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Letter dated 11 May 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Writing on behalf of the 25 members of the Group of Friends of the Family, comprising the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Union of the Comoros, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Libya, Malaysia, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Yemen and the Republic of Zimbabwe, I have the honour to convey to you the statement of the members of the Group of Friends on the occasion of the International Day of Families, commemorated on 15 May (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28 (b).

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**



Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Group of Friends of the Family on the International Day of Families

New York, 15 May 2022

On the International Day of Families, we, the Members of the Group of Friends of Family, comprising the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Union of the Comoros, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Libya, Malaysia, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman, the Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Zimbabwe,

Recognize and prioritize the primary and fundamental role and values of the family as an agent of sustainable and economic development and recall that the family is entitled to protection by society and the State as envisaged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mindful of its integrated and indivisible nature and acknowledging that the implementation of family-oriented national policies, strategies and programmes contributes to their well-being and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Underline the importance of the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 which will contribute to increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and to undertaking concerted actions to promote the family culture and to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development;

Recall that the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution [47/237](#) proclaimed 15 May as the International Day of Families and invite all Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, as well as civil society, to observe the International Day;

In this regard, stress the crucial role of partnership among all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector, at the national, regional and international levels and reiterate our readiness to realize practical initiatives, including family-oriented policies and programmes responding to the needs of the family and all family members.