



13 – 15 MAY | LISBON | PORTUGAL

PARTICIPANT'S HANDBOOK



28 Place Saint Georges
75009 | Paris | France
World Family Organization Headquarters

Celebrating

THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY

MAY 15, 2019

Intercontinental Hotel - Coimbra Room
World Family Summit 2019

Celebrating
THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY
MAY 15, 2019



Lisbon - Portugal | History and Culture

Lisbon was highly praised by the ancient Europeans both for its geographical position on the banks of the Tagus River and for its fertile soil. It became a battlefield for the Phoenicians, Greeks and Carthaginians but was taken over by the Romans in 205 BC.

The legendary Moors, who invaded in 714, resisted repeated Christian attacks for 400 years but were not finally expelled until 1147, when King Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, took a hand. In that same year, he demolished the city's main Moorish mosque and ordered a cathedral to be built on the same site.

Lisbon became the official capital of Portugal in 1255. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Lisbon boomed as the epicentre of the vast Portuguese empire after explorer Vasco da Gama found a sea route to India. The magnificent Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, founded in the capital in 1501, is one of several monuments to Portugal's Great Age of Discovery still standing.

By the 1700's, Lisbon had become the centre of international trade in gold, as well as spices, silks and jewellery, but at 9.30am on November 1st 1755, everything changed when three major earthquakes hit the city, unleashing a devastating fire and tsunami.

Although as many as a third of Lisbon's 270,000 inhabitants died and much of the city was flattened, a massive rebuild, which created today's formal city grid system, was undertaken by the Marquis of Pombal just a short time later.

Today, Lisbon is a cultural haven with world-class music, opera and ballet in abundance. The Portuguese Symphony Orchestra and Portuguese National Ballet Company are renowned throughout the world, as is the Gulbenkian Orchestra and Choir.



Lisbon - World -Family Capital 2019





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National Union of the Associations of Protection of Maternity, Childhood and Family of Brazil



WFO's Office of Communications and Marketing



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development





NO FAMILY LEFT BEHIND...



WORLD FAMILY SUMMIT 2019
13 – 15 MAY | LISBON | PORTUGAL

Vision:

Humankind has achieved unprecedented social and economic progress over the past several decades. However, the progress have been uneven. Everywhere, some individuals and groups confront barriers that prevent them from fully participating in economic, social and political life, leaving them behind. The focus of the Agenda 2030 and the core aspiration of the World Family Summit 2019 is to highlight the inclusion of the family in the process of development with No Family Left Behind, by strengthening local authorities and families to build cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Objectives:

- Provide substantive information on the Sustainable Development Goals 4, 11 and 17 and its respective targets;
- Discuss the positive impact of strengthening the partnership between local authorities and families for the implementation of the SDGs 4, 11 and 17 at local level.
- Promote the integration of a family-focused perspective of the SDGs 4, 11 and 17 into policy-making and service-delivery at the local level.
- Provide participants with expert analysis on means to include and implement the targets of the SDGs 4, 11 and 17 into family-friendly local policies and services delivery, contributing to build strong communities with No Family Left Behind.

Expected Results

- Reach a consensus among participants on the benefits of supporting and demanding the inclusion and implementation of the SDGs 4, 11 and 17 and its respective targets into local family-friendly public policies formulation and services delivery, building strong communities and healthy families.
- Address mechanisms and processes for an enhanced collaboration between local governments and families for the SDGs 4, 11 and 17 implementation.
- Outline possible new collaboration models between local governments and family organizations to provide partnership schemes addressing the implementation of the SDGs 4, 11 and 17.
- Draft and approve conclusions and recommendations to the World Family Summit 2019 Declaration to be sent to the 2019 UN ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM.

Guest of Honor | Maria do Céu da Cunha Rêgo



Maria do Céu da Cunha Rêgo is a Portuguese jurist - University of Lisbon School of Law. She is married, she has two daughters, two grand-daughters and two grand-sons.

She is a member of the Advisory Council of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG) - the governmental body responsible

for the promotion of equality between women and men in Portugal - of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies (CIEG) - Institute of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon -, and of NGO, namely the Portuguese Association of Women in Legal Careers (APMJ) and the Portuguese Women's Studies Association (APEM). She also cooperates with other NGO, such as the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights (PpDM) and the Association for the Development of Portuguese Gypsies Women (AMUCIP).

As an expert on gender equality issues, she is a trainer, a speaker in conferences and seminars and an author of articles in journals and newspapers, having, in general, an active participation in public life.

She was member of the Management Board and of the Experts' Forum of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Secretary of State for Equality, President of the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment (CITE) - the Portuguese governmental body responsible for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of equality between women and men in labour, in employment and in vocational training - and Vice-President of the Commission for Equality and for the Rights of Women (CIDM) – former designation of the present CIG.

For many years, she served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on emigration and Portuguese communities department, having been Head of Division, Director of Services and advisor to the Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities.

In march 2019, Maria do Céu da Cunha Rêgo has received the "Maria Barroso Municipal Prize" created by the Municipality of Lagoa, Algarve, due to the "relevant contribution of her professional and civic activity on Gender Equality, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination", in particular to "her strong influence on the introduction of issues associated to the work-family balance at the national and the European Union agenda".

Welcome Message

The theme and program of this World Summit inspire the betterment of life for individuals and their families. Because they can promote direct benefits. Because they raise the quality of the social environment that, indirectly, they can help materialize.

Hence, in saluting this Summit's initiative and those who participate in it, with their knowledge, experience, capacity for innovation, generosity and work, both visible and invisible, I wish to emphasize the relevance of family education towards the reinforcement of the daily life practice of human rights, democratic citizenship, social cohesion and sustainable development, on which peace is founded.

"The parents' home is their children's school," says a Portuguese proverb, recalling the importance of what the older members of any given family say, teach and do, on the way their children will learn and develop their life skills.

"Building peace in the minds of men and women" is the magnificent motto of UNESCO that must be become a reality and be brought within everyone's reach. It is also a goal that requires the generalization of the knowledge of Human Rights so that they can constitute a common practice for humanity. It is vital that education systems include Human Rights Education at their various levels. But the practice of human rights in

families is also fundamental. And that practice is too many times absent, due to various forms of violence and injustice often anchored in gender stereotypes, of which people are not always aware because they have not learned to see, to question, to reflect, to intervene.

Therefore, this must be a lifelong learning and awareness for everyone's benefit, including families and communities. To that purpose, coherence is needed, as well as adequate, adapted and available resources.

In my view, the human rights dimension is a basic competence for life. That's why its absence from the education systems and lifelong learning is a hindrance to quality education. And its absence from the daily life of families, would left those families behind.

Because the theme of the Summit "No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", my message to the participants is that we strive to develop a coherent Human Rights Education both in our education systems and in families, to fully achieve the key goal of this happy initiative that has brought us here together.

Maria do Céu da Cunha Rêgo



CITE 40 years of progress towards equality between men and women in the labour market

The Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment - CITE was established 40 years ago by Decree-Law No. 392/79, of 20 September, known as the "Equality Law", which preceded both Portugal's accession to the European Economic Community and the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Currently, it is Decree-Law No. 76/2012 that sets up CITE's management structure.

CITE has a tripartite and equilateral composition, comprising 4 members from the State, 4 members from the trade union confederations (CGTP-IN and UGT) and 4 members of the employers' confederations (CCP, CIP, CAP and CTP). Notwithstanding its tripartite structure, CITE is under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, which nominates its president.

CITE's purpose is to fight discrimination and promote equality between men and women in labour, in employment and in vocational training, in both the private and public sectors. It aims at protecting parenthood (maternity, paternity and adoption), reconciling professional, personal and family life, as well as promoting and monitoring social dialogue on gender equality. To fulfil its purpose CITE acts at various levels.

As a body that fights against discrimination and pursues equality, CITE develops a regular activity of communication and dissemination of information on these rights, through its website - www.cite.gov.pt and its toll-free number; provides legal support and assistance to purported victims of gender-based discrimination; receives complaints and issues legal advice on equality and non-discrimination in work and employment. In 40 years of work CITE has issued 5.240 legal documents.

CITE promotes awareness raising and tailor-made training related with gender equality in the labour market targeting different strategic public, such as trade unions and workers' representatives, Labour Inspectorate and HR staff. It also develops training programmes.

In order to encourage employers to achieve gender equality in the workplace, since 2000, CITE has promoted the Award "Equality is Quality" (PIQ) that distinguishes companies and other employers with policies in the area of gender equality, work-life balance and good practices for preventing and fighting domestic and gender-based violence.

CITE promotes and implements studies, research and projects to fight against the persistence of gender gaps in the workplace and provides tools and resources to overcome these gaps and put the issue of gender equality on the agenda of the social partners, the employers, the media and the general public,

To raise public awareness and disseminate information on inequalities between men and women in the workplace among the main agents within the labour market, enterprises and employers' associations of the major economic sectors as well as the social partners, CITE develops national campaigns on different subjects, such as Gender Pay Gap, Work-life Balance, Women on the Boards.

Regarding national policy instruments over the years, CITE took part in the preparation and implementation of the different National Plans for Gender Equality and is currently participating in the implementation of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-Discrimination 2018-2030 - "Portugal + Igual", taking direct responsibility for the implementation of several measures.

CITE has a particular role in the implementation of the Law No. 62/2017, of 1st August, which establishes the regime of balanced representation between men and women in the administrative and supervisory bodies of public-sector entities and listed companies. This law requires state-owned companies and listed companies to draw up annual Equality Plans that have to be sent to CITE, which may issue recommendations on the Plans.

CITE has also a particular role in the implementation of Law no. 60/2018, of 1 August, which approves measures to promote equal pay for men and women workers for equal work or work of equal value. This law establishes the possibility of any worker to request CITE the issue an opinion on the existence of sex-based discrimination pay.

CITE is responsible for the preparation of the "Annual Report on Equal Opportunities between Men and Women", established by Law No. 10/2001, which reflects the progress made on equal opportunities between men and women in labour, employment and vocational training: <http://cite.gov.pt/pt/acite/relatproig.html>.

CITE follows up the questions regarding equality and non-discrimination between men and women in labour, employment and vocational training in the European Union and international organisations.

World Family Organization | Executive Board

19th Constitutional Mandate

2018-2021



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Welcome Message

Dear Participants!

The World Family Organization is honored to receive you to the World Family Summit 2019, in an incredible rich edition when for the first time on May 15, we will Celebrate the International Day of Families together. Welcome to the beautiful Lisbon!

The main theme of our 2019 edition, aligned with the 2019 ECOSOC High Level Political Forum reviews will focus on empowering families and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. And we strongly believe that only if national, local and community actors will join efforts to implement the same development agenda our collective goals will be achieved.

In this edition of the World Family Summit 2019, besides highlighting the SDG 11 and SDG 17, our main focus will be the SDG4 – Education.

All SDGs are interdependent and can only be achieved if implemented together. And since Education is not only an integral part of, but also a key enabler for sustainable development, it needs to be smartly included in national and local development plans and strategies to achieve all SDGs. Let's advocate for it.

The World Family Summit 2019 Program was conceived to allow participants be challenged to reach beyond their respective areas of work, to explore interactions between SDG4 and the rest of Agenda 2030, to

explore pathways that leverage progress in multiple areas and to produce recommendations on a new and innovative ways in which multiple, diverse actors can work together towards achieving empowerment, inclusiveness and equality.

We hope that the presentations, discussions and conclusions will provide us trends and inspirational examples of how National, Sub-National, Local Authorities, Communities and Families can work together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Leaving No Family Behind.

Welcome to the discussions and to this unique lifelong learning opportunity!

World Family Organization Executive Board
19th Constitutional Mandate
2018 – 2021



Mr. Nikhil Seth

Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Dear Participants,

Welcome to the World Family Summit 2019! The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has been a long-time partner of the World Family Organization. It is a great pleasure and privilege to work hand-in-hand with the World Family Organization to promote family-centred approaches to realise inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.

Let me first congratulate Dr. Deisi Kusztra, President of the World Family Organization for organizing the World Family Summit 2019. She gives great energy and dynamism to the process and always impresses me with the way of the Summits are aligned to the UN's priorities

The theme of this year's World Family Summit is **"No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."** This is directly linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially Goal 4 on Quality Education. This theme is also timely as the United Nations High level Political Forum in 2019 will review opportunities and challenges in achieving SDG 4.

The world has seen progress in achieving SDG 4, yet still faces a number of obstacles. For example, access to primary and secondary education has seen improvement, yet more than 200 million children,

adolescents and youth of primary and secondary school age were still out of school in 2017. The quality of education also remains a major hurdle as 53 percent of children and adolescents do not even learn the basics. We all know the impact of SDG4 on all the goals and targets contained in the 2030 Agenda.

To ensure inclusiveness and leave no family behind has become crucial in an era of intensified globalization. People are moving at an unprecedented scale - looking for better opportunities, or escaping from conflict, violence and prosecution. Providing quality education and life long learning opportunities to individuals and families, regardless of their background, continues to be a challenge.

The SDGs are interlinked and interconnected. Looking at the nexus between SDG 4 and other SDGs is essential in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. In these efforts, the family will play an instrumental role as a core unit of society.

I sincerely hope that the World Family Summit 2019 will offer a platform for active discussions, leading to innovative thinking and enhanced networks between all the participants. I wish the 2019 Summit all success.

Kind Regards,



Ms. Daniela Bas

Director Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DISD/UNDESA)

Welcome to the 2019 World Family Summit! I commend the World Family Organization (WFO) and Dr. Deisi Kusztra, President of WFO for its very important work and the good on going cooperation with the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. UNDESA through DISD is the focal point on family for the whole United Nations system and we much value the theme chosen by WFO in 2019.

In this welcome message I would like to focus on the official theme of the 2019 International Day of Families: Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It well integrates with the one of WFO since education and life long learning play a key role.

We have just heard some alarming news from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), an intergovernmental, United Nations body assessing the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society. Its report warned about the accelerating pace of biodiversity extinction due to human activity. In fact, current global response is not enough. We need a transformative change. We need Climate Action now! And this brings me to the indispensable role families play in climate action.

We will not achieve a transformative change in approach to environment without families. It is in families where future generations learn behaviours that impact our climate. It is in families, where good habits of responsible global citizenship are formed. In families, appreciation and respect for nature is formed. It is parents who can instill in their children good habits of recycling and conserving energy. We truly need an intergenerational approach to climate action where all generations cooperate and reinforce their actions for the good of environment and our sustainable future.

Under SDG13, target 13.3 notes the importance of improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. This important topic, together with SDG4 on education, relates to the theme of your summit "No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"

It is my hope that the critical aspect of education, expressed in target 13.3 will be addressed by the Summit. The environmental clock is ticking. The transformative change is up to us and our families. It's time for climate action now!



Mr. Navid Hanif

Director, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Distinguished Participants,

On behalf of the Financing for Development Office - UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, I wish to extend my

heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the World Family Summit 2019. Also I would like to express my appreciation for the diligent leadership that the World Family Organization has shown during the past 70 years working on behalf of families all over the world and the capacity to promote long term partnerships with governments, civil society organizations and families to implement family-friendly policies and programs to improve families lives and well being under the vision of the Agenda 2030.

This year's Summit theme, encompassing with the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum 2019 reviews, is very important since empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality is an essential platform for Sustainable Development and has a central role to the fulfillment of the promises countries have done when approving and committing with the vision, objectives, goals and expected results of the Agenda 2030.

Education plays a key role in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies and families and has reciprocal linkages with all other goals in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Education contributes to improving physical and mental health, promotes gender equality and can reduce inequality. Education also strengthens the potential of economic growth helping to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote peace, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

And recognizing education as a public good and a public responsibility its fundamental to recognize the importance of the financial aspects for education by improving domestic public expenditure for education ensuring more efficient and equitable allocation, efficiency and accountability in expenditure and strengthening domestic mobilization through tax reforms, anti-corruption actions as agreed in the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development. And in order to leave no one behind, NO FAMILY LEFT BEHIND, the partnership among all society actors compromised with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and with its means of implementation is imperative.

The UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office provides coherent and integrated support to Member States in addressing the issues related to financing for development, as well as the means of implementation for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and plays a critical role in supporting various work streams to mobilize the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to strengthen the United Nations cooperation with other international organizations.

I am convinced that once more the World Family Summit 2019 will be remembered as a significant contribution to finding practical solutions to leave no family behind.

Dear Participants, please accept my best wishes for the success of the World Family Summit 2019!



Mrs. Joana Rabaça Gíria

President of the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment (CITE) of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security.

The former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said: "the Sustainable Development Goals are our shared vision of humanity and social contract between the world's leaders and the people".

To turn this inspiring vision into reality, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be based on genuine shared responsibilities between public and private actors and further develop the cooperation at the global, regional, national and local levels, fostering synergies between the different actors and a coherent response to challenges. The challenges of 2030 Agenda also require new partnerships and new concerted and determined efforts, as well as a greater international solidarity.

The Sustainable Development Goals integrate a strong human rights dimension and equality and non-discrimination are deeply embedded in it as a crosscutting concern. Therefore, the SDGs have a great potential for tackling inequalities while paying particular attention to gender equality issues, targeting people that experience inequality (SDG5 and SDG10) and mainstreaming an equality perspective (SDG1, SDG3, SDG4, SDG8, SDG11, SDG16 and SDG17).

The focus of the 2019 World Family Summit will be on the SDG 4 and SDG 17 - Inclusive and equitable quality

education and lifelong learning, and to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda – which are crucial to achieve a sustainable and developed world, where all human beings fulfil their potential in dignity and equality.

The theme "No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", is an opportunity to highlight the great importance of investing in education, training and skills throughout life to reverse gaps and exclusion, which will have a direct impact on well-being, equality and social cohesion.

It is with great pleasure that the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment - CITE, in the year it celebrates 40 years of working towards equality between men and women in the labour market, joins World Family Organisation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research – UNITAR in hosting the World Family Summit 2019 in Lisbon.

I welcome you all and wish an inspiring and fruitful Summit.



Mr. Isidro de Brito

Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs of World Family Organization
 ANJAF – Associação Nacional para a Acção Familiar - President of Executive Board
 MMRP Beleza por uma causa Associação - President of Executive Board

On Behalf of the National Association for Family Action - ANJAF, I would like to extend my cordial welcome to all distinguished guest from coming from afar from various parts of the world, and my warm congratulation to World Family Organization, one of the most committed advocate for Families issues Worldwide, for the successful preparation of the World Family Summit 2019, at beautiful multicultural city of Lisbon.

The World Family Summit 2019 main goal Education, promises to be very participative in discussions, reflections, decisions and commitments, strengthening the position of World Family Organization in the international, national and local arena in advocating for the implementation, especially at the local level and in the Family of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We believe education is one of the most powerful instruments for human resources development, a key factor in reducing poverty and inequality. We stress that education is a key strategic factor for development in an increasingly integrated and knowledge-based economy.

Education is central to the world efforts to breaking the cycle of poverty for millions of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people. It broadens peoples' freedom of choice and action, raises economic productivity, empowers them to participate in economic and social lives of their societies and equips them with the skills they need to develop their livelihoods and help their families.

Education should also contribute to better communication among people of various cultures and languages, leading to mutual respect and tolerance, promoting a transformation of society as a whole -- social, economic and political.

On this occasion, I would like to thank Dr. Deisi Kusztra – President of World Family Organization for her determination and great leadership and the hard work to support the Families issues all over the world.

I look forward to a successful World Family Summit and I'm sure the coming out resolution with concrete proposals will be a reference for the future role of all families in development, because our goal is "No Family Left Behind"



Dr. Deisi Noeli Weber Kusztra

World Family Organization - President

Distinguished Participants!
 Welcome to the World Family Summit 2019!

The World Family Organization is proud to receive you in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal for one more edition of the World Family Summit. This year our Summit is very special as we are for the first time celebrating together the International Day of Families.

The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 with resolution A/RES/47/237 and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic, environmental and peace and security processes affecting families all over the world.

We have many reasons to celebrate. Over the past 70 years the World Family Organization has built an extensive and solid platform to improve the existence of many families all over the world. In partnership with the United Nations, Governments at National Sub-National and Local levels, Universities, NGO's and Communities we have been able to mobilized efforts to jointly address the challenges and opportunities to include the family in the process of sustainable development.

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, are directly

related to the family well-being and as promised at the previous editions of the World Family Summits we want to be part of this integrated policy-action approach to ensure inclusive economic and social development, environmental sustainability, peace and security that responds to the aspirations of all families for a world free of want and fear.

Having "No Family Left Behind" as our core aspiration, the World Family Summit 2019 theme "Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", will discuss many aspects of the **SDG4 – Education**, which is regarded as key for the progress of all other SDGs. And we should emphasize that its implementation at local level and in the family is an exceptional opportunity to achieve better integration between communities needs and family-friendly public policy development, leading to a renewed hope, harmony, jobs and growth, while ensuring sustainability and peace.

Distinguished Participants, we are happy to host you in the beautiful Lisbon City and to count with your full energy in giving your contribution to the discussions and decisions on how to implement the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals strengthening the local level and ensuring that **No Family Will Be Left Behind**.



Mrs. Hanifa Mezoui, PhD

AICESIS – New York Representative
IGO In Observer Status with ECOSOC

Dear WFO Participants,

It is a pleasure to send my warmest greetings to everyone who has gathered for the annual WFO Summit program titled:

“No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

In recent decades, humanity has made unprecedented social progress. However, this progress has not reached the required speed and too many challenges remain. All over the world-marginalized group cannot participate fully in economic, social and political life, thus are left out. The goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the main aspiration of the World Family Summit is to involve families in the development process so that no one is left behind.

Aware of the fundamental role played by the family unit as the foundation of every society throughout the world, the World Family Organization works daily to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Created in the aftermath of the Second World War and having obtained its general consultative status with ECOSOC, WFO is present on 5 continents to act in favor of human rights through the lens of family.

I believe WFO contains aspects that distinguish it from all other international organizations created to date. For this reason, it deserves to be monitored and praised. The aim of WFO is to promote families at the level of the States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, parliaments, businesses and civil societies. WFO provides on-the-ground assistance in emergency situations by building hospitals as humanitarian and social projects.

Most of all, WFO works in partnership with governments, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector and individuals to address the factors that causes inequality.

The SDGs, to be achieved within the next 11 years, commit to leaving no one behind and to reach those who need it most, as a priority. They specifically call for the reduction of inequalities

between men and women, between rural and urban areas and between socioeconomic groups, youth and persons with disabilities. Through the current theme of HLPF 2019 “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, WFO tackles six SDGs: quality education, inclusive growth and decent work, reducing inequalities, climate action, peaceful societies and global partnerships - all of which relates to Family.

The United Nations values WFO’s commitment in making these goals happen. I wish to express my confidence that WFO will continue to be an SDG enabler. But we have to add that the implementation of the SDGs will not be possible without adequate funding. We must be creative in mobilizing funding from all possible sources and ambitious in exploring how to work together to provide incentive for our global system to support those goals!

On the morning of 15 May, we will also be celebrating the International Day of Families. Let’s recall that, on 20 September 1993, the General

Assembly decided that 15th May will be recognized as the International Day of Families (Resolution 47/237).

This International Day is an opportunity to raise awareness on family issues, as well as the social, economic and demographic processes that affect families. The International Day of Families has inspired a series of awareness-raising actions, particularly at the national level.

As we acknowledge the strength in our diversity, I would like to congratulate Dr. Deisi, my dear friend, to continue to be a valuable partner to the United Nations, united in purpose and united in action.

She simply translates the ambitions of the SDGs into action.

Thanking you all for your engagement and support.



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NO FAMILY LEFT BEHIND..

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



Celebrating

THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY

MAY 15, 2019



13 – 15 MAY | LISBON | PORTUGAL

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



WORLD FAMILY SUMMIT 2019

Theme: No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Celebrating

THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY

MAY 15, 2019

May 13 | Official Welcome

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening Ceremony

The Pale Blue Dot... the only home we have known...
Pálido Ponto Azul... o único lar que nós conhecemos... by Carl Sagan

Welcome addresses of Representatives of the Portuguese Government
Welcome addresses of Representatives of United Nations
Welcome addresses of Representatives of the World Family Organization
Welcome addresses of Representatives of National Parliaments
Welcome addresses of Representatives of Local Authorities
Welcome addresses of Representatives of Families of the World

9:30 Electronic Session 1 – Understanding the Dimensions of Sustainable Development.

Authorities Panel – Family, Education and Development in an interconnected world.

Celebrating

THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY

MAY 15, 2019

Education plays a key role in building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies and has reciprocal linkages with almost all other goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we are living in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, new levels of complexity, tensions and paradoxes are rising Families vulnerability, inequalities and exclusion. This Panel will discuss the reciprocal linkages between education and development and the potentialities to offer new knowledge horizons and opportunities for Families with strengthened solidarity in our collective endeavour for inclusive and sustainable human and social development.

Moderator: Dr. Deisi Kusztra – World Family Organization President

Panelists:	Mr. Miguel Cabrita	State Secretary of Employment - Portugal
	Mrs. Daniela Bass	Director of Division for Inclusive Social Development – UN DESA New York
	Mr. Navid Hanif	Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office – UN DESA New York
	Mrs. Mihoko Kumamoto	Director of Hiroshima Office – UNITAR Geneva
	Ambassador Edrees Mohamed	Permanent Representative UN Mission of Egypt
	Mrs. Mafalda Troncho	Director of ILO Office – Portugal
	Mr. Ricardo Barros	Federal Parliamentarian, Líder of Local Authorities Movement - Brazil

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MAY 15, 2019

11:00 **Electronic Session 2 – Transforming Our World: Quality Education**

11:05 **Plenary Session I – Education and the 2030 Agenda: Strategies for Family empowerment, equality and inclusiveness.**

The 2030 Agenda is universal, holistic and indivisible, with a special imperative to leave no one behind. Within the Sustainable Development Agenda, meeting the education goals is regarded as a key for progress of all other SDGs. This Panel will focus on the challenges and strategies to overcome persistent barriers for vulnerable and marginalized families, excluded from equal education opportunities on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, ability, socio-economic status or other parameters. It also aims to highlight innovative and promising educational policies and strategies to reach all learners, respecting their diverse needs, abilities and characteristics and to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the learning environment.

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Moderator: **Dr. Anjali Doshi – World Family Organization Regional Focal Point for Asia – Malaysia**

Keynote Speaker I – Empowering Families: ensuring inclusiveness and equality of educational opportunities:
Mrs. Ana Maria Bettencourt, Ph.D – President of the General Council of the Lisbon Polytechnic Institute - PORTUGAL

Keynote Speaker II – Empowering Teachers: rethinking the role of teachers and educators in the new educational landscape in shaping the success of future generations:
Prof. Ameer Ahmad Jeridi - Secretary General of the Tunisian Organization for Family Education – Tunisia

Keynote Speaker III – Financing quality education for all: mobilizing, distributing, utilizing and managing resources effectively.
Mr. João Casanova de Almeida – Former State Secretary of Education – Portugal

12:00 **Discussions and Recommendations**

12:30 **Lunch – Restaurant Eduardo VII**

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May 13 Afternoon

14:00 Electronic Session 3 – SDG4 – Quality Education for Children

14:05 Plenary Session II – Ready to Learn: The promise of meeting the target for universal quality pre-primary education and youth development education.

A child's most important steps happen before they set foot in a primary school. By their fifth birthday, their brain is 90% developed and the foundations for success at school and in later life are in place. Quality early learning opportunities prior to entering school level, prevent learning inequalities, improve learning outcomes and strengthen chances for success in life. Young people are, by right, a legitimate stakeholder group in any development efforts that aspires to be relevant, efficient and inclusive. Technical and vocational skills development is a key mechanism to support lifelong learning and youth employment. This Panel will discuss the international, national, sub national and local commitment to provide access to quality early childhood development, youth development education and affordable quality technical and vocational education and training and skills relevant for youth employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

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Moderator: Mrs. Leena Raman, Coordinator for Child Labor Program – ILO Syria

Keynote Speaker I – Empowering Children: reinstating the urgency and importance of investing in quality pre-primary education as an indispensable part of a child's learning process.
Mrs. Cristina Fanguero - Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Casa Pia de Lisboa – Portugal

Keynote Speaker II – Empowering Youth: Applying a youth development lens on education 2030 from a life-course perspective, from an education perspective and from a stakeholder perspective.
GLOBAL COMPACT YOUTH PROGRAM

Keynote Speaker III – Youth Employment – Challenges, gaps and opportunities to 2030: the contribution of technical and vocational skills development to reduce youth income inequality, offer better revenues through decent jobs.
GLOBAL COMPACT YOUTH PROGRAM

14:45 Discussions and Recommendations

15:00 Electronic Session 4 – Working as one for Education

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15:05 Plenary Session III – Civil Society Perspective: the bottleneck and ways forward in SDG4 implementation.

The Education 2030 Framework of Action recognizes the important role of civil society organizations play in advancing SDG4 and called for CSOs engagement at all stages from planning to implementation to monitoring to evaluation. The CSOs efforts within these processes to guarantee attention to issues of equity, non-discrimination, building effective implementation, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels and participatory decision making, are decisive for good governance. This Panel will discuss the experiences and bottlenecks of CSOs in different levels, performing different actions to advance SDG4.

Moderator: **Amany Asfour – World Family Organization Regional Focal Point For Africa**

Keynote Speaker I – Civil Society Perspectives: Promoting mobilizations and raising public awareness, enabling the voices of citizens to be heard in Policy development.
Mrs. Emily McGlone - Director of Peace Boat

Keynote Speaker II – Keynote Speaker II – Civil Society Perspectives: Developing innovative and complementary approaches that help advance the right to education, specially for the most excluded families.
Mr. Edmundo Martinho – Provedor da Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa – Portugal



Keynote Speaker III – Civil Society Perspectives: Documenting and sharing evidences from practices, from citizens assessments and from research to inform structured policy dialog holding governments accountable for service delivery.
Mrs. Marie Claude Machon – President of UNESCO NGO LIAISON COMMITTEE – France

15:45 Discussions and Recommendations

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Eletronic Session 5 – Building Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

16:35 Plenary Session IV

Success Story I – Citizenship Factory - presented by **Mr. Diogo Costa Ferreira** – Portugal

Success Story II – Afel-Restoring Lebanese Childhood – presented by **Mrs. Amal Farhat** - Lebanon

17:30 Closing

20:30 Gala Diner – National dressing welcome!



May 14 – Morning

9:00 **Opening – Electronic Session 6 – Sustainable Development begins with Education**

9:05 **Plenary Session V – Opening Doors to Refugees and Migrant Families: Teaching and Learning respect for cultural diversity.**

Leaving no one behind is among the most aspirational and often cited global commitments of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Migration and displacement are two global challenges the agenda needs to address in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Families affected by migration and displacement include those who move, those who stay and those who host immigrants, refugees or other displaced populations and interact with education in many ways. In a global context, marked by the rise of new and continued threats to global peace, democracy, justice and human rights, the global community is increasingly struggling with the notion of what it means to “respect cultural diversity” as well as “teach and learn” about respect for cultural diversity in a complex and globalized world. This session will focus on the importance of promoting an appreciation of cultural diversity and the challenges to ensure that policy commitments to cultural diversity are aligned with education policies and practices that support peace, justice and social inclusion.

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Moderator: **Mrs. Rachel Aird – World Family Organization Director for Coordination and Outreach – South Africa**

Keynote Speaker I – Open the doors: Ensuring the rights to education for migrants, refugees and other displaced families in national and local education systems.
Prof. Raimundo Chaves Neto – Faculty of Family Law – European University – Portugal

Keynote Speaker II – Global Citizenship Education: Developing attitudes of empathy, solidarity and respect for cultural differences and diversities.
Mr. Pedro Calado – High Commissioner for Migration and CEO Choices Program – Portugal

Keynote Speaker III – No family left behind and reach the furthest behind first: Efforts to readily validate migrants and refugees prior learning and qualifications allowing them to find work consistent with their skills.
Mrs. Michelle Breslauer – Senior Manager on Peace and Governance UN Global Compact - USA

10:00 **Discussions and Recommendations**

10:30 **Coffee Break**

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MAY 15, 2019

10:35 Electronic Session 7 – Cities and Local Authorities Learning about SDG4

10:40 Plenary Session VI – Skilling and Reskilling for Life and Work: Learning throughout life and through multiple pathways.

Our world today is characterized by accelerated and unprecedented pace of change. Globalization, new technologies, migration, changing labour markets, and transnational environmental and political challenges will demand new skills and knowledge needed for work, citizenship and life in the twenty-first century.

Technological development, particularly digitization, deserves increasingly attention. Due to automation, new occupations are emerging while others are no longer in demand. The digital economy itself is also bringing-in new types of informality and vulnerability. At a time when millions of families will need the set of skills that is required for work and life, the challenge for all countries is to develop and implement effective education, lifelong learning and training policies that include a focus on re-skilling and upskilling. This Panel will focus on the policy measures and solutions that can simultaneously equip the current and next generation of workforce with the skills they need for a not-yesterday- imagined future.

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Moderator: Dr. Jamila Suliman Khanji – World Family Organization Regional Focal Point for Middle Middle East

Keynote Speaker I – Skilling and reskilling: The global challenges of all countries to develop and implement effective education, lifelong learning and training policies that includes all forms of learning and provision of multiple entry points.

Mr. António Valadas da Silva – Institute for Employment and Professional Education

Keynote Speaker II – Realizing the potential of lifelong learning: Investing in learning throughout life improves people's health and well-being, makes families and communities more resilient and fosters democratic citizenship.

Mrs. Mihoko Kumamoto – Director of Hiroshima - UNITAR Office - Japan

Keynote Speaker III – Learning Cities Approach: A people-centred and learning-focussed approach, providing collaborative and action oriented framework, enhancing families access and participation on a healthy, equitable and inclusive living environment.

Mrs. Claudia Vieira – Adviser to the Mayor of the Gondomar Municipality - Portugal

11:15 Discussions and Recommendations

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MAY 15, 2019

- 11:30 **Electronic Session 8 – The SDGs and Business**
- 11:35 **Plenary Session VII**
- Success Story** – Saving lives of Cancer suffering Children – presented by **Mrs. Ilda Peliz** - Brazil
This presentation is about the partnership between the World Family Organization, the ABRACE – Brazilian Association for Assistance of Families With Children with Cancer and the Brasilia City Government to build a hospital to better assist these children.
- 12:30 **Lunch – Restaurant Eduardo VII**

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MAY 15, 2019

May 14 – Afternoon

- 14:00 **Opening – Electronic Session 9 – Rethinking Education – Spoken Word!**
- 14:05 **Plenary Session VIII – Higher Education, Technology, Innovation and Future of Learning: The connection between a rapidly changing world of work impacted by the digital revolution, evolving demand for generic competencies and technical skills and a changing role of providers, with an emphasis on lifelong learning.**

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development aims to “leaving no one behind”. Access, insertion, permanence, and completion of quality higher education is of great interest for society. There has been a growing recognition of the need to rethink education and better understand its capacity to achieve transformation, not only at the individual level, but also at the family and societal level, promoting another more just and sustainable model of development. Greater attention to inclusion will contribute to strengthening the relationship between social integration and education, which is fundamental to the goals of development, democracy and peace. Countries must rethink social and human development and design from there the future that we want for all, including the relationship between higher education and the world of work. This Panel will discuss how higher education will be affected by and contribute to a fast-changing learning and work environment while increasing inclusive access and enhancing equal opportunities of success.

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- Moderator:** Mrs. Cristina Archer - Responsible for the new Inclusion at IBM group
- Keynote Speaker I –** Higher Education Institutions: Actors within evolving lifelong learning systems and tools necessary to enable the changing nature of the world of work and a change of skills demand.
Mrs. Clara Raposo, PhD – President of Lisbon School of Economics Management – Portugal
- Keynote Speaker II –** Technology and Innovation in Schools: Increasing access to quality education, providing adequate learning resources and innovative education provision approaches.
Prof. Millad M SAAD, PhD – Education Technology – Lebanese University – Lebanon
- 14:45 Discussions and Recommendations**



- 15:00 Electronic Session 10 – Equal jobs = Equal pay**
- 15:05 Plenary Session IX**
- Success Story I** - presented by **Mrs. Alexandrina-Liana Kiss** - Romania
 Foundation for People Development: The Pata Rat Program - Education changes life.
- Success Story II** – presented by **Mrs. Giulia Meschino** - Belgium
- NIK - Newcomers In the Kitchen - Promoting integration of migrants and refugees and theirs families in the communities through training in the kitchen sector.
 - SOLITY - VET Social Utility Monitor / NIK - Newcomers In the Kitchen, promoting the integration of migrants and refugees and their family
- 15:45 Discussions and Recommendations**
- 16:00 Coffee Breakup**
- 16:30 Electronic Session 11 – Ten Targets of Sustainable Development Goal 4**
- 16:35 Plenary Session X – Negotiations for the Declaration**
- 17:30 Closing**
- 20:30 Diner – Restaurant Eduardo VII**



May 15 – Morning

9:00 **Opening: Electronic Session 12 – Learning to Live Together in Peace Through Citizenship Education**

9:15 **Declaration Presentation and Approval**

10:00 **Awarding Ceremony**

Lisboa – A Capital Mundial das Famílias 2019

1. Guest of Honor
Mrs Maria do Céu da Cunha Rego
2. Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
3. CITE – Comissão para a Igualdade no Trabalho e Emprego
4. Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Lisboa
5. Instituição Particular de Solidariedade Social – SIC Esperança
6. Associação Nacional para a Acção Familiar - Anjaf



Closing Ceremony

**“Celebrations of the International Day of Families”
(Statements, Cultural Presentation, etc...)**

12:00 **Farewell Lunch – Restaurant Eduardo VII**



Biographies | World Family Summit 2019



Dr. Deisi Noeli Weber Kusztra is a Medical Doctor, Pediatrician, with a Master Degree in Maternal and Child Health Care and a Doctorate on Public Health. She is also a Specialist in Public Health Administration, Hospital Administration, Financial Management for Health Programs, Design and Implementation of Local Health Systems and Gender Programs Administration.

Dr. Deisi started her international career nearly 35 years ago implementing Maternal and Child Health Care Policies and Programs for many Governments. She worked in Africa, Europe, Middle East and North America and is now based in South America, from where she networks with the world on Family Issues.

Since December 1997, as the President of the World Family Organization, Dr. Deisi Kusztra represents the Organization at the United Nations, Governments and Inter-governmental Organizations level.

Dr. Kusztra is a Consultant to many International Institutions, such as the World Health Organization, Pan-American Health Organization, World Bank, Interamerican Development Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, and UN Fund for Population Affairs.

She has received many national and international awards and prizes in recognition of her dedication and her work towards the promotion of Family Policies throughout the world.



Mr. Nikhil Seth is currently the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

During his career with the United Nations since 1993, Mr. Seth has also served as Director of the Division for Sustainable Development (DESA), Head of the Rio +20 Secretariat, Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs.

He was also the Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, among other functions.



Mrs. Hanifa Mezoui, PhD - A team leader, at the international level, spanning 28 years of worldwide responsibilities with increasing complexity to ensure the United Nation's outreach and cooperation involving civil society organizations and the private sector, with special emphasis on youth, health, women empowerment, education, the MDGs/SDGs and Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR).

Liaising and networking with governments entities, international organizations and external/internal agencies related to humanitarian causes. Has encumbered, since 1990, high level positions at the United Nations and managed successfully the United Nations civil society and NGO Branch with its 3500 affiliates. Achievements in education, training and technical cooperation have received worldwide recognition.



Ms. Daniela Bas was appointed Director of DESA's Division For Inclusive Social Development on 9 May 2011. A politologist specialized in international politics, human rights and social development, Ms. Bas has most recently served as Senior Consultant designated by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as expert on human rights to Institutes that operate internationally. She has also provided her expertise on anti-discrimination issues at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Ms. Bas has worked for close to 10 years for the UN as a Professional Officer in social development and human rights, traveling around the world on behalf of the UN and also as a speaker at international conventions. She has also held a number of other significant assignments including as Special Adviser on "Fundamental Rights" for the former Vice President of the European Commission; as the Italian representative designated by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on the topic "Tourism for All" to the European Commission; and as journalist and broadcaster for Italian Radio and TV.

Ms. Bas is a Board Member of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and of the Committee to Promote non-Armed and non-Violent Civil Defense of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. She graduated in Political Science in 1985, with a major in International Politics and wrote a dissertation on "The elimination of architectural barriers and the employment of people with physical disabilities".



Mrs. Joana Rabaça Gíria Joana Rabaça Gíria was born in Lisbon on March 7, 1968, is married and mother of a daughter and a son. She got a degree Law in 1991, and began her practice as a lawyer, acting in Labor Law and Commercial Law areas. In 2001-2002, she attended the post-graduation course in Bioethics Law "The interdisciplinary relations between ethics, science and law". In July 1995 she joined the legal area of CITE - Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment, and since January 2015 she was appointed as chair of the Commission.



Mr. Navid Hanif joined the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in 2001. From 2001-2003 he was Senior Policy Adviser in the Division for Sustainable Development and member of the team for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. He later joined the office of the Under-Secretary General for UNDESA and focused on departmental initiatives in various policy areas. He was appointed as the Chief of Policy Coordination Branch in

the office for Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) support in 2004. In 2005, he was sent on a special assignment as Principal Officer in the Office of the UN Secretary-General and member of the team for the 2005 World Summit. In January, 2010, he was appointed as Head of the newly established DESA Strategic Planning Unit. In June 2012, he was appointed Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination. In 2018, he was appointed as Director for Financing for Sustainable Development Office. Prior to joining the UN, he held various assignments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, including staff officer to the Foreign Secretary. He was posted to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York in 1995. Mr. Hanif holds Masters in International Political Economy from Columbia University, New York and Masters in English Literature from Government College, Lahore.



Mr. Marco Martins is the mayor of Gondomar.

In addition to the Presidency of the Municipality of Gondomar, he is currently Coordinator of the Transport and Mobility group of the Metropolitan Area of Porto, President of the District Civil Protection Commission, member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities and Non-Executive of Metro do Porto, SA. He has held municipal positions since the age of 20, having been a member of the Rio Tinto Frelimo Assembly between 1999 and 2005. Since then he has been the President of the Rio Tinto Town Council, having been re-elected in 2009 with the highest ever vote in Rio Tinto, being in the previous mandate, in the whole Country, the mayor of Parish elected with the greater number of votes. He was a leader of ANAFRE - National Association of Parishes.



Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations, New York and until 2018 he was the Chair of G-77 and China. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, in 1987, and worked in different departments within the Ministry.

Mr. Edrees was the Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs from 2015 to January 2018. He served as Ambassador of Egypt to Ethiopia, as well as his country's Permanent Representative to the African Union and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, from 2011 to 2015. From 2010 to 2011, Mr. Edrees was Deputy Assistant Minister for Arab-Orient Affairs, while from 2007 to 2010, he was Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He previously served as Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Nations in New York from 2006 to 2007 and as Deputy Chief of Mission at Egypt's Embassy in Damascus, Syria, from 2001 to 2005.

Prior to his diplomatic service, he was a resident doctor within the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Edrees holds a Master of Arts in political science from the University of London and a Bachelor of Science in medicine and surgery from Cairo University.



Mrs. Mihoko Kumamoto, Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office.

Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto has over 20 years of professional experience in the development cooperation field and has been with the United Nations for 17 years. As Director of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office, Ms. Kumamoto leads training programmes for countries in Africa, the Arab States, Asia, and the Pacific and Indian Oceans on diverse topics, including peacebuilding, social entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Ms. Kumamoto earned her Master's in Economic Development at Columbia University. In 2001, she joined the United Nations Development Programme and served its Vietnam Country Office as a Junior Professional Officer. In 2003, she moved to the UNDP Headquarters in New York and led various signature programmes that promoted the capacity development of institutions and individuals, including the Africa Adaptation Programme. In 2011, Ms. Kumamoto worked for the UNDP Multi-Country Office for Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau as Assistant Resident Representative for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. After the assignment, she rejoined UNDP Headquarters, and in 2012, Ms. Kumamoto moved to Jakarta to serve UNDP Indonesia as a Senior Advisor. She began her current position as Head, and now Director, of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office in 2014.



Mr. Miguel Filipe Pardal Cabrita was born in Lisbon in 1976.

Secretary of State for Employment, has a degree in Sociology, has been a university professor since 2001 at ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, and has lectured in matters such as Public Policies, Social Policies or Contemporary Sociological Theories.

Always linked to the labor market and social policy areas, the current position of Secretary of State is a return to the Ministry: between 2005 and 2009 he was Deputy Minister of Labor and Solidarity, Vieira da Silva, after having previously performed, among 2000 and 2002, with the Secretary of State for Employment and Training, and then with the Minister of Labor and Solidarity, Paulo Pedroso.

In 2006-2007 he was coordinator of the Employment and Social Affairs area of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union.

He has participated in several projects of research and evaluation of public policies, and has texts and works published in authorship and co-authorship in the areas of public policies and social policies, especially in matters related to the job market, reconciliation between work and family life, birth rate, gender equality and changes in welfare state.



Mrs. Mafalda Troncho, 45 years old, graduated in Management by the Universidade de Évora. She holds a masters in labour sciences by ISCTE, and is since 15 June 2009 Director of ILO Lisbon's Office.

She has been working with the Office since it's opening in 2003, having held the function of Associate expert between October 2005 and June 2009.

Prior to this she worked in the Social Security Institute (Instituto de Segurança Social), in the Fundação Alentejo and in the Escola Profissional EPRAL, where she started her professional career.

Deputy to the National Assembly in the VII and VIII legislatures. During the VIII legislature she was also member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



Mr. Ricardo Barros is an Engineer, Federal Parliamentarian in Brazil, representing Paraná State. Born in the City of Maringá, Parana State, at age of 29 was the youngest Mayor ever elected in the history of the city. He also has served Paraná State as Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Mercosur Affairs. At Federal Level he also served as Minister of Health. Mr. Barros is a convict municipalista and presently holds the function of Líder of the Local Authorities Movement in Brazil.



Mrs. Ana Maria Bettencourt, Ph.D born in the Azores, holds a Degree Psychology (Licence, Université de Paris VIII - Vincennes) with a Doctorate in Education Sciences (Doctorat de Troisième Cycle, University of Paris V, René Descartes, Sorbonne). President of the General Council of the Lisbon Polytechnic Institute. Coordinating Professor and President of the Direction of the School of Education of the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal. In the academic field, she coordinated projects for teacher training and research in the area of education, followed policies and projects on vulnerable publics, educational exclusion, citizenship education and sustainable development. She is the author and co-author of several publications in the area of education and, as President of CNE has directed the first publications on the State of Education (Estado da Educação 2010, 2011, 2012), reports presenting the "portrait" of Portugal in all levels of formal and non-formal education. Has several publications on the problem of inequalities in education. Received the Decorations of Grand Officer of the Order of Infante D. Henrique (Portugal) and Order of Merit of France.



Mr. Ameer Jeridi born in Kairouan, Tunisia and graduated on M.A. Applied Linguistics. Mr. Jeridi is the Secretary-general of Tunisian Organization for Education and Family (OTEF) and English and Communication Teacher at Higher Institute of Languages in Tunis. He holds membership in various Civil Society organizations as a Founding & Board member. With many published books as the «The Association», "Treatise: Environment as Approach and Sustainability as Vision for Tunisia, and Eco-Citizenship and Responsible Development".



Mr. João Casanova de Almeida is a former Secretary of State for School Education and Administration.

He holds a degree in Business Administration and School Management from the Universidade Lusófona, a PhD in Education from the University of Extremadura, and Doctorate in Education - University of Extremadura, Cáceres, Spain. Guest Professor in Higher Education, in the area of Educational Policy, in Postgraduate Courses, since 2001. He's Counselor in Master degrees, since 2017. Professor of Basic and Secondary Education since 1980, was in particular a teaching assistant at a secondary school and an instructor in the educational field. He was the chief of staff of the Secretary of State for Education in the XV Constitutional Government and head of the Cabinet of the CDS-PP Parliamentary Group in the XI Legislature. He was also a leader of the National Teachers' Democratic Union.



Mrs. Emily Macglone is the Executive Director of Peace Boat, an International non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. Peace Boat seeks to create awareness and action based on effecting positive social and political change in the world. We pursue this through the organization of global educational programmes, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities. These activities are carried out on a partnership basis with other civil society organizations and communities around the world. Peace Boat also holds Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



Mrs. Cristina Fangueiro graduated in Social Work at the Superior Institute of Social Service of Lisbon (1979).

She holds a postgraduate degree in Child Protection from the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra (1997-1998).

From 1981 to 1988 she was Pre-Primary School Director.

Between 1988 and 1995 she was responsible for the Children and Youth Area in the district of Aveiro.

In June 1995 she was appointed Head of Division of Social Action at the Regional Centre for Social Security of the Centre Region, which she held until December 1998.

From January 1999 to March 2002, she was a Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Social Development.

From March 2002 to December 2005 she served as Director of the Cooperation and Social Network area of the Social Security Institute.

From January of 2006 to August of 2010 she served as Director of the Department of Social Development of the Social Security Institute.

Since August 2010 she has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of Casa Pia de Lisboa, I.P.



Mr. Edmundo Martinho holds a degree in Social Work from the Superior Institute of Social Service of Lisbon and a Master's degree in Project Management. From 1979 to 1996 he was a manager in a multinational pharmaceutical company. In 1996 he was the Coordinator of the Technical Support Office to the National Minimum Income Commission and later President of the National Minimum Income Commission, a position he held until December 2002 and for which he was reappointed in 2006. He was President of the Institute for Development Social and President of the National Commission for the Protection of Children and Youth at Risk, President of the Board of Directors of the Social Security Institute and also President of the National Council of Social Security.



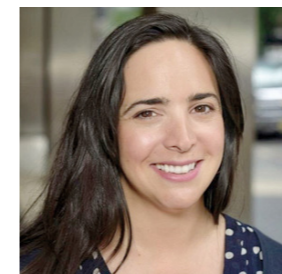
Mrs. Marie-Claude Machon Honoré has a doctorate in anglophone studies ("The role of education in the development of women in the Anglophone Caribbean in the 21st century, Sorbonne-Paris, 2012), is graduated in Gender and Development Studies, Institute of Gender and Development Studies (University of the West Indies, 2009) and has a Post Graduate Degree on British contemporary civilisation ("The role of the Child Poverty Action Group in British civil society" in a context of poverty and inequalities, Sorbonne-Paris, 2002).

She is Chair of the ICNGO as she was elected President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee at the last International Conference of NGOs (Dec 19) and was presented by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women which she has been representing to UNESCO since 2010. She represents the Liaison Committee to the CCONG/Education2030 and is a member of the coordination group.

She was the Co-leader of several international forums organized by NGOs in partnership with UNESCO including the forum on the role of women in fighting poverty in June 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters, the forum on climate change in December 2017 (Two thematic sessions on « The role on civil society in climate change ») and the forum on science in December 2018 in Moscow.



Mr. Raimundo Chaves Neto - Assistant of the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon. Assistant at the European University. Graduated in Law. Doctorate in Historical and Legal Sciences at the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon. Researcher at the Research Center for Theory and History of Law at the University of Lisbon. Specialist in Human Rights and History of Law from the University of Coimbra. Specialist in History of Law by the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon. Master in Roman Law from the University of Coimbra. Member of the Brazilian Lawyers Institute. Great Honorary Member of the Academy of Legal Letters of Amapá. Honorary Member of the Institute of Lawyers of Ceará. Partner-Correspondent in Portugal of the Cearense Academy of Law. Pedagogical Supervisor of Colégio Cônego Pereira. Member of the Ibero-American Association of Roman Law. Winner in Portugal of the "I Martim de Albuquerque Award" in 2017 for his work entitled "THE ROMAN USUSFRUCTUS: HISTORICAL-LEGAL APPROACHES".



Mrs. Michelle Breslauer, Senior Manager, Peace & Governance, United Nations Global Compact

Michelle Breslauer is the Senior Manager for Peace & Governance at the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, with over 10,000 companies in 163 countries and 70 local networks around the world. In this role, she leads strategic initiatives to advance responsible business in the areas of peace, humanitarian affairs, and global governance, and enables and supports companies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Michelle has significant experience managing complex communication strategies on an international scale, including a five-year tenure at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center. She holds a master's degree in urban studies and a bachelor's degree in international affairs.



Mrs. Claudia Manuela Ramos Vieira has a degree in Psychology, a post-graduate degree in Psychological Counseling and Psychotherapies, as well as in Management of Organizations in the 3rd Sector. Since November 2013, he has served as Deputy of the Presidency, in the Municipality of Gondomar, and is currently responsible for the Department of Social Cohesion (Social Development, Social Housing and Health). She is a member of the Executive Board of the Local Council of Social Action of Gondomar, acting as coordinator. She coordinates the municipal team of the Project of the Park of the Serras do Porto and President of the General Assembly of the Association of Municipalities of the Park of the Serras do Porto. In November 2017 he took office as a member of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Area of Porto, assuming the position of Metropolitan Secretary.



Mr. Milad M. Saad, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Educational Technology at Lebanese University - Faculty of Pedagogy. My responsibilities include teaching courses related to Instruction Design, Educational Technology, Action Research, in the Master Degree. In addition, I supervise and direct researches in Educational Technology. Lecturer at Ministry of Education and Higher Education – Lebanon; Faculty of Pedagogy in Beirut. I am in charge of training in-service secondary teachers in their second year on the Capacity Building Program to obtain their M.A in Education as planned by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.



Mr. Pedro Calado, Since July 1st, 2014, Pedro Calado has taken the functions of High Commissioner for Migration, a responsibility that he leads in parallel with the CEO function of the "Choices" Program (Programa Escolhas) – a government program, created in 2001 to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for children and young people in vulnerable contexts.



Mrs. Clara Raposo, Ph.D is the dean/president of ISEG Lisbon School of Economics and Management, University of Lisbon, where she is also a Full Professor of Finance since 2010. She has been Responsible for the scientific area of Finance in the Department of Management, Director of the Master's in Finance, and Coordinator of the Post-Graduation in Financial Analysis. Formerly, she was Associate Professor of Finance with Agregação, Associate Professor of Finance and Assistant Professor of Finance at ISCTE – Lisbon University Institute (2000-2010), University Lecturer of Finance at Said Business School, University of Oxford (1998-2000), Tutorial Fellow of Management in the college St. Edmund Hall, University

of Oxford (1998-2000) and Teaching Assistant at Nova SBE (1992-1993). She holds a PhD in Finance from the London Business School, University of London (1998), an MSc. Economics from Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London (1994), and a first degree (licenciatura) in Economics from the Nova School of Business and Economics, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (1992), having received several awards, as best undergraduate student (Prize Banco de Portugal 1992), best student of Econometrics (Prize APS – Associação Portuguesa de Seguradores, 1991), and best student of Statistics I and II (Prize Companhia de Seguros O Trabalho, 1990). She was awarded scholarships by JNICT/FCT and Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian between 1993 and 1998. Her areas of expertise are corporate finance and governance, having seen her research work published in reputed academic journals, such as The Journal of Finance and the Journal of Financial Economics. Her doctoral thesis won the Dimitris N. Chorafas Foundation Award in 1997 and in 2008 her joint work with D. Ferreira and M. Ferreira won the Egon Zehnder International Prize for best working paper of the European Corporate Governance Institute. She has been a member of several teams of research projects funded by FCT (the Portuguese Research Council), and was Principal Investigator in projects with several schools, such as Nova, Católica and ISCTE. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator in a project on SMEs financing, certification, and bank relations, co-financed by FCT and FFMS (Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos). She is the Coordinator of FCT's Doctoral Grants Panel for Economics and Management. She has organized and integrated the scientific commissions of various international conferences. With extensive teaching experience at all levels, undergraduates, masters, PhD, and executives, she has won several best teacher awards. She is an independent non-executive board member of Interbolsa.



Mr. António Luís Valadas da Silva born in April 9, 1954, in Évora, he has a degree in Law from the University of Lisbon School of Law. Senior Technical Consultant of the of Employment and Vocational Training Institute; Deputy Director-General of the former Department for European Social Fund Affairs from 1987 to 1990; Councilor for Social Affairs at the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union from 1990 to 1998; Vice-President of the Directive Council of the former Management Institute of the European Social Fund, from 2001 to 2002; President of the Directive Council of the former Management Institute of the European Social Fund from 2002 to 2008; Councilor for Labour and Employment Affairs at the Portuguese Permanent Mission to the International Organizations in Geneva (NUOI) from 2009 to 2015, where he accompanied, inter alia, the ILO and WHO issues.

In 2016 he took over the position he currently holds as President of the Directing Council of the Employment and Vocational Training Institute, I. P.



Mr. Diogo da Costa Ferreira is a professor, researcher, writer, artist and coordinator of community projects.

He studied Philosophy at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon and at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the New University of Lisbon. He studied Music (Composition) at the Lisbon Superior College of Music, studied Educational Sciences at the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon and also studied Psychology at IP.

He is the Project Manager and Coordinator of the Portuguese Institute for Personal Development, where he has been developing various social and community intervention projects.

Member of the Portuguese Association of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and Member of the Portuguese Association of Writers.

Published 5 books.



Mrs. Alexandrina - Liana Kiss is the Executive Director of Foundation for People Development - Cluj Branch, Cluj-Napoca - Romania. In the past four years she implemented several social- educational- health projects in one particular poor and marginalized Roma community - Pata Rat settlement. She has a License Degree in Theology and Social Work and a Master Degree in NGO Management by the Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Communication Sciences, Administrative and Political Sciences, Cluj-Napoca - Romania. May 2018 - Women Excellency Gala - AFA Cluj - Award for community involvement and positive impact on the destiny of underprivileged children.



Mrs. Cristina Archer Baltazar Pereira da Silva was born in Lisbon in 1965. She is married and has two sons.

Cristina has a degree in Economics in Universidade Nova de Lisboa and she always showed a will for learning and developing skills. She was an exchange student in the senior year of high school in Ohio, USA, through the AFS program. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Management and Marketing from Development Systems, S.A. She holds a professional certification in Project Management Professional from PMI (Project Management Institute - USA). She also completed a Post Graduation in Development, Local Diversities and Global Challenges at ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa in the area of social economy.



Dr. Amany Asfour is International President of the Internacional Federation of Business and Professional Woman, and the World Family Organization Regional Focal Point for Africa. Dr. Armay is graduated from Faculty of Medicine - Cairo University and had her Master Degree & M.D., PhD Degree in Pediatrics. In her academic career , she is a Lecturer of Pediatrics at the National Resarch Center of Egypt. She joined the pivate sector since she was a student at the Faculty of Medicine.

Within few years, she was also able to establish a company for Medical equipments with more than 30 brands. Her interests were not limited to establishing her private Business only but soon she realized the importance of creating an organization targeting Economic Women Empowerment & Young Women Entrepreneurship Promotion. As a result she established the Egyptian Business women Association in 1995. Dr. Asfour founded the Business and Professional Women in Egypt.



Mr. Elie Mekhael, PhD in public health from Paris VI university in 1997. General Secretary of the Higher Council of Children, Lebanon from 2002 till 2012. Professor at Lebanese University, faculty of Education ,Faculty of public health Institute of Social Sciences. Member of the executive board of World Family Organization 2017 – 2021. Author of several books and studies on family and children: the Arab comparative report on Violence against Children .2013, Education on child rights (book:2015), Arab Family and Sustainable development(2017). Consultant on social development for several international and Lebanese NGO S.



Dr. Anjli Doshi (Ph.D) World Family Organization Regional Focal Point for Asia, former Deputy Director General (Policy) of the National Population and Family Development Board Malaysia, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia.

Work responsibilities include development of family development training modules, planning, development and implementation of policies, family development, initiatives and programs on parenting and reproductive health, social and family research, advocacy, and training.



Dr. Jamila Suliman Khanji is graduated on English Language with a B.A. in Literature and Linguistics and a PhD on Learning Strategies by the UAE University. Since 2008 she held many positions at the Family Development Foundation in Abu Dhabi where presently she holds the position of Advisor of Research and Studies. At the World Family Organization she is the Regional Focal Point for the Arab States. Dr. Jamila is a strategic planner, trainer, researcher, therapist and project designer.



Mrs. Leena Rammah, Coordinator for Child Labour Programmes of ILO.

Specialist on Early Childhood Development, policy formulation for migrants and reugees in education.

I have worked on several assignments within the United Nations system in Africa and Middle East, in the development field, specialy and training trainers in emergency situations for refugees in three camps throughout the Upper Nile River. The ultimate purpose was to spread humanitarian and developmental efforts, which included survival, protection and the well-being of children, adolescents and women.



Mrs. Giulia Meschino is the Executive & Development Manager at EVTA- European Vocational and Training Association in Brussels, Belgium. She is graduated on International and Diplomatic Sciences in Italy and holds a Master Degree on Diplomatic Affairs. At EVTA her duties includes network development, designing and management of EU funded projects as well as dedicate herself on many voluntary activities in Human Rights and Inclusion and Peace and Disarmament for Sustainable Development.



Mrs. Ilda Peliz is graduated on Social Communication and Pos- Graduated on Public Policies and NGOs Management. For 22 years was President of ABRACE – Association for Assistance to Families with Children with Cancer. It was during her presidency that the Government of Brasilia and the World Family Organization implemented the Children's Cancer Hospital inaugurated in 2018. Presently she is member of Brasilia Public Policies Council and a dedicated volunteer at the Brazilian Women's Leadership Team.



Mrs. Farhat Amal – Lebanon, is an assistant lecturer at the FacuSciences in the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and GBV, CP & Family intervention Expert. In 2004, she was assigned as the General Director of Lebanese Child Home Association (AFEL). Between 2008 and 2010, she contributed to the draft of the National Strategic Plan to Prevent Child Abuse with the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs – Higher Council for Childhood. She's also the co-author of many educational toolkits on the subject of sexual abuse & child protection. In 2017, Mrs. Farhat joined ABAAD organization as a GBV Case Management Technical Advisor, leading the case management technical supervision and quality Spaces across Lebanon. Mrs. Farhat is also an expert trainer leading multiple workshops on national, regional and global levels.



Mrs. Lara Hussein, WFO's Vice-President of Family Policy Coordination, is a development professional with more than 15 years of experience in policy development, policy advocacy, and in managing International development programs in areas related to social development with a particular emphasis on family policy, education, child protection and early childhood development. She worked with the United Nations, policy think tanks, and International NGOs contributing to innovative policies, leading multi-disciplinary teams, and managing grants for complex multi-country programs.

Lara has a Master degree in Education from Huddersfield University of UK. She worked with UNICEF Gulf Area Office as Chief of Child Protection, the Jordanian National Council for Family Affairs as Deputy Secretary General, and with Doha International Family Institute of Qatar Foundation as Director of Family Policy.



Mr. Isidro de Brito is currently Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs of World Family organization. He's also President of Executive Board of ANJAF, which promotes Training for un-employed persons, Domiciliary Services for Elderly, Positive Parentally training, European Project in the field of Conciliation between Family life and Professional life, and other areas for persons and families in risk of exclusion. He is member of the Portuguese Council for Family. He also lead the Association MMRP in Portugal a project call "Beauty for a cause" to involve the young girls in social causes and organise beauty pageants. This association have the rights for Portugal from the main international Pageants as Miss World, Miss Universe, Miss International, Miss Supranational, Miss Grand International and several others.

He was Manager of several European Projects, Coordinator of the Youth Ministers Conference organized by the Portuguese Government and the United Nations in 1998. Was adviser of the Secretary of State for Youth in the XIII Constitutional Government of Portugal. Was also active member of World Family Organization between 1989 and 1995.

Mr. Isidro de Brito holds a Degree in Human Resources Management and a Post-graduate Diploma in Management Project in Partnership

He speaks fluent Portuguese, English, French and Spanish.



Mr. Bruno Ricardo Lopes is the Vice President for Financial Affairs of the World Family Organization

With a degree in Financial Management and Project Management and counting with over fifteen years of experience managing international projects and activities for the World Family Organization and the National Union of Associations for Protection of Mothers, Children and Families of Brazil- UNAPMIF, where he is also the Senior Project Manager.

During his career, Mr. Lopes was also responsible for the execution of WFO's Communication and Logistic portfolios, being responsible for the organization of conferences and programs in partnership with Governments at National and Local Levels, United Nations and all editions of the World Family Summit since 2004.



Mrs. Rachel Aird is World Family Organization Director for Coordinatiur and Outreach.

She is also the Chairperson of The Family Africa representing over 30 centres throughout Africa at public forums such as the African Union. She is also a consultative partner on African Union Expert forum on Plan of action for the family in Africa, Founder/ Director of Counselling and Support Centre for HIV positive Mothers and children Johannesburg and Founder/Director of Free Day Care Centre for the children of HIV positive mothers and AIDS orphans.

Mrs. Aird has a University degree in Psychology at Leicester University in the United Kingdom and is post-graduated in English.



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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies

Taking this year's ECOSOC theme of "Empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies," the World Family Organization (WFO) is fully engaged in ongoing action aimed at implementing the 2030 United Nations Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to keep the promise of no one left behind. WFO contributes to the work of the United Nations in the area of peace, human security, social and sustainable development through policies, programs and projects focused on the well-being of the family, which includes organizing international congresses, conferences and study sessions. This further enhances the ability of the United Nations to ensure inclusiveness and provide families of all backgrounds with equal opportunities to improve their lives and to build more stable, peaceful and inclusive societies around the world.

Founded in 1947, WFO, is a non-profit organization based in Paris, which represents families of the world, at all levels, working to defend their interests, acting with them and for them vis-a-vis governments and the international community, including at the United Nations. Its mission, among others, is to promote the means and opportunity for women and men to assume their roles and functions within the family and society, under conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity. WFO promotes policies and actions to bring about better living conditions for all families regardless of their economic and cultural diversity. It contributes to social protection of families, works towards crime prevention and rig control, and aims to combat domestic violence and all kinds of discrimination.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in Article 16, "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and State." As such, families exist in every society as the most universal and interconnected expression of social reality, performing essential functions for society by serving as a source of stability, continuity and development. The SDGs aim to be universal, holistic, and applicable to all countries, embodying a universally shared common vision of progress towards a safe, just and sustainable space for all human beings on the planet. It is abundantly clear that supporting families must go hand in hand with the realization of the SDGs, from supporting education, promoting gender equality, to health, social peace and sustainable cities. WFO has already brought synergies into the implementation and strategy of the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to the United Nations Agenda 2030, WFO fully recognizes the need to focus on all 17 SDGs in order to bring about the desired changes and to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. However, under the 2019 ECOSOC HLPF cross-cutting theme, the priority is given to the following six SDGs - quality education (SDG4), inclusive growth and decent work (SDG8), reducing inequalities (SDG10), climate action (SDG13), peaceful societies (SDG16) and global partnerships (SDG17), all of which interact one way or another with the role of families in today's world.

Education (SDG 4) plays a key role in WFO's mission since education first occurs inside the family cluster. Education is vital for building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies and has reciprocal linkages with almost all other goals in the 2030 Agenda. Without meeting the education goals, there will be no progress in any of the remaining SDGs. WFO focuses on ensuring inclusiveness and equality of educational opportunities, including for vulnerable and marginalized families of migrants, refugees and other displaced families in national and local education systems, as well as finding innovative way to finance quality education for all.

WFO fully supports universal quality pre-primary and youth development education in order to avoid educational inequalities, improve learning outcomes and

strengthen chances for success in life. A child's most critical development happens before they even set foot in a primary school. By their fifth birthday, their brain is 90% developed and the foundations for success at school and in later life are in place.

WFO stresses the importance of treating young people as a legitimate stakeholder group in any development efforts that aspire to be relevant, efficient and inclusive. With regard to accelerated and unprecedented pace of change of our world today, it is necessary to keep in mind that globalization, new technologies, migration, changing labour markets and transnational environmental and political challenges all require millions of families to adapt to a new set of skills and knowledge needed for work, citizenship and life in the twenty-first century.

WFO stands ready to support any effort aimed at developing and implementing effective education, lifelong learning and training policies at societal level. WFO urges countries to rethink social and human development with regard to quality higher education in the face of fast-changing learning and work environment to increase inclusive access and enhance equal opportunities of success for all.

With relation to the other SDGs that play a crucial role in 'empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies,' causal links are identified in both directions, from education to other goals and vice-versa when it comes to family matters. One of the most emphasized connections is between education and growth (SDG8) and reducing inequalities (SDG10). Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all by providing education and employment opportunities is a necessary prerequisite for a quality and healthy family life. Lack of such opportunities, persistent poverty, as well as the growing gap and growing inequalities within and among countries represent particularly difficult challenges for families as they can have negative long-lasting effect on family well-being that can continue into subsequent generations.

WFO focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (SDG16). In many countries, political instability has resulted in protracted crises and is at the root of many conflicts that have severe effects on families. In time of political instability, the lack of trust in the future stability of the country causes fear in many families as they see themselves obligated to change their way of life or to adapt to new situations, such as the need to migrate. To foster political stability, peace and inclusive institutions is thus at the heart of WFO efforts to strengthen national policies on families in achieving the economic, social and cultural goals of sustainable development.

WFO addressed the HLS and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of ECOSOC every year, and now has members in over 180 countries in all continents and enjoys fruitful partnerships with various United Nations agencies. Given the importance of promoting global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG17), WFO maintains regular relations with numerous organizations and partners both within and outside the UN system to stress the need for promoting the 2030 Agenda and to raise awareness about challenges families have to face nowadays. Among our most important partners from the UN are, the Department for Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Global Compact. Successful initiatives aimed at promoting family rights and opportunities have been developed based on our yearly WFO Summit.

As we contribute every year to the HLS through our WFO Summit, we would like to highlight the one this year in Lisbon, Portugal from 13 to 15 May 2019. This Summit will bring together governors, delegates, eminent personalities, local

authorities, representatives of civil society, business sector entities and academia from around the world. The main focus of our deliberations will echo the theme of the 2019 ECOSOC High Level Political Forum (HLPF): “No Family left Behind: Families and Local Authorities Working Together to Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Life Long Learning Opportunities for All.” This is a cross-cutting theme encompassing six SDGs: quality education, inclusive growth and decent work, reducing inequalities, climate action, peaceful societies and global partnerships - all of which, impact the family. A principal issue will be: “How does the family provide a bridge to achieve the SDG’s?” WFO certainly intends to play its full role in the action agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to “keeping the promise”!
