One of the first policy documents to signal that the family has a role to play in development was the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) in 1969. Since that time the United Nations recognized the essential contribution of the family to society and development more broadly, including by highlighting the importance of family policies to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1994 “The International Year of the Family” in its resolution 44/82. The General Assembly recognized the importance of this objective of the International Year of the Family in the context of promoting social justice, social welfare, and the advancement of women, and has repeated these links on many occasions.

The resolution stated above all that the observance of the Year by governments, civil society, and international agencies should focus on the objective of “creating among Governments, policy-makers and the public a greater awareness of the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society.”

In its resolution 47/237 the United Nations General Assembly also decided that beginning in 1994, 15 May of every year should be observed as the International Day of Families. This event will offer participants the opportunity to recommit to the objectives of the International Year of the Family and discuss best practices to protect and strengthen the family so that it can fulfill its vital role at the heart of society.
IT TAKES A FAMILY

25th Observance of the International Day of Families and 25th Commemoration of the International Year of the Family

INVITED SPEAKERS

Mr. Tarek Tayel, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Charge d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations (TBC)

H.E. Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

Msgr. Tomasz Grysa, First Counselor and Deputy Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, Minister for External Affairs, Saint Lucia

Ms. Valerie Huber, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Global Affairs at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Charge d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations

DECLARATION BY CHILDREN

Oakcrest Academy Students

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Oakcrest School Harp Circle

PANEL DISCUSSION

“The Family in Latin America”
Christine Vollmer, President, Alliance for the Family

“The Significance of the Family in Africa”
Errol Naidoo, Founder and CEO of Family Policy Institute (FPI)

“The Technological Assault on the Family”
Michael Hanby, Ph.D., JPII Institute for Marriage and Family at CUA, Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy of Science

“Household family structure and the macroeconomic welfare of nations”
Joseph Price, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Brigham Young University

PRESENTATION OF THE MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE MEDAL – awarded for long-term service promoting the Family

INTERVENTIONS

Statements by Member States and Civil Society