



**UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION - 1-10 FEBRUARY 2017**

ORAL STATEMENT

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The priority theme for this Commission and SDG #1 are especially important to ensuring the right to a safe childhood. We are still far from reducing by half, the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty. Poverty is a prominent and agreed international measure of family living standards. It can be used to monitor how families are now. It is a powerful outcome measure for detailed policy assessment of the success of government efforts to support families. And, it also facilitates drawing lessons between countries in terms of what works.

In this regard, the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) has been promoting research and dissemination of data on present family challenges among lawmakers, scholars and civil society representatives, especially on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family and the 2030 Agenda and its implications for families.

There is a linkage between a range of negative family outcomes and experiences of poverty. Evidence across developed countries generally agrees that children from poor households are more likely to grow up poor, experience unemployment, to have lower levels of education, and to experience a range of poor health outcomes and engage more often in many risk factors.

Child poverty is an ongoing national concern, but few are aware that it has also been linked to family breakdown, parental (particularly maternal) depression, social exclusion, absence of parents at home and the take up of publically provided family services. Families raised by a single parent are generally poorer than those raised by couples.

The complex and varied policy frameworks found in developed countries mean that many different pathways for reducing bottom-end inequality exists. But research suggests that children do better, families do better, and countries do better when nations invest in early childhood programs. The following recommendations for governments should be considered in strengthening child well-being:

1. Protect the incomes of households with the poorest children to ensure quality education.
2. Focus on improving the educational achievements of disadvantaged learners.
3. Promote and support healthy lifestyles for all children.
4. Take subjective well-being seriously.
5. Place equity at the heart of child well-being agendas.
6. Data sets should track children through different stages of their learning process.
7. Children's voices should be built into data-collection processes.