

Statement of the Group of Friends of the Family in New York

- I have the honour to make this statement on the need for mainstreaming the family across the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda on behalf of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe and my own country Belarus.
- We reaffirm that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.
- We believe that genuine and effective sustainable development may not be achieved without the family.
- We stress the importance of development and support of national family-oriented policies, programmes and initiatives that harness the unique strength and contributions of the family to common good of societies.
- We are convinced that the human rights women and men, children and older persons, persons with disabilities could be best promoted and protected within the family environment.
- We are also convinced that the family, as the fundamental unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection.
- We call for systematic mainstreaming of the family across the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The importance of the family in the Post-2015 Development Agenda was clearly expressed by many delegations.
- We believe that the documents and decisions of the SDG Summit of 2015 that will define key elements of the new development framework should include, as a matter of priority, promotion of the family as a contributor and beneficiary of the development process
- By highlighting this important linkage of the family to sustainable development in the documents and decisions of the SDG Summit of 2015 we can gain an invaluable tool to ensure the strengthening and proliferation of the family-friendly and family-supportive environment – both at the national level and globally.
- Therefore, we urge Member States to join us in the efforts to ensure the inclusion of the family and family-oriented policies, as an important element of the Post- 2015 Development Agenda.