



Oral Statement. High Level Segment ECOSOC

July 19th, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

According to the latest Report of the Secretary General on Sustainable cities, the share of the world's population living in urban areas is expected to increase, from 55% in 2018 to 60 % in 2030. The speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges for all family members, such as children, parents, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons.

The International Federation for Family Development, present in 68 countries, is leading the Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families Project, in the context of SDG11 and the New Urban Agenda. The project has held two focus group meetings in Italy and Brazil, gathering experts, policy-makers and civil society members. The objective is "to find out how modern cities can be resilient and constantly diagnosed of their strength", so that families can find a proper place to live in.

Mr. Chairman,

Up until now, experts and stakeholders of the project have agreed on the following:

- Cities design should consider all family situations and social groups, flexible urban and environmentally sustainable planning, and social services for all.
- They should also facilitate access to housing, including promotion of smart cohousing solutions, efficient energy-saving and intergenerational arrangements, to provide care for older persons and affordable housing for youth.
- An improved link between new technologies and social inclusion, to bridge the digital gap via training of older persons and professional carers.
- Focus on accessible and affordable childcare facilities close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education and intergenerational educational strategies for all.
- Specific programs to recognize the value of unpaid work and care, and address the needs of families in vulnerable situations, including single-parent families, large families and migrant families.
- A welcoming environment on the streets, based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through volunteers, neighbourhood police and use of new technologies.

In conclusion, city leaders must move quickly to plan for each one of these aspects, as the capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure a safe growth of all family members and, therefore, of the whole society.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
