



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development

Annotated Agenda

United Nations Expert Group Meeting,
New York
15 – 17 May 2012

**“Good Practices in Family Policy Making:
Family Policy Development, Monitoring and Implementation: Lessons Learnt”**

Convened as part of the preparations for the
twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014

15 May 2012

9:00-9:30

Registration

9:30-9:45

Opening Session

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Jean-Pierre Gonnot, Chief,
Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and
Development/Department of Economic and Social Affairs
(DSPD/DESA)

9:45-10:15

Introductory Session

Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting: Renata
Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, DSPD/DESA

Introduction of the participants

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-12:15

Session I: Defining good practice in explicit family policy making

Moderator – Dominic Richardson

Introductory remarks – Mihaela Robila, Mounira Charrad

Issues for discussion

- Demographic, social and economic trends affecting families and the need for adequate policy response
- Policy focus: families vs individuals
- Benefits of focusing on families in policy design
- Family-oriented socio-economic policies
- Good practice in family policy making: criteria, design, implementation, monitoring & evaluation
- Types of good practices in family policies
- Family law reforms
- Gender equality within families
- Links between poverty reduction, work-family balance and social integration/intergenerational solidarity
- Good practice data collection & dissemination
- Challenges to effective family-oriented policies design and implementation

Roundtable discussion

12:15-13:15

Lunch break

13:15-14:45

Session II: Ensuring work-family balance - Observance of the International Day of Families

Moderator - Margaret O'Brien

Presentations:

Jody Heymann – *Families at Work: What we Know about Conditions Globally*

Meejung Chin - *Demographic Changes and Work-Family Balance Policies in East Asia*

Corina Rodríguez Enríquez – *Work-Family Balance Issues in Latin America: a Roadmap for National Care Systems*

Nurper Ulkuer, Chief, Early Childhood Development Unit, UNICEF – *The Importance of Quality Child Care for Work-Family Balance*

Issues for discussion

- Trends impacting work-family balance: growing number of dual earner families, increasing women's labour force participation, competition for jobs, anti-social working patterns
- Impact of work pressures on family life
- Benefits of work-family balance for adults and children
- Gender equality and fair distribution of family responsibilities
- The importance of quality childcare
- Family-oriented responses to ensure work-family balance
- Types of policies and programmes
- Examples of good practices
- Perspectives on the role of Governments, UN entities, civil society, private sector and academia in advocacy, design and implementation of work-family balance policies and programmes

Roundtable discussion with guest participation

14:45-15:00

Break

15:00-16:45

Session III: Good practices in work-family balance: types of policies in existence, examples & a way forward

Moderator – Jody Heymann

Introductory remarks – Margaret O'Brien, Marie-Laure des Brosses

Questions for discussion

Types of policies and programmes supporting work-family balance and examples of good practices and innovative approaches:

- Family leave: maternity, paternity, parental & special leaves
- Efforts to increase uptake of parental leave by fathers
- Flexible working arrangements: flexi-time, part-time, annualized hours, time credits, work-sharing
- Early childhood education and care
- Care for older children, including after-school care
- Child care arrangements in the workplace

- Statutory support for informal/kin care
- Gender equality and greater participation of men in family responsibilities
- Caring arrangement for children, older persons, persons with disabilities, including at home care
- What is the impact of good practices in the areas above on working families?
- What other good practices families need?
- Ensuring working with families in good practice implementation

Roundtable discussion

16:45-17:00 Summary of the discussion and recommendations from day one compiled by Moderators

16 May 2012

9:00-10:30 **Session IV: Policy response to recent trends in family poverty and social exclusion**

Moderator – Zitha Mokomane

Introductory remarks – Maria Cristina Gomes da Conceição, Diane Richler

Issues and questions for discussion

- Dimensions of poverty and social exclusion
- Factors associated with family poverty in developed and developing countries
- Families in poverty and at risk of poverty
- Intergenerational transfer of poverty
- Special focus on exclusion of family members with disabilities
- The role of formal and informal education and employment for poverty reduction
- Gender inequality in families and societies as an obstacle to poverty eradication
- Reproductive and health issues
- Families as beneficiaries and agents of development
- Current focus of policy response to issues above

Roundtable discussion

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:30

Session V: Types of good practices focusing on family poverty reduction and social exclusion

Moderator - Mihaela Robila

Introductory remarks – Zitha Mokomane, Dominic Richardson

Issues for discussion

Good policy and practice in the areas of:

- Social security provisions
- Cash transfers
- Provision of basic social services
- Food subsidies
- Child benefits
- Access to employment
- Public works programmes
- Other strategies

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:15

Session VI: Good practices in anti-poverty family-focused policies and programmes in developing countries: examples and lessons learnt

Moderator – Meejung Chin

Introductory remarks – Zitha Mokomane, Maria Cristina Gomes da Conceição

Issues for discussion

- Regional, national & local family-focused responses
- Examples of good practices in Africa, Asia & South America

- Assessment of good practices, their successes and limitations

Roundtable discussion

15:15-15:30

Break

15:30-16:45

Session VII: Good practices in anti-poverty family-focused policies and programmes in developed countries: examples and lessons learnt

Moderator – Narender Chadha

Introductory remarks– Dominic Richardson, Andrey Borodaevskiy

Issues for discussion

- Regional, national & local family-focused responses
- Examples of good practices in Europe and North America
- What is the impact of good practice on the well-being of families?
- Policy and programme evaluation

Roundtable discussion

16:45-17:00

Policy recommendations from day two compiled by Moderators

17 May 2011

9:00-10:30

Session VIII: Social integration and intergenerational solidarity: issues of concern

Moderator – Lydia Nyesigomwe

Introductory remarks – Donna Butts

Issues and questions for discussion

- Demographic & social trends impacting intergenerational relations

- Grandparents – parents – children nexus, how interdependent are we?
- What trends threaten intergenerational solidarity? (mobility & migration; competition for resources; labour participation; gender inequality; changing value systems; violence in families and communities,)
- What is the current focus of strategies supporting intergenerational relations?

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:30

Session IX: Good practices in social integration and intergenerational solidarity: types of strategies, examples and lessons learnt

Moderator – Donna Butts

Introductory remarks – Narender Chadha, Lydia Nyesigomwe, Ignacio Socias, Eve Sullivan

Issues for discussion

Types of policies and programmes supporting intergenerational relations, examples of good practices and innovative approaches

- Family focused childcare and older care support and provision
- Care benefits and tax credits
- Social protection, including pensions
- Intergenerational transfers: financial and in-kind support
- Formal and informal education
- Parenting education
- Housing laws supporting intergenerational relations
- Cross-generational community centers
- Young and older persons volunteering programmes
- Initiatives in the workplace: mentoring, job sharing
- Expenditure for benefits for the young vs older persons
- Other strategies

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Session X: Good practices in poverty eradication, work-family balance and social integration & intergenerational solidarity: the role of stakeholders

Moderator – Corina Rodriguez Enriquez

Introductory remarks – Mihaela Robila, Peter Crowley

- Communicating the benefits of family-oriented policies
- Role of Governments, civil society, private sector, educational institutions, academics and the UN system in good practice development and implementation
- Good practice data selection and dissemination
- Collection of information on and exchange of good practices in family policy making: lessons learnt and the way forward

Issues for discussion

Roundtable discussion

15:15-15:30

Policy recommendations from day three compiled by Moderators

15:30-15:45

Break

15:45-16:45

Session XI: Distillation of findings, finalization and adoption of recommendations

Moderator – Renata Kaczmarska, Focal Point on the Family

16:45-17:00

Concluding remarks, farewell and closing