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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2021

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/76/454, para. 51)*]

76/139. Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [44/82](#) of 8 December 1989, [50/142](#) of 21 December 1995, [52/81](#) of 12 December 1997, [54/124](#) of 17 December 1999, [56/113](#) of 19 December 2001, [57/164](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/15](#) of 3 December 2003, [59/111](#) of 6 December 2004, [59/147](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/133](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/129](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/133](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/126](#) of 19 December 2011, [67/142](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/136](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/144](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/163](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/145](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/144](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/124](#) of 18 December 2019 and [75/153](#) of 16 December 2020, concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, especially those relating to family-oriented policies in the areas of poverty, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, with attention given to the rights and responsibilities of all family members, can contribute to ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensuring better education outcomes for children, including early childhood development and education, enabling access to



employment opportunities and decent work for parents and caregivers, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating all forms of violence, in particular against women and girls, and supporting the overall quality of life of families, including families in vulnerable situations, so that family members can realize their full potential, as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing further the importance of the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024,

Acknowledging that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-oriented components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing the continuing efforts of Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations and civil society, including academic institutions, to fulfil the objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national, regional and international levels,

Acknowledging that the International Year and its follow-up processes have served as catalysts for initiatives at the national and international levels, including family-oriented policies and programmes to reduce poverty and hunger and promote the well-being of all at all ages, and can boost development efforts, contribute to better outcomes for children and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹

Expressing solidarity with all people affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, expressing deep concern over its socioeconomic impact on families and on the roles within families affected by the loss of family members and caregivers, increased poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and unpaid care work, the disruption of education, as well as worsening mental health outcomes and an alarming increase in violence, in particular domestic violence, recognizing that many families play a role in caring for their members, which constitutes an additional challenge for families, and reaffirming the responsibility of States in protecting families from the negative effects of the pandemic,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has provided a critical recognition of the need and opportunity to build more effective, inclusive and resilient systems to protect and support families, in particular those families and family members in vulnerable situations, inter-alia, by providing access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-sensitive social protection systems and public services, and measures to ensure a work-family and a work-life balance,

Acknowledging that strengthening intergenerational relations, through such measures as promoting intergenerational living arrangements and encouraging extended family members to live in close proximity to each other, has been found to promote the autonomy, security and well-being of children and older persons and that initiatives to promote involved and positive parenting and to support the role of grandparents have been found to be beneficial in advancing social integration and solidarity between generations, as well as in promoting and protecting the human rights of all family members,

¹ Resolution 70/1.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;²
2. *Encourages* Governments to continue their efforts to implement the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger, to prevent the intergenerational transfer and feminization of poverty and ensure the well-being of all at all ages in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders to protect families and family members from the negative socioeconomic and health-related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including, inter alia, by providing access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as effective, inclusive, resilient and gender-sensitive social protection systems and public services, expanded child and family benefits, paid parental leave and sick leave, improved flexibility of working arrangements and gender-sensitive services to reduce the burden of care, including quality childcare;
4. *Calls upon* Member States, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders to promote the preparations for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 at the national, regional and international levels through practical initiatives, including family-oriented policies and programmes responding to the needs of all families;
5. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, as part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, to support research and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and international levels on the impact of technological, demographic, urbanization, migration and climate change trends on families in order to harness their positive effects and mitigate their negative impacts;
6. *Invites* Member States to invest in a variety of inclusive, family-oriented gender-sensitive policies and programmes, which take into account the different needs and expectations of all families, as important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
7. *Encourages* Member States to continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies for poverty reduction in line with the main objectives of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year, to confront family poverty and social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected;
8. *Also encourages* Member States to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, particularly by women, and enhance efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, youth, persons with disabilities and older

² A/76/61-E/2021/4.

persons and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through the improvement of working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and use of such opportunities, for their children's developmental benefit and as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market;

9. *Further encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality childcare facilities and facilities for children and other dependants and measures promoting the equal sharing of household responsibilities between women and men, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in this regard;

10. *Encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes that enhance strong intergenerational interactions, such as intergenerational living arrangements, parenting education, including for family caregivers, and support for grandparents, including grandparents who are primary caregivers, in an effort to promote inclusive urbanization, active ageing, intergenerational solidarity and social cohesion;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to invest in family-oriented policies and programmes and to provide universal and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, as can be the case of families headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health-care services, in addition to family services and counselling;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to provide legal identity, including birth registration, in accordance with international law, including relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child³ and/or relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ and death registration, as a means of, inter alia, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and access to benefits, including social protection;

13. *Invites* Member States to invest in accessible and affordable infrastructure, including adequate and affordable housing with support services for families, social services centres and transportation, to benefit families and prevent family homelessness and address its causes, including poverty, domestic violence and the lack of affordable housing, and to build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination;

14. *Encourages* Member States to invest in parenting education as a tool to enhance children's well-being and prevent all forms of violence against children, including through promoting non-violent forms of discipline, and to ensure that parenting education programmes are inclusive of parents, grandparents and, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the children, maintaining a gender perspective throughout;

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁴ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

15. *Also encourages* Member States to establish policies that support all families in providing a nurturing environment, and in preventing and eliminating domestic violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage;

16. *Further encourages* Member States to improve the collection and use of data, disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant criteria, for the formulation and evaluation of family-oriented policies and programmes to effectively respond to the challenges faced by families and harness their contribution to development;

17. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations trust fund on family activities;

18. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector, in the development and implementation of relevant family-oriented policies and programmes;

19. *Encourages* further collaboration between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

20. *Requests* the focal point on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to enhance collaboration with the regional commissions, funds and programmes, recommends that the roles of focal points within the United Nations system be reaffirmed, and invites Member States to increase technical cooperation efforts, consider enhancing the role of the regional commissions on family issues and continue to provide resources for those efforts, facilitate the coordination of national and international non-governmental organizations on family issues and enhance cooperation with all relevant stakeholders to promote family issues and develop partnerships in this regard;

21. *Calls upon* Member States and agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, in consultation with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to provide information on their activities, including on good practices at the national, regional and international levels, including the relevant United Nations forums, in support of the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes, including the preparations for its thirtieth anniversary, to be included in the report of the Secretary-General;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, including a description of the state of preparation for the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year at all levels;

23. *Decides* to consider the topic “Preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family” at its seventy-seventh session under the sub-item entitled “Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family” of the item entitled “Social development”.

*53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021*