



# The role of families in the future we want

*Promoting the empowerment of families in the Sustainable Development Goals*

## **An IFFD Briefing at the United Nations Headquarters**

**Wednesday 11 February 2015 - 1:15-2:45 p.m.**

**Conference Room 7 - General Assembly Building - United Nations - New York**

### **Programme**

#### **Opening Speech**

##### ***Family and well-being for all at all ages (3.7)***

Marina Robben  
World President of IFFD

#### **Presentations**

##### ***Family as a school of equality (4.1)***

Ferin Merve Yilmaz Göksan  
Women's Platform Representative - Journalists and Writers Foundation (Turkey)

##### ***Productive employment and decent work for all (8.1)***

Kristin Bodiford  
UN Delegate of Generations United (United States)

##### ***The value of unpaid care and domestic work (5.4)***

Marie Béatrice Levaux  
President of the French Federation of Household Employers  
and the European Federation for Family Employment

#### **IFFD 2015 Family Awards Ceremony**

For persons and entities devoted to the promotion of family values

##### **City of Barcelona Family Plan 2013-2016**

Department of Family, Children, Time Use and the Disabled - City council of Barcelona

##### **H. E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

#### **Conclusion**

##### ***The United Nations, the family and Sustainable Development Goals***

Renata Kaczmarska  
Focal Point on the Family (UN DSPD/DESA)

More information

**[www.familyperspective.org](http://www.familyperspective.org)**

*(The numbers in brackets refer to the Targets of the Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals)*

A copy of 'Family Futures', the landmark publication of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, and of the documents of the North American Expert Group Meeting (Mexico City, 19-20 May 2014) will be offered to attendees.



This event is open to all governmental and non-governmental representatives.

Refreshments will be served.

**Please register at [familyperspective.org/briefing](http://familyperspective.org/briefing)**

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## Background Note

The Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond (66/62) states that “the very achievement of development goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the achievement of those goals.”

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/3, “urges Member States to give due consideration to advancing family policy development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.”

The recent Report of the Secretary-General on the Celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (70/61) notes that “the number of initiatives taken at both the international and national levels in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is testimony to the relevance of family-oriented policies and programmes for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.”

Having been active part of those initiatives and as the final deadline for the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals is approaching, the International Federation for Family Development has decided to focus on four of the proposed Goals to reaffirm or suggest the need for families to be mentioned in some of their Targets.

The IFFD Briefing to be celebrated during the 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development in 2015 will focus on those Targets, keeping in mind the priority theme “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”. In the Report of the Secretary-General that develops this theme, it is also said that “strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development is not only a matter of making progress towards poverty or employment targets within a short time horizon, but also requires securing such progress and ensuring that it will be sustainable in the long term.”

Speakers for the Briefing have been carefully selected from persons working in Civil Society Organizations dealing very closely with those Targets. FEPEM is the French Federation of Household Employers, dealing with professional consideration of care and domestic work. The Women’s Platform of the Journalists and Writers Foundation of Turkey works to establish dialogue about gender equality and families around the Islamic world and elsewhere. The mission of Generations United is to improve the lives of children, youth, and older adults through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs for the enduring benefit of all. The International Federation for Family Development has been working for more than 35 years through its Family Enrichment Centers in 65 countries to promote and support different kinds of initiatives which aim to bolster and strengthen the family.

In addition, the first 2015 IFFD Award will be granted to the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, for his work in favor of families worldwide not only in his present position, but also during his years of service to United Nations and his country. Particularly, the Jury wanted to remark how, as the 66th President of the UN General Assembly, he sought to promote the vital role of parents in the family within society by proposing the adoption of a draft resolution declaring June 1st as the Global Day of Parents.

The second Award will be granted to the Department of Family, Children, Time Use and the Disabled of the City council of Barcelona, because of their City of Barcelona Family Plan 2013-2016, and especially the programme Barcelona is Family, developed during the past months to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Finally, the Focal Point on the Family (Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Secretariat) will also contribute to this event with her inputs about the role of the family in Development. As the main responsible for the preparation and celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, she is one of the most authorized persons to talk about it.

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