



# Leaving no family behind

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

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

**Wednesday 10 February 2016 - 1:15-2:45 p.m.**

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

## **Programme**

### **Opening Speech**

#### ***The 19th International Family Congress***

Mario Armella y Viviana Gutiérrez

Presidents of LAR – Family Enrichment (Mexico)

### **Presentations**

#### ***Lessons Learnt from Family Policies in Brazil***

Paulo Tominaga

Director of Institutional Relations of the Confederação Nacional das Entidades de Família (Brazil)

#### ***Active Ageing and Right to Health***

Giuseppe Pozzi

Vice President of FederAnziani and President of Corte di Giustizia Popolare per il diritto alla salute (Italy)

#### ***Parenting Types and their Consequences***

Rt. Hon. Charles Osezua

Founder and President of the Institute for Work and Family Integration (Nigeria)

### **IFFD 2016 Family Awards Ceremony**

For persons and entities devoted to the promotion of family values

**Ignacio Torras and Isabel Lombana**

**Government of the Republic of Estonia**

### **Conclusion**

#### ***Definition of Global Family Well-being Indicators***

Keiko Hirao

Professor in the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Sophia University (Japan)

More information and registration

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



[Final programme. Whilst every attempt is made to ensure that information is accurate and up-to-date, it could be subject to change].

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

Refreshments will be served.

---

## Speakers Profiles

### **Paulo Tominaga**

Director of Institutional Relations of the Confederação Nacional das Entidades de Família (Brazil)

Dr. Tominaga is Director of Institutional Relations of the CNEF (Brazil National Confederation of Family Entities), Master in Computer Science (UNB, Brazil), Specialist in Personal Development and Family (UEPG, Brazil), Specialist in Political Science (ILB / Federal Senate of Brazil), with a degree in Electrical Engineering (Unicamp, Brazil) and Law (UNB, Brazil). Develops activities in the Third Sector for over 25 years. The last 15 years has focused the activities in the area of Family Development, participating and promoting courses, seminars and conferences in Brazil. Having the theme focus on family, participated in international events held in the United States, Turkey and Spain.

CNEF (Confederação Nacional das Entidades de Família - National Confederation of Family Entities) is a civil association, nonprofit, founded in 2006, based in Brasília, Brazil, which brings together people, institutions and companies to promote integrated actions in order to ensure effectively assistance to the family and its members. The organization works with political and government agencies as a representative of the interests of its members. Thus seeks to collaborate in the formulation of public policies and implementing actions in the social assistance area, with a view to protection of the family, marriage, motherhood, childhood, adolescence and old age, among other issues related to family. CNEF encourages education and the role of citizens in favor of family development and promotion of the dignity of its members.

### **Giuseppe Pozzi**

Vice President of FederAnziani and President of Corte di Giustizia Popolare per il diritto alla salute (Italy)

Giuseppe Pozzi, surgeon, specialist in mini-invasive surgery, is Vice President of Fondazione Senior Italia - FederAnziani and President of the Popular Court of Justice for right to Health, national organization by FederAnziani acting with the aim of protecting the right to health of citizens. Speaker in national and international conferences, is President and Co-founder of FederAnziani Solidarietà, a charity involved in improving life's quality of Africa local communities.

Federanziani is a non-profit organization founded in 2006, with the aim to protect the rights and promote the quality of life of older people. It operates nationally with the primary purpose to federate all those who are concerned with the protection of social, health, economic integration of elderly subjects. Federanziani Promotes collaboration with the Federations of the member countries of the European Union. FederAnziani counts among its associated, about 3.500 centers for elderly people in Italy, with over 3,4 millions people belonging to its network.

### **Rt. Hon. Charles Osezua**

Founder and President of the Institute for Work and Family Integration (Nigeria)

Charles A. Osezua, a professional engineer, an educator and a business man. He is the founder and Chairman of the Institute for Work and Family Integration (IWFI); a non-profit organization focusing on issues of work-family interface. Charles is a distinguished gas engineer, honoured by his country, for his contribution to the development of the natural gas industry, and pioneering effort of the gas utility industry in Nigeria, as an Officer Order of the Niger (OON). Charles is a Papal Knight, haven been honoured by Pope Benedict XVI as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great, for his various contributions to the growth of the Catholic Church in Nigeria. He is the Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Pan Atlantic University (PAU), and also the Chairman of the Owel-Linkso Group. He is married to Lady Gloria Osezua, and they are blessed with six children and five grand-children.

The Institute for Work and Family Integration (IWFI) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization (NGO). A research training and advocacy institution with the aim of finding solution to conflicts occasioned the socio-demographic shifts in the workplace with a view to creating Better Families, Better Businesses, and Better Society.

### **Keiko Hirao**

Professor in the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Sophia University (Japan)

Prof. Hirao teaches at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Sophia University in Japan, and is a Visiting Scholar in Sociology at Harvard for academic year 2015-16. She is a sociologist specializing in the intersections among family, education and work. Her main research interests include gender stratification, intergenerational relations, human capital development, and sustainable lifestyles. She joined the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies in 2009, after having taught at the Department of Philosophical Anthropology for ten years. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame. She is the author of *Child Rearing War Front* (Chobunsha, 1991, in Japanese) and chapters in *Political Economy of Japan's Low Fertility* (Frances Rosenbluth ed., Stanford University Press, 2006), *Women's Working Lives in East Asia* (Mary Brinton ed., Stanford University Press, 2001), *Working and Mothering: Images, Ideologies and Identities* (Theresa W. Devasahayam and Brenda S.A. Yeoh eds., NIAS Press, 2007), and *Thinking Body as Intelligence* (Mamoru Suzuki ed., Gakken Marketing, 2014). Her recent book, *Invisible Hand and Invisible Heart* is forthcoming from Sophia University Press.

She is part of the Design Team for the project 'Making Families a Cornerstone in Policymaking: A Global Guide for Policymakers on Family Impact'. The aim of this project is to encourage policymakers to view issues through the lens of family impact, to incorporate family considerations into their jobs, and to take steps to build better public policies for families.

---

## Background Note

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations Development Programme will support governments around the world in tackling the new agenda and taking it forward over the next 15 years.

The 17 new Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and more.

The SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals, eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. Since the MDGs were adopted in 2000, enormous progress has been made, but more needs to be done. The SDGs have a more ambitious agenda, seeking to eliminate rather than reduce poverty, and include more demanding targets on health, education and gender equality. They are universal, applying to all countries and all people. The agenda also includes issues that were not in the MDGs such as climate change, sustainable consumption, innovation and the importance of peace and justice for all.

“As basic and essential building blocks of societies, families have a crucial role in social development. They bear the primary responsibility for the education and socialization of children as well as instilling values of citizenship and belonging in the society. Families provide material and non-material care and support to its members, from children to older persons or those suffering from illness, sheltering them from hardship to the maximum possible extent. The very achievement of development goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the achievement of those goals. Thus, policies focusing on improving the well-being of families are certain to benefit development.” (cfr. A/66/62–E/2011/4).

Consequently, to most effectively reach the SDGs, we are arguing that “we will have to do a better job in leaving no family behind.” In that spirit, we suggest to take into account the following aspects:

1. **Child Poverty.** The new promising approach to child poverty is two-generation approaches. Instead of focusing in children and parents individually, a family approach will be used that simultaneously provides high-quality programs for children and their parents.
  2. **Population Ageing.** Active ageing allows people to realize their potential for physical, social, and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate in society, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need it.
  3. **Healthy Lives.** Research shows that a family-centered approach to health care can improve the quality of care and help curb rising costs, from prevention to chronic care.
  4. **Quality Education.** When policies and programs are family-focused, they often are an efficient investment of public resources for promoting youth school success and an effective means for achieving lifelong learning.
  5. **Unpaid Domestic Work and Care.** Household production constitutes an important aspect of economic activity and ignoring it may lead to incorrect inferences about levels and changes in well-being.
  6. **Domestic Violence.** Gender equality and gender stereotypes, like many other values and norms, are learned in the family, and it is there where it should be first prevented.
  7. **Youth Unemployment.** Our societies are unable of integrating young people, leading to situations which cause young people to stop looking for a job or to work in unsuitable conditions.
-

# 19<sup>th</sup> International Family Congress

Mexico City, October 2016

## Final Declaration

*The following Declaration has been approved by the 1,836 delegates from 43 countries attending the 19th International Family Congress, organized by the International Federation for Family Development in Mexico City, 16-18 October 2015, to emphasize that families have a crucial role in social development and to confirm our commitment to help families worldwide and to contribute to universal peace and respect of human rights through our Family Enrichment Courses and other programmes.*

We, the families attending the 19th International Family Congress in Mexico City, held as the United Nations celebrates its seventieth anniversary and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in continuation with the previous Congresses and the full activity of the International Federation for Family Development in sixty-six countries, as well as the representatives of the political, academic and civil society named below, agree on this

### Declaration

We acknowledge the right of men and women of full age to marry and to found a family, as described by the art. 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and we express our appreciation for the work fulfilled worldwide during the past years concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its twentieth anniversary in 2014, as well as the different resolutions and decisions adopted on this issue by the United Nations General Assembly and other international bodies,

We emphasize that, as basic and essential building blocks of societies, families have a crucial role in social development, bear the primary responsibility for the nurturing, protection, education and socialization of children, as well as instilling values of citizenship and belonging in the society, and are essential contributors to the new Post-2015 Development Agenda, so that one measure of success for the new Sustainable Development Goals will be its ability to strengthen and protect all families,

We welcome the mention to cohesive families for providing “inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels” and “for all people, irrespective of sex, age, race, ethnicity, and including persons with disabilities, all migrants, indigenous peoples, children and youth, especially those in vulnerable situations” (‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’, 25),

We recall the target of “recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family” (Goal 5, 5.4),

We confirm our will to help families worldwide and to contribute to universal peace and respect of human rights through Family Enrichment Courses and other programmes, as well as our advocacy work at the United Nations and other international institutions, and are grateful the work of the thousands of volunteers who are committed to it around the world.

And we address international organizations, governments, lawmakers and civil society representatives with the following recommendations as appropriate:

1. Empower families by promoting the integration of a family perspective into policy-making at the national, regional and international levels; by removing social, political, legal and economic barriers to their active participation in society; by enabling them to assert greater control over their resources and life choices, especially including decisions on investments in health, housing and education; and by providing instruments to recognize the time, effort and money that committed families invest in their children.
2. Focus poverty alleviation strategies on the family as a unit; acknowledge that family breakdown can be both a root cause and an effect of poverty; consider its prevention as a priority and promote the well-being of families and their individual members by addressing all their functions, including family formation, partnership, economic support, women's empowerment, reconciling work and family responsibilities, child-rearing and child development, to make sure that no one will be left behind.
3. Provide and communicate comprehensive, well-resourced and flexible parental leave entitlements, to promote skill development and learning systems throughout the life course of the family and in periods of transition, to facilitate parents' re-entering the labor market after having the desired number of children and to enhance dialogue and partnerships between social policy makers and relevant stakeholders, including families, family associations, business sector, trade unions and employers, to develop and improve family-friendly policies and practices in the workplace.
4. Develop active measures to support the psychological well-being of children and youth with sensitivity to family situations; prevent violence, addictions and juvenile delinquency; and promote school to work transitions and young adults' economic security to facilitate family formation and stability, particularly among those with insecure socio-economic resources.
5. Acknowledge and encourage the responsibility of fathers and the contribution of men to families, develop policies to address the impact of the absence of males on family well-being and promote active fatherhood and the right to family reunification of immigrants.
6. Facilitate intergenerational care and support and promote equitable access to resources that strengthen family ties, such as family enrichment courses, positive parenting classes or mentoring programmes, and encourage volunteering of older persons in schools and offering community service requirements for high-school students, requiring young people to help older persons with their daily activities.
7. Promote the annual celebrations of the International Day of Families (15th May) as an opportunity to increase awareness of issues relating to families and knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them; the Global Day of Parents (1st June) as an occasion to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship; and the Universal Children's Day (20th November) as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children and of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and the welfare of the children of the world.
8. Support data collection and research on family issues and the impact of public policy on families and invest in family-oriented policies and programme design, implementation and evaluation.

Mexico City, 18 October 2015.

---