



**UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISMES FAMILIAUX  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FAMILY ORGANISATIONS**

**الاتحاد الدولي للمؤسسات العائلية**

---

28, Place Saint-Georges - 75009 Paris - ☎ 48 78 07 59

**INTERNATIONAL  
UNION  
OF  
FAMILY  
ORGANISATIONS**

**1984**

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**  
**28, place Saint-Georges**  
**75009 Paris**  
**FRANCE**  
**Phone: 878.07.59**

**As from 26/10/1985**  
**our new tel. n° will be :**  
**(1) 48 78 07 59**

# International Union of Family Organisations

## *Origin*

**I**NTEREST IN THE FAMILY, in its standard of living and above all, in the important role it plays in social development, is evident throughout the world.

Everywhere, the family has become a subject of legislation, of study and research by the various branches of science, and of keen attention by the social services.

In many countries the family itself has become increasingly conscious of its fundamental value as an institution and of its potential power as such. It is beginning to seek expression through family organisations having a voice in the legislative, economic, social and educational structures which are, to a large extent, the determining factors of its own existence. The family's contribution to the evolution of social legislation is highly valued.

Such an undeniable fact is of vital interest to all countries and to all classes of society. It concerns every type of family for, if the monogamous family founded on marriage exercises a strong influence on the evolution of morals and customs, there are also other types of families which claim the attention of observers. That is, the function of the family, relative to the development of its members—whether it be favourable or restrictive—is of major importance. It is the essential “keystone” for the success of a series of measures concerning the well-being of the children, of both the parents—that is, the parental couple—as it is for all demographic policy.

Another fact is that solutions to problems which arise, as well as to aspirations manifested, can no longer come from any one country without co-operation with the others.

In 1947 a "World Congress for Family and Population" was held in Paris to study the standard of living of families and to seek the means of promoting their advancement. Following this Congress, and in order to co-ordinate the efforts of the parties interested in family problems in different ways and in all regions of the world, the International Union of Family Organisations-I.U.F.O.-was founded and its headquarters set up in Paris. Its General Secretariat is in the same location.

The final Constitution of the I.U.F.O. was adopted at its first General Assembly held in Geneva on July 3rd, 1948. It has since been revised and updated by the General Assembly in Tunis, in November 1977.

In 1948 the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations granted the International Union consultative status under category B. The Union, moreover, has been approved for consultative arrangements with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the United Nations and the Council of Europe. It is also registered on the special list of non-governmental organisations of the International Labour Office (ILO) and is developing an active collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

It maintains permanent relations with the European Community, the League of Arab States and the Organisation for African Unity.

Since its foundation, the Union has had the following Presidents : Mr. VEILLARD-CYBULSKI (Switzerland), Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium), Mr. GUIBOURGE (France), Mr. GARIGUE (Canada), Baron van TUYLL van SEROOSKERKEN (Netherlands), Mr. GUERFEL (Tunisie), Mr. Pran Nath LUTHRA (India).

The President in office is Mrs Maria Teresa DA COSTA MACEDO (Portugal).

# *Aims*

**T**HE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FAMILY ORGANISATIONS in terms of its Constitution, works for the greater well-being of the family by establishing bonds with all interested organisations the world over.

To this end, the I.U.F.O. has conceived the following mission:

1) to promote and foster the coordination of all voluntary or public organisations sharing the aims of the Union, by regrouping them at all international, regional and national levels, in order to bring about an exchange of information on problems which they are facing and search for appropriate solutions;

2) to strengthen the bonds of solidarity between families worldwide and to bring about their awareness of their joint responsibility for the welfare, justice and peace of the world;

3) to represent the interests of families, and to convey their needs and aspirations to the international organisations thereby emphasising the importance of families to human society;

4) to submit the I.U.F.O.'s recommendations to national organisations;

5) to perform or to promote all studies and research designed to improve the condition of families in society and to contribute to their self-promotion and improved well-being.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Union intends to undertake:

1) The collection of the social data necessary for pursuing the above-defined purpose by means of an information and documentation centre responsible for liaison between existing documentation agencies, and the assembling together of the necessary additional data.

2) The carrying on, worldwide or by regions, of the dissemination and exchange of said data both by publications and by the organisation of international meetings, as well as by all suitable means for satisfying the requests of social and family institutions.

3) The organisation of international encounters, worldwide or by regions, enabling the study of family matters, the exchange of views and the drafting of recommendations.

4) The organising of conferences and forming of commissions and study groups.

5) The fostering, at the request of national or international bodies, of the promotion of the family specifically through the organising of training courses, the implementation of projects or experiments, social development, of the collecting of the necessary funds or assembling of the necessary staff.

## *Members of the Union*

**T**HE UNION CONTAINS MORE THAN 300 governmental and non-governmental organisations from about 60 different countries. It entertains close connections with more than 100 countries which participate in its work.

An attempt at classifying its members, starting with private bodies and going on to public ones, shows the following kinds of organisations:

- Family Associations and Family Movements;
- Pupils' Parents Associations, Parent-Teacher Organisations;
- Women's Organisations and Mothers' Organisations;
- Child Welfare Organisations, Marriage Counselling and Marriage Guidance Organisations, Schools for Parents;
- Social Work Councils and Associations of Social Workers;
- Organisations of a cultural and educational nature, Family Holiday Organisations;
- Research Centres for Demographical, Social and Family Problems;
- Social Security Offices, National Insurance Departments, Institutes concerned with Housing problems.

- Public Institutes for Population and Family Problems;
- Ministries and Ministerial Departments.

All these organisations, whose aim is to improve the living conditions of families, can be grouped into two broad categories:

- Family movements or family associations, whose aim is to make families aware of their rights and responsibilities, and the numerous private or semi-public organisations who, in different fields, concern themselves with family welfare and the well-being of the family.

This permits an effective collaboration between the family and the different social and family services, and also permits flexibility within the diverse structures that vary according to country or continent.

- Governmental bodies and public services concerned with social and family problems. These organisations are very influential and in many ways help to determine the standard of living of the family by influencing the legislative, social and educational measures concerning it. They bring their support to the Union by their activities, their technical knowledge and the information they provide. In turn, they find in the Union an invaluable means of maintaining direct contact with families.

All members of the Union, regardless of their category, have the same rights and powers according to its Constitution (Article 5).

## *Achievements*

**I**NTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES AND STUDY SESSIONS are open to all members of the Union, as well as to all other organisations or personalities wishing to take part in the work undertaken, and allow the meeting of those responsible for family and social policies at the government level with experts from public and private bodies, social workers and representatives of the families themselves. The very number of subjects dealt with emphasizes the determination of the Union to promote the study of all the major questions of an economic, social and psycho-



logical nature in which the future of the family is involved. The subjects treated since 1948 provide the proof:

- 1948 - GENEVA: Juvenile Delinquency and Family Responsibilities.
- 1949 - ROME: Compensation for Families in the World.
- 1950 - HELSINKI: Family Allowances and National Incomes.
- 1951 - BRUSSELS: Family Policy and Family Movements.
- 1952 - ZURICH: Family Allowances.
- 1952 - OXFORD: Stability of the Family.
- 1953 - LISBON: The Family and Social Techniques.
- 1954 - STUTTGART: Family Action in Working Class and Rural Milieus.
- 1956 - THE HAGUE: Culture and Rural Families.
- 1957 - ROME: Families deprived of the Father.
- 1958 - PARIS: Re-discovery of the Family by the Contemporary World
- 1959 - VIENNA: Offsetting Family Burdens, a point of social policy.
- 1960 - NEW YORK: Personal Maturity and Family Security.
- 1961 - MADRID: The Work of the Mother.
- 1962 - RABAT: Families and the Future of Young People in Modern Society.
- 1963 - RIO DE JANEIRO: Families in the Space Era.
- 1964 - MUNICH: Families in Modern Society.
- 1965 - ROME: New Families.
- 1966 - NEW DELHI: Changing Families in Society.
- 1967 - QUEBEC: Young Families in Society.
- 1968 - VIENNA: Young Families: The Couple's Life and Family Life.
- 1969 - PARIS: The Vital Need for a Family Policy.
- 1970 - LONDON: Parent-Teacher Relations.
- 1970 - BUTARE (Rwanda): Inter-African Symposium on the African Family Facing Development.
- 1970 - TUNIS: School, Family and Development.
- 1971 - MADRID: Economic Problems of the Family.
- 1972 - OTTAWA: The Role of Family Movements.
- 1973 - LIEGE: The Objectives of Family Participation in a Changing Society.
- 1973 - RABAT: Regional Conference of the Maghrebine Countries: Families and Responsibility.
- 1974 - GENEVA: Problems of the Families of Migrant Workers.
- 1975 - PARIS: Condition of Women in the Family and the Society.
- 1976 - HELSINKI: The Role of Public Authorities in the Development of Family Policies.

- 1976 - KIGALI: The Participation of the African Family in Rural and Urban Development.
- 1977 - NEW DELHI: The Family as a Unit of Welfare in National Planning.
- 1977 - TUNIS: Solidarity amongst the World's Families.
- 1977 - TUNIS: Constitutive Assemblies of the Arab Family Organisation (AFO) and of the Pan-African Family Organisation (PAFO).
- 1978 - NEW DELHI: Asian Region Meeting of the Convening Body.
- 1979 - PARIS: The Family's Responsibilities in the Upbringing of the Child.  
COLOMBO: Family and the Natural Environment for Child Development.
- 1980 - LISBON: Unemployment amongst Young People and Children at Work.  
DAKAR: Seminar on Child Nutrition.
- 1981 - MONTREAL: The Role of the Family in the Child's Education.  
BUCAREST: Law, Family, Development.
- 1982 - VIENNA: The Family in Europe towards the Year 2000.  
MANILA: Strengthening Family Life: Implication of Values and Traditions.
- 1983 - MADRID: First Ibero-American Meeting.  
NAPLES: Family and Communication.  
NEW DELHI: Afro-Asian Conference The Role of Play in Child Development.
- 1984 - BOGOTA: Second Ibero-American Meeting National Policies and Programmes for Families.
- 1985 - NEW DELHI: Family in the Face of Urbanization.

# *The Union's Technical Commissions and Study Groups*

**I**n order to make a comprehensive study of Family Problems, the IUFO has founded Technical Commissions and Study Groups.

Here is the list:

- Commission on Education.
- Commission on Family Housing.
- Commission on Marriage and Marriage Guidance.
- Commission on Family Law.
- Commission on Demography and Family Life.
- Commission on Families and Social Development.
- Commission on Family Health.
- Commission on Rural Families, Agriculture and Nutrition.
- Study Group on Women.
- Study Group on Family Income and Social Security.
- Study Group on Family Action among the Working Class.
- Study Group on the Role of Public Authorities and Family Policies.
- Study Group on Family Movements.

The Commissions and Study Groups usually convene annually at a Plenary Session.

The Plenary Sessions of the Commissions and Study Groups are open to all those Organisations or personalities who are interested, whether they be Members of the I.U.F.O. or not.

# *Activities on a Regional Level*

Whereas family matters bear a worldwide character, the specific climatic, ethnic, historic, and demographic features, the social and economic development levels are common within large regions. The Union takes these facts into consideration rather than ignoring them, in order to make its work, its studies and its action more realistic.

In this context, the I.U.F.O. has held meetings for representatives from continents or groups of countries: the Inter-African Colloquium in Rwanda in 1970; the Session of the Commission on Education for Latin America, in Caracas in 1971; the Regional Conferences for the Maghreb Countries in Tunis in 1970 and in Rabat in 1977; the Conference of the Commission on Education in Abidjan in 1973; a second Inter-African Colloquium in Kigali (Rwanda) in 1976; Regional Conferences for Asia in New Delhi in 1977 and 1978.

From these first experiments arose the wish to go further. Exchanging experiences, trainees, training methods for social welfare, intervention techniques, taking the initiative for several countries, establishing a viable dialogue with the existing regional, inter-governmental organisations and with the regional Commissions of world wide

inter-governmental institutions — all this requires groups which must be of a homogeneous, stable nature with the facilities for communication and instigation and used to acting on behalf of the Union.

Therefore, the following regional organisations were set up:

- Arab Family Organisation (AFO), with headquarters in Tunis;
- Pan-African Family Organisation (PAFO), with headquarters in Dakar, Senegal;
- Asian Union of Family Organisation (AUFO), with headquarters in New Delhi, India;
- European Region with headquarters in Vienna, Austria;
- A first Ibero-American Meeting was held in Madrid in 1983. On this occasion, it was decided to found an IUFO Regional Organisation for Latin America.

An IUFO Secretariat for Latin America has been operating in Bogota, Colombia since February 1984. The Second Ibero-American Meeting will be held in this same city on 16-19 October, 1984.

- Besides these, the Regional organisation for the Common Market countries "COFACE" represents the family interests in Brussels.

All these organisations work within the IUFO. They only have members which are members of the International Union. They do not disperse but solidify the work whilst respecting inherent differences.