14-16 April 2009
Doha, Qatar

Annotated Agenda

Monday, 13 April 2009

Participants arrive in Doha

Tuesday, 14 April 2009

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-10:15 **Opening session**

Welcome Address:

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Bin Nasser Al Khalifa, Secretary General of the
Qatar Supreme Council for Family Affairs

Opening Remarks:

Dr. Richard Wilkins, Managing Director, Doha International
Institute for Family Studies and Development

Dr. Sergei Zelenev, Chief, Social Integration Branch, Division for
Social Policy and Development (DSPD), UN/DESA

10:15-10:45

Introductory Session

Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting

Mr. Eric Olson, Focal Point, Programme on the Family, Social Integration Branch, DSPD, UN/DESA

Introduction of the participants

10:45-11:15

Break

11:15-12:45

Session I: Family policy in a changing world – feasibility and essential elements

Moderator – Dr. Ayman Abulaban

Introductory remarks – Prof. Sheila Kamerman
Prof. Asma Al Attiyah

Questions for discussion

- Are explicit family policies necessary or desirable? Are they feasible and practical?
- To what extent are implicit family policies and integrating a family perspective into policy-making adequate and sufficient?
- What are the essential elements of an effective family policy?
- Ways and means to integrate a family perspective into policy-making
- What are the main differences, if any, between developed and developing countries in the approach to family policy-making?

Roundtable discussion

12:45-14:15

Lunch Break

14:15-15:45

Session II: Family policy-making – discerning the limits

Moderator – Prof. Naohiro Ogawa

Introductory remarks – Prof. Juan Antonio Fernandez Cordon,
Prof. J.P. Singh

Questions for discussion

- What are specific factors that make families and households a legitimate focus of public policy?
- Should family policy attempt to bring changes to current family trends and to family life?
 - If so, in what areas, and to what extent?
 - What are the limits of family policy involvement?
- Are family policies capable of altering the recent rapid family trends? Are they capable of altering changes in family life?
- Social protection and the work-family balance:
 - what are the experiences with improving and maintaining work-family balance policies in various national contexts?
 - what may be an optimal balance between promoting family well-being and a pro-employment generation, pro-growth business environment?

Roundtable discussion

15:45-16:15

Break

16:15-17:45

Session III: Family policies: measuring effectiveness

Moderator – Dr. Nugroho Abikusno

Introductory remarks – Prof. Mihaela Robila

Questions for discussion

- What are realistic expectations regarding the effects and effectiveness of family policy?
- What does it mean to “strengthen families”, “strengthen family functioning”, or “improve family well-being”?
- What are the available, relevant data bases, and what are the data gaps?
- How to create or strengthen the necessary tools and capabilities for governments to be able to:
 - formulate and implement effective family policies?
 - measure effects of family policy implementation?
 - strengthen families, strengthen family functioning or improve family well-being?

Roundtable discussion

17:45-18:00

Wrap-up by the Rapporteur of day one – Prof. Mihaela Robila

19:00

Dinner

Wednesday, 15 April 2009

9:00-10:30

Session IV: The interrelationship between family policy and the promotion of social protection

Moderator – Dr. Al Ansari

Introductory remarks – Dr. Gladys Mutangadura

Questions for discussion

- How can social protection be promoted through family policy? How can family policy be promoted through social protection?
- What effects do social welfare mechanisms have on families? What are the role of social entitlements and social guarantees?
- What is the experience of family policies and social protection in addressing the challenges of gender equality and the gender related challenges that women and girls face?
- What are the outstanding critical gaps that family policies and social protection can address?
- Emergency social assistance: how to increase its reach and depth of impact on families?

Roundtable discussion

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-12:30

Session V: Practical aspects of integrating family policy with social protection: reducing vulnerabilities

Moderator – Prof. J.P. Singh

Introductory remarks – Ms. Gabriele Koehler
Dr. Fernando Filgueira

Questions for discussion

- What measures could be recommended to integrate social protection programmes within existing policy channels
- What are some examples of best practices in integrating a family perspective into policies of social protection? What are the lessons learned?

- What are special issues regarding family policy and social protection in the context of developing countries?
- What are the experiences with family policy and conditional cash transfers to families?
- Social protection, migration and families:
 - How to integrate a family perspective into migration and social protection policies?
 - How to manage overlapping policies to achieve desired results and maintain policy consistency?
- How can the issues of social protection, families, and separated family members be best addressed during post-conflict recovery and transition?

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Session VI: Intergenerational solidarity, family and family policy

Moderator – Prof. Sheila Kamerman

Introductory remarks – Prof. Naohiro Ogawa

Questions for discussion

- To what extent should intergenerational solidarity be a part of family policy and be deliberately promoted through public policies?
- What are some lessons learned in promoting intergenerational solidarity at the family level and at the level of society?
- What are development strategies and programmes to strengthen national capacities in the area of family policy and intergenerational solidarity?

Roundtable discussion

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-17:30

Session VII: Investing in intergenerational solidarity and social inclusion: ways and means to develop national capacities, monitoring and evaluation

Moderator – Prof. Juan Antonio Fernandez Cordon

Introductory remarks – Dr. Nugroho Abikusno

Questions for discussion

- What are special issues regarding family policy and intergenerational solidarity in the context of developing countries?
- What are some potential approaches to measuring intergenerational solidarity? What are acceptable indicators?
- How can the impact of promoting the well-being of families through family policy on intergenerational solidarity and social inclusion be monitored and assessed?

Roundtable discussion

17:30-17:45 Wrap-up by the Rapporteur of day two – Dr. Fernando Filgueira

19:00 *Dinner*

Thursday, 16 April 2009

9:00-10:30 **Session VIII: Discussion in working groups**

Topics for discussion in the groups

- What types of policies and mechanisms could be most feasible in creating and sustaining effective family policies and effective social protection and intergenerational solidarity?
- What capacities are needed to develop an inclusive society for all generations? What steps and policy measures are required to move to a minimal standard of well-being?
- What types of social protection schemes are particularly effective in preventing families from entering into poverty?
- How can intergenerational aspects affecting families be promoted (e.g. facilitating asset accumulation, increasing demand for health and education)?

Preparation of draft recommendations

Working group A Moderator – (Dr. Gladys Mutangadura)

Working group B Moderator – (Ms. Gabriele Koehler)

Presentation of the findings by the Rapporteurs

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-12:30

Session VIII (continued): Review of recommended approaches and methods

Moderator – Ms. Noor Al Malki

- What are different choices and policy options for promoting family well-being, social protection and intergenerational solidarity?
- What are the implications of different choices and policy options?

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Session IX: Distillation of findings and finalization of the recommendations

Moderator – Dr. Sergei Zelenev

Roundtable discussion

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-16:30

Adoption of recommendation by the experts

16:30

Concluding remarks, farewell and closing

Dr. Sergei Zelenev and Dr. Richard Wilkins

19:00

Dinner
