



GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

Statement delivered
by the Charge d'Affaires of Belarus Pavel Evseenko
on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family

Commission for Social Development
Sixty-first session, general discussion
February 7, 2023

Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me an honour and great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family that includes Bangladesh, Comoros, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe and my own country Belarus.

As Member-States of the Group of Friends of the Family, we are deeply concerned that the **contribution of the family in society and in the achievement of global development goals** continues to be largely overlooked and underestimated.

Internationally, the **role of the family is appreciated but still not prioritized in development efforts**.

In this regard, bearing in mind the focus of the priority theme of the session of the Commission for Social Development we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the **great potential of the family to contribute to development** and to the achievement of fundamental goals of every society and of the United Nations, including the eradication of poverty and the creation of just, stable and secure societies.

Excellencies,

As a matter of fact, families have always been sensitive to turmoils caused by social and economic changes, but today these conditions have worsened for many families in the world owing to economic and financial crises, temporary employment, lack of job security and regular income.

Bangladesh

Belarus

Comoros

Egypt

Indonesia

Iran

Iraq

Kuwait

Kyrgyzstan

Libya

Malaysia

Nicaragua

Nigeria

Oman

Pakistan

Qatar

Russian Federation

Saudi Arabia

Somalia

Sudan

Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Uganda

Yemen

Zimbabwe

In this connection and in light of today's discussion, we attach great **importance to designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies** in the areas of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work and consider such policies to be an effective tool to enable men and women workers with family responsibilities to exercise their **right to engage, participate and advance in employment without discrimination**.

Since the family is the most important and the only source of social protection for over half of the world's population, our Group advocates family-centred policies to protect and **ensure social protection and care systems that are good for children, good for women and good for the economy**.

Madame Chair,

It is well known that **work-family balance lies at the core of the ability of the family to provide economically and emotionally for its members**.

Remembering that it is crucial for children to grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, we strongly believe that **work-family balance is conducive to the well-being of all family members** including children, young and older people, persons with disabilities as well as to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The **improvement of working conditions for workers with family responsibilities** by expanding flexible working arrangements, including with the use of new information and communications technologies, providing leave arrangements and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, has a key role in **supporting parents to raise the next generation of children and ensure harmonious family relations**.

In this regard, we express the hope that the United Nations will continue to play **an important and active role in strengthening international cooperation in family-related issues**, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data.

In conclusion, let me, on behalf of the Member-States of the Group of Friends of the Family, reaffirm our commitment to providing the family with **the widest possible protection and assistance**, as we believe that **a strong family of today is a sustainable society of tomorrow**.

Thank you for your attention.