One of the most pressing challenges while forming a family is finding an adequate place to live. The formation period of a family is key to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty, ensuring social inclusion and preventing various situations of vulnerability. That it is why the access to adequate housing is an essential requirement to set the basis for a sustainable family.

For societies and economies to thrive, governments, the private sector and civil society need to support family formation, through family oriented policies ensuring adequate housing, as they set the foundations of their homes. Supporting these new homes, they help to balance and benefit both work and family life that typically provide three types of essential resources needed by parents and caregivers of young children: time, finances and services. Mutual investment by parents, businesses and the State in this critical phase of family formation lays the foundation for children’s success in school, adults’ success at work, the ability to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, lifelong health, and prevent homelessness.

The event will gather various stakeholders in an effort to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate, safe and affordable housing for every family and prevent homelessness. It will highlight national, sub-national, and local strategies to tackle challenges as shortage of affordable housing; investment speculation in housing; unplanned and rapid urbanization, unemployment, family breakdown and lack of social protection systems including floors.

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. What are the main actors and challenges while finding the first family residence?
2. How can the State, the private sector and civil society contribute to ensure access to an adequate house?
3. What are the benefits for every stakeholder while ensuring adequate housing?
4. How should progress in housing be evaluated regarding housing regulations, financing and marginalization?
PROGRAMME

Opening Remarks

Mr. Mario Armella
World President of the International Federation for Family Development

Mr. Azril Abd Aziz
Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations

Panel

Evidence-based Policy Recommendations Supporting Family Formation and Adequate Housing

Luís M. B. Cabral
Stern School of Business of New York University

Before his present work, Cabral taught at IESE Business School, Yale University, University of California, Berkeley, London Business School and Universidade Nova de Lisboa. He has published over 40 papers in specialized economics journals and is the author of ‘Introduction to Industrial Organization’ (MIT Press, 2000). He served as Managing Editor of the Journal of Industrial Economics from 1999 to 2003. He is currently Co-Editor of the Journal of Economics and Management Strategy and a member of the Advisory Board of the International Journal of Industrial Organization. He was President of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics from 2009 to 2011.

Francesca de Ferrari
Programme Management Officer at UN-Habitat, New York

De Ferrari has been working in the Development and Humanitarian world for almost 2 decades. She is Civil Engineer as background, with Masters in Hydrology and Hydrogeology and International Development. She started her career in Colombia managing a recovery programme after a devastating earthquake. She worked with international NGOs, with OXFAM as Public Health Officer in Philippines in emergency response after typhoon and land slide. She worked with UNICEF as Chief of Water and Sanitation Department in El Salvador, as a Water and Sanitation and Emergency Specialist in Sudan and as Education and Water and Sanitation Specialist in Sierra Leone. She joined UN-HABITAT in May 2010 bringing with her broad field experience.

Luiz Alvaro Salles Aguiar de Menezes
Secretary of International Relations at the Mun. of Sao Paulo

With a degree in Business with focus in Marketing from the Superior School of Advertising and Marketing and a post graduation in Strategic and Economic Management from the Getulio Vargas Foundation, Alvaro started working in the editorial market in 2003 in the State of Sao Paulo’s Official Press, where he was responsible for the Marketing sector until 2011. In 2012, he became part of the Brazilian Chamber of Books team as Institutional Projects Manager, responsible for organizing the tributes to Brazil offered in the international book fairs of Frankfurt (2013), Bologna (2014) and Paris (2015). In 2014, he became Executive Manager of Sao Paulo’s Biennial International Book Fair, and in 2015 International Relations Manager of the Brazilian Chamber of Books.

Ignacio Socias (moderator)
Director of International Relations at IFFD

His job involves activities: with United Nations ECOSOC, UNICEF, UN Women and other agencies; in the European Union, through its participation in research and dissemination programmes; with local, regional and national governments of the countries where the Federation operates, sending regular information on family policies research and good practices, and evidence-based and result-oriented consultancy. He has promoted and organized the Global Project ‘SDGs and Families’, with the participation of experts from the five continents and the support of UNICEF and UN DESA, and the Global Project on ‘Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families’, alliance of Cities from all over the world that aim to be responsive to urban family’s needs.

Statements - Q & A
OTHER SIDE EVENTS AROUND THE IFFD BRIEFING

**Wednesday, February 12th, 2020 – 11:30 am-12:45 pm**
Conference Room 12 – U N Headquarters – New York

**Doha Briefing**
**The Impact of Housing Instability on Families:**
*Investing in social protection systems and parenting programs*
Co-organized by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN, Doha International Family Institute and International Federation for Family Development.

**Thursday, February 13th, 2020 – 11:30 am-12:45 pm**
Conference Room 12 – U N Headquarters – New York

**Family Homelessness: Prevention and Solutions**

**Thursday, February 13th, 2020 – 3:00-6:00 pm**
Conference Room 12 – U N Headquarters – New York

**Working Together to End Homelessness**
Co-organized by UNDESA, UN-Habitat, DePaul University Institute of Global Homelessness and UNANIMA International.
Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) has been the key United Nations body in charge of the follow up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

Originally known as the Social Commission but renamed in 1966, CSocD was established by ECOSOC res. 10 (II) (1946). Its purpose was to advise ECOSOC on social policies of a general character and, in particular, on all matters in the social field not covered by the specialised inter-governmental agencies. The Commission's mandate was further developed by ECOSOC resolutions 830J (XXXII) (1961), 1139 (XLI) (1966) and 1996/7. Since 2006, the Commission has taken up key social development themes as part of its follow up to the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit.

It meets annually in New York, usually in February.

Membership

Originally 18, membership has been increased several times, most recently in 1996, and now stands at 46. Members are elected by ECOSOC based on equitable geographical distribution (as noted in the following list) for four-year terms. Until 2002, terms began on 1 January and ended on 31 December. Under ECOSOC decision 2002/210, terms now begin immediately after the Commission's regular session and end at the conclusion of a regular session.

Bureau

The Bureau comprises a chair and four vice-chairs. Bureau members are elected by the Commission at the first meeting of a regular session, held immediately after the end of a regular session for the sole purpose of electing a new bureau (ECOSOC decision 2002/210). In order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission serve for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle in accordance (ECOSOC resolutions 2010/10 and 2012/7).

58th Session in 2020

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD58) takes place from 10 to 19 February 2020 in Conference Room 4, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Commission is the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development.

The Priority Theme is ‘Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness.’

In 2020, we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Commission and the 25th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development. 2020 is a crucial year for the accelerated realization of inclusive societies and reducing inequalities everywhere for people of all ages.

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action have guided multilateral action on social development since 1995. Adopted at the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in Copenhagen in March 1995, the Declaration emphasized the eradication of poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative. The Declaration represented a unique consensus on three key objectives of social development, namely, eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and fostering social inclusion, and set out a holistic approach to achieve them. It aspired to “place people at the centre of development by ensuring full participation by all”.

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