

Oral Statement

Commission on Social Development 2019

Madame Chair/ Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We, representatives of the Civil Society organizations:

- The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)
- The International Federation of Family Development (IFFD)
- World Family Organization
- International Federation for Home Economics
- Focus on the Family Malaysia
- Fathers in Africa
- Ngala Parenting with Confidence
- European Large Families Confederation
- Parents Forum

Having considered the evidence of how important positive parenting is for health, education, poverty eradication and the overall wellbeing outcomes of children, including adolescents, supporting families, parents and caregivers in their crucial role in social development is key for the education and socialization of children, especially those in vulnerable situations.

Having recognized its role in development, the family is supported by an array of UN documents: as a fundamental group unit of society that is entitled to protection by society and the state (HRD, Art. 16.3), and as a crucial contributor towards the achievement of the SDGs, especially by breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty, recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work, and creating just, inclusive and secure societies.

Therefore, we call on governments, national and international organizations, academic and research institutions, donors and the private sector to support families, parents and caregivers everywhere by:

- 1.- Enabling work-family balance for flexible working and leave arrangements, parental leave, affordable, accessible and quality childcare and initiatives to promote shared responsibility at home;
- 2.- Investing in parenting education programs considering various parenting needs and dimensions;
- 3.- Making the wellbeing of parents, children and other caregivers explicit objectives of parenting policies and programs;
- 4.- Investing in program evaluations and impact assessments of parenting policies and programs so parenting and child wellbeing can be better understood by all stakeholders;
- 5.- Recognizing the contribution of men to families and developing policies to address the consequences of their absence;

- 6.- Acknowledging the contribution of grandparents to parenting and intergenerational relations, living arrangements, inclusive urbanization and social cohesion;
- 7.- Creating an enabling environment for meaningful contributions of civil society organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of family policies and programs, removing barriers to the establishment, work and funding of non-governmental organizations.

Thank you, Madame Chair / Mr. Chairman