



**Oral Statement at the 51st Session of the United Nations  
Commission on Population and Development  
(New York, 12th April 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. City leaders must move quickly to plan for this growth while the capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure a safe growth of all family members that live in the city.

The International Federation for Family Development, present in 66 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 the Veneto Region, Italy, and Sao Paulo, Brazil, with experts, policy-makers and civil society members. The objective is to find out their inputs on how modern cities need to be resilient and constantly diagnosed of their urban strength, so that families can find a proper place to live in them.

Mr. Chairman,

Experts and other stakeholders of the project have agreed that the main points for the project on Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families are the following:

- Cities design should include all family situations and social groups, flexible urban and environmentally sustainable planning, and social services to meet every need. Plan to facilitate access to housing for the most disadvantaged citizens, including promotion of smart co-housing solutions for different target groups with common use of services, efficient energy-saving and flexible buildings, and intergenerational arrangements to provide care for the elder and cheaper housing for the younger.
- The need of connecting people through new technologies should be also included to ensure social inclusion, to bridge the digital gap via training of seniors, professional carers and socially disadvantaged families.

- Improvement of accessible and affordable childcare facilities in locations close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education, participation of older persons in educational activities for the youth, intergenerational meeting places for cultural and leisure activities, youth integration practices as well as second chance schools and chances to reintegrate in society.
- Organization of campaigns to promote healthy habits and lifestyles, especially those targeted to prevent mental disorders and to meet the needs of senior citizens.
- Establish 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, migrant families, etc.
- Creation of a welcoming environment in the streets based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through instruments like promoting volunteers, a neighbourhood police, the use of cameras and public lightning, information and training on how to behave in case of natural disasters, terrorist attacks, etc.
- Design of a plan to make public transportation more rational and accessible, to dissuade citizens to use private cars, and to take advantage of teleworking as much as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.