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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Progress made in the preparations for the International Year
of the Family

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family. In its resolution 45/133, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session in 1991 and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. In the same resolution, the Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its forty-sixth session on the progress made in the preparations for the Year, and to include therein recommendations and comments made by the preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year, i.e., the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council. The present report was prepared in response to that request.

II. CONCLUSIONS

2. In the past year, much support for the Year has been demonstrated. Several Governments have made strong statements endorsing an active preparatory process, based on the conceptual framework of the draft programme of the Year.
3. Setting up and activating organizational structures, identifying priority issues and initiating a concerted promotional and information campaign are among the goals set for the preliminary phase of preparations in 1991 for the Year. These have been begun at all levels.
4. At the national level, several countries have initiated the preparatory process, including the establishment of national coordination committees or similar mechanisms on the Year at the highest political level. Promotional and information campaigns have also been started in several countries.
5. At the regional and international levels, measures have been taken to encourage participation, set up arrangements for collaboration and coordination, encourage promotional and information activities and focus attention on specific issues. Various bodies and agencies of the United Nations, including the regional commissions, have begun preparations for the Year. The secretariat of the International Year of the Family in the United Nations Office at Vienna has promoted the participation of various entities in the process, prepared and distributed promotional and information material and sought to mobilize resources. Several intergovernmental organizations and a large number of international non-governmental organizations are actively involved. Research institutions are also being encouraged to pay greater attention to family issues.
6. Intensified efforts are required, however, at all levels for a successful preparation and observance of the Year. At the national level, the importance cannot be over-emphasized of establishing, by early 1992 or as soon as

possible, national coordination committees or similar mechanisms on the Year by all Governments, or entrusting responsibility for preparations for the Year to already existing bodies. Their level should be sufficiently high to have adequate political influence and public visibility. They should also have adequate financial and technical staff resources. Governmental action to involve all sectors of society and to elaborate specific programmes for the preparation of the Year, particularly at the local level, is essential. A nationwide promotional and information campaign, with the active involvement of the mass media, should be an important element of these efforts.

7. The regional commissions of the United Nations should be given more support to play an active role in preparations for the Year through the inclusion in their work programme of policy-oriented research analysis, expert group meetings on family issues of specific relevance to the region, technical assistance programmes, development of inter-agency mechanisms at the regional level and the intensification of collaboration with regional governmental and non-governmental organizations. They should be provided with extrabudgetary resources to carry out activities related to the Year.

8. Several intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, which have strong substantive interest in family issues and enormous potential to contribute to the Year, as well as the private sector, need to intensify their efforts. They may further review the impact of their activities on families, develop specific programmes and allocate resources to support local and national efforts. Special attention should be given to technical cooperation activities to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in addressing family issues. Regional and country offices should provide assistance to national and local activities.

9. Non-governmental organizations need to be further encouraged to develop family-related activities and participate actively in preparations for the Year, so as to bring to bear their extensive knowledge, experience and grass-roots links. Special efforts should be made fully to involve non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process at all levels, including programme planning, implementation and evaluation, especially in the work of national coordinating committees and the United Nations system. Substantive and technical support should be provided for their work.

10. Promotional and information campaign will be intensified, under the auspices of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat of the United Nations and with the active participation of the mass media. Special attention would be given to reaching out to the general public as well as the grass-roots and community organizations.

11. It is recalled that the resources requested for activities for the Year in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 are minimal. Generous contributions to the Voluntary Fund for the Year are crucial, particularly to support local and national level activities in developing countries and technical assistance programmes. Donor Governments and agencies

as well as private enterprises should be encouraged to contribute to the Fund. A concerted fund-raising campaign will be carried out by the secretariat of the Year. Concerned organizations also need to be encouraged to allocate resources for the Year.

12. The General Assembly will have before it draft resolution III of the Commission for Social Development, subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 1991/14. In considering it, the Assembly may also wish to bear in mind the conclusions of the present report.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS MADE BY THE PREPARATORY AND COORDINATING BODIES

13. Having considered the draft programme, the Commission, at its thirty-second session, recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of draft resolution III. In that resolution, the Assembly would approve for implementation the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in his report. It would reaffirm its invitation to all States to take prompt action to establish national mechanisms for the Year and invite all Governments and concerned organizations to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year. It would also request the preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year to keep preparations under their constant review and urge the Secretary-General to provide adequate staff to the Secretariat of the Year and reflect its strengthening in the programme budget for 1992-1993.

14. In suggesting an agenda for its thirty-third session in 1993, the Commission recommended as a priority subject of consideration the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions with particular emphasis on the family, bearing in mind the various concepts of the family in different political, social and cultural systems.

15. The preparatory body noted with satisfaction that the unanimous proclamation by the General Assembly of 1994 as International Year of the Family had increased the awareness and highlighted the importance of family issues among Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as interested national organizations and, consequently, had promoted a better knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members and had focused attention on the equal rights and responsibilities of all family members.

16. During deliberations of the preparatory body, a number of specific comments were made by representatives of Member States. The family was seen by many as the nucleus and pillar of society, which provided a framework for an integrated and comprehensive approach in social policy and could serve as a counterforce to fragmentation in social policy endeavours. The Year was welcomed by several representatives. It was stated that this reflected the recognition by the international community of the importance of the family unit to social progress and development.

17. Differences in family structures, cultural traditions and the concept of the family in various societies, it was stressed, should be provided for and stereotypes avoided. Issues that called for special attention included the changing role of men and women in the family; the problems of poor, single-parent, female-headed and migrant families; families with many children; education; insufficient income and unemployment; reconciling family and professional responsibilities; and child care. The well-being and growth of both children and adults should be the basis for the Year. Effective implementation of international strategies, conventions and declarations regarding women and children should be important elements in its observances.

18. The debate in the preparatory body called for more vigorous action in establishing national coordinating committees or other similar mechanisms for the Year. It also stressed the importance of concentrating on activities at the grass-roots level and involving non-governmental organizations, as well as grass-roots and service groups, in activities at the national level.

19. More international cooperation in strengthening the family was called for. The role of the United Nations should be mainly to focus on promotional activities, exchange of information, international coordination and facilitating participation of non-governmental organizations, whose involvement at all levels was crucial. International agencies, particularly those whose policies had a direct bearing on the family, should provide support for action at the national level and be fully involved in related activities for the Year.

20. In its resolution 45/133, the General Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to inform the Commission on the Status of Women on the preparations for the Year. The relevant portion of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session was provided to the latter at its thirty-fifth session.

21. At its first regular session in May 1991, the Economic and Social Council, the coordinating body for the Year, reviewed the recommendations of the preparatory body and approved its draft resolution III for transmission to the General Assembly.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

A. National level

22. In its resolution 45/133, the General Assembly invited Governments to exert all possible efforts to prepare for the Year, including action to establish national mechanisms. In March 1991, the Coordinator for the International Year of the Family addressed a letter to all Governments, providing suggested guidelines for the establishment of national committees and soliciting views. As indicated in communications received from Governments and statements of delegations at the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1991, various measures have been taken at the national level to prepare for the Year.

23. Pending the establishment of national coordination committees, 35 Governments have designated national focal points to liaise with the secretariat of the Year. Furthermore, a number of countries have already elaborated or are in the process of elaborating national programmes for the preparation and observance of the Year. Major elements of these programmes are to raise public awareness and develop policies and programmes which seek to improve the socio-economic conditions of families and enhance the rights of family members. Programmes also envisage technical assistance projects and resource mobilization.
24. The Government of Austria will establish a national committee headed by the Federal Minister for Environment, Youth and Family. The Committee will develop and coordinate programmes for the Year at the federal, provincial, regional and local levels. Specific measures will be taken to achieve maximum participation of grass-root groups and non-governmental organizations. The Government provided financial assistance for a United Nations survey of national policies for families and is considering the possibility of financing a staff member to work with the secretariat of the Year to support its functions relating to the voluntary sector.
25. In Bolivia, the National Committee of Solidarity and Social Development, under the National Direction for Promotion and Social Development, will act as the national committee for the Year. It has planned various activities, including a public awareness-raising campaign, organization of seminars, studies and programmes in the areas of health and nutrition.
26. The Government of Canada plans to play an important role in activities for the Year. As called for by the General Assembly resolution 45/133, it has indicated its willingness to second a staff member to the secretariat of the Year.
27. In China, a consultative meeting was scheduled to be organized by concerned Government departments to lead to the establishment of a national coordinating committee and the development of a programme of activities.
28. In 1990, Colombia established a Council for Youth, Women and the Family, under the Presidency of the Republic. Its mandate is to advise the President on policy measures; supervise and coordinate the elaboration of plans, programmes and projects in the areas of youth, women and the family; and promote nation-wide strategies in these areas. To enhance cooperation with the United Nations in the preparatory measures for the Year, the Director of the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare paid a visit to the Coordinator. Recently, a national committee for the Year has been established. It is chaired by the First Lady and includes prominent personalities and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Government of Colombia has also taken a lead role to convene an inter-American congress on the family, in 1992, to discuss regional family issues, promote and harmonize activities related to the Year at the regional level.

29. The Government of Cyprus has appointed a Ministerial Committee, which under the chairmanship of the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, is responsible for the establishment of a national committee for the Year. At its first meeting in May 1991, it considered a framework of activities for the Year and prepared a list of organizations to be represented in the national committee. The committee will carry out a wide spectrum of activities and will function under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance.

30. In the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, assisting the family has been identified as an urgent need, particularly in the current period of transition to market economy. A first concern in the context of preparations for the Year has been the clarification of the approach to family policy under changed economic circumstances. New family allowance schemes, child care services, implementation of the rights of the child and the problems of all types of families would be among the most important issues to be addressed. The establishment of a national committee comprising representatives of public and private sectors, churches and non-governmental organizations is under way.

31. In Finland, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health convened a meeting in May 1991 to consider preparations for the Year. It was agreed among the concerned authorities that a national coordinating group for the Year should be established. Also, a working group on family policy has recently completed its work. The Government is also considering seconding a staff member to the secretariat of the Year.

32. The Government of Germany plans to establish a national coordinating committee for the Year focusing on providing family-oriented housing, harmonizing family life and employment, and on the social environment of families. The Government has also pledged a generous contribution to finance a preparatory meeting on the topic selected by the Commission for Social Development for its priority and in-depth discussion.

33. In Greece, a coordinating committee has been set up by the Council of Ministers. Two executive committees are also envisaged. Activities planned by the coordinating committee include data collection, establishment of a data bank on family issues as well as an information campaign. A national congress is scheduled to exchange views and proposals on family issues.

34. In Jamaica, preparations are advanced to establish a national committee for the Year. Under the National Five-Year Development Plan, its activities would relate to agriculture, day care, health and community development and would focus on the situation of children, youth, disabled persons and the elderly.

35. Luxembourg has founded its national coordinating committee for the Year under the honorary presidency of Her Highness the Grand Duchess and chaired by the Minister for the Family and Solidarity. It comprises 40 personalities selected from various fields of social work and related areas. Its programme of activities includes sensitizing the public on family values, organizing

conferences and seminars for in-depth discussion on relevant issues, promoting a pedagogy of family life among children and youth through publication of booklets, organizing entertainment events and stimulating innovative approaches and measures by policy-makers to strengthen the family through the creation of a healthy family environment. Planned for 1994 are a family day and a family tourism week. The official emblem of the Year will be widely used. A special body, called "L'Association luxembourgeoise pour l'organisation de l'année internationale de la famille", has been established to mobilize funds for activities for the Year.

36. The Government of Madagascar is taking steps to establish Committees for the Survival and Development of the Family, which will coordinate nation-wide activities for the Year. Malaysia plans to establish a special committee for the Year, in addition to involving its National Population and Family Development Board. In Mauritius, a national coordinating committee was planned to be established in August 1991. The Government has initiated preparations for the Year and public awareness activities at local levels are under way. Morocco has set up a national coordinating committee. Its programme of activities will deal with such issues as economic development, education, culture, legislation, health, environment and migration. A charter of the family has been elaborated.

37. In Peru, preparatory work is being carried out to elaborate a national programme of activities. In the Philippines, the establishment of a national committee was scheduled for June 1991. Poland has advanced work on establishing a national committee under high-level chairmanship.

38. The Government of Portugal was the first to notify officially of the establishment of a national coordinating committee on the Year created by a parliamentary law. Headed by the Prime Minister, it includes the Minister for Employment and Social Security and selected personalities from governmental and private institutions dealing with the family and/or other social issues. Its functions will include promoting a heightened awareness of family problems, strengthening the capacity of national institutions to formulate and implement family policies, preparing a report on the current situation of the Portugese family, publishing a book on the problems of families in Portugal and creating a commemorative medal for the Year. The Council of Ministers of Portugal has also established an Executive Council, under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Family Affairs, to carry out the National Committee's decisions.

39. The Government of Spain is to establish a national committee. The Sudan has established a national coordinating mechanism. Thailand has created a national coordinating committee and has declared 14 April as Family Day.

40. In Turkey, the Turkish Family Research Institute, acting as the national coordinating committee for the Year, has initiated various activities. The first family week was celebrated in May 1991. A number of research activities will be carried out. Planned for 1994 are monthly conferences, a family council with the participation of experts from other countries and a family films week.

41. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is preparing to set up a national committee to coordinate action at the local level and to strengthen local institutions dealing with the family. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government will consider plans for the Year nearer its observances. The Government of Zaire has decided to establish a national committee for the Year.

42. The Holy See has informed Catholic church organizations and bodies about the Year and plans various activities. Its news bulletins include regular features on the Year. In Switzerland, the "Centrale pour les questions familiales" was created in August 1990 and is responsible for the establishment of a national committee to deal with issues relating to the Year.

B. Regional and international levels

1. Initiative of the First Lady of Costa Rica

43. The First Lady of Costa Rica, Madame Gloria de Calderon-Fournier, has launched a campaign among the First Ladies of the world to support the International Year of the Family. This initiative will be organized with the theme "First Ladies for the Family" and will commence with a special meeting of interested First Ladies, to be held at San José in 1992. An important focus will be to highlight and promote the role of women in the context of the Year. An international campaign by prominent persons, many of whom are directly involved in the social policy area, will provide moral and political support to the Year and impetus for its preparation.

2. Intergovernmental organizations

44. Many intergovernmental organizations have carried out an examination of their mandates and objectives in relation to the year. Though many of them do not treat families separately, they none the less recognize the impact of their activities on families. For others, families constitute an important focus of attention. Many organizations in both categories are planning to participate in the Year. Several of them have appointed focal points on the Year. Measures planned or being implemented include dissemination of information, organization of meetings and research.

45. The Council of Europe has expressed strong support for the Year, within a broad and flexible concept of the family. It has made progress in standardizing family policies and arriving at mutually agreed principles for action. Preparations for the Year have been considered by the Council's forums, such as the Steering Committee on Social Policy and the preparatory meeting for the twenty-second session of the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs. The Conference itself, in October 1991, is expected to develop a comprehensive outline of activities. In May 1991, the Commission of the European Communities organized a Conference on "Child, family and society", which also focused attention on "family-support policy at

the European level: preparation and execution of a post-1992 policy". Preparations for the Year will also be considered by the Social Policy Committee of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

46. The Organization of African Unity plans a promotional seminar on the Year at the regional level. The African Development Bank has selected "food resources: production, distribution, availability and preparation and family income" as its theme for the Year.

47. The Asian Development Bank will contribute to the Year by supporting family-related activities, especially in such areas as poverty alleviation, the role of women in development and social infrastructure development. The Bureau of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific will develop preparatory activities in the context of its future programmes.

48. The Organization of American States (OAS) appointed the Director-General of its Inter-American Children's Institute as the focal point for the Year. The Institute proposed that the General Assembly of OAS, at its session in 1991, adopt a resolution in support of the Year. The Institute will disseminate information on the Year and family issues, making particular use of its data base on children and the family. It also plans to launch a bibliographical journal on the family and conduct a research project on family structures in Latin America.

49. The Caribbean Community will respond to the Year on the basis of views to be provided by its ministerial body, at its next meeting, for which the Year is a specific agenda item.

3. Non-governmental organizations

50. Non-governmental organizations have responded positively to the General Assembly's invitation to participate in activities of the Year. Many of them are among the major actors in the preparatory process, just as they were a major force for its proclamation. They include not only organizations with a broad social development or a family-specific focus, but also several others which focus on sectoral or group-specific issues.

51. Many non-governmental organizations are disseminating information on the Year to their grass-roots groups and community organizations to activate them for the Year, including participation in the national coordinating committees. Existing means of communication, such as bulletins and newsletters, are effectively used. The emblem of the Year is extensively used. International non-governmental organizations also assist, directly or through national affiliates, in governmental efforts to set up national coordinating committees.

52. The non-governmental organizations Committees on the Family in New York and Vienna and the non-governmental organizations Group on the Family of the

non-governmental organizations (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris have made significant contributions to the preparatory process. The Vienna Committee prepared and distributed widely a check-list of activities for the Year; a paper on national coordinating bodies for the Year; a discussion paper on a charter of family rights; and an information kit on the Year. Its newsletter "Families International" serves as a further means to disseminate information. It organized three international meetings on the family; a fourth meeting, on family and environment, is planned for 1992. The New York Committee held three consultations on family issues. The third was on "Fathers in contemporary family life". The Paris Group will organize a colloquium on the role of the family in education and culture in February 1992.

53. The Youth and Family Life Education Network at Geneva, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and the non-governmental organizations Committee to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are planning to participate actively in activities for the Year. The Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat of the United Nations made a financial contribution to the Voluntary Fund for the Year.

54. In order to promote awareness of the principles and objectives of the Year, many non-governmental organizations held special sessions on the Year during their regular organizational or other meetings; several others plan to do so during forthcoming events. Some others have selected topics related to the Year or to the family as major themes of events to be organized. Publications are also planned. The International Catholic Child Bureau has developed a programme for the Year. The International Council on Social Welfare will integrate family themes in its forthcoming regional meetings. "Focusing on Households and Families: Change and Exchange" is the theme for the next World Congress of the International Federation of Home Economics in 1992. It is also preparing a study entitled "Families in Transition". The European Union of Women will hold a workshop on family questions during its General Assembly in 1992. SOS-Kinderdorf International plans a symposium on the Year in 1993 and several publications to mark the Year. Rehabilitation International is planning to have the Year as a major theme for its Sixth European Regional Conference in 1994. The World Assembly of Youth has selected "Adolescents preparing for family" as its theme for the Year and plans a publication on "Youth preparing for family".

55. Meetings or seminars on family issues are planned to assist in the identification of priorities and strategies to deal with them as well as to promote awareness. For example, the International Union of Family Organizations will hold annual world conferences from 1991 to 1995 on the social, economic, cultural and political rights of families. Fundación Prodefa (international secretariat) will hold a meeting in September 1991, which is fourth in a series on the family. The International Council of Women will hold an international conference on "Changing families, changing men and women, changing societies" in February 1992.

56. Some non-governmental organizations are integrating a family focus in training programmes. Family components have been incorporated into training programmes by the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Disabled Peoples' International and the International Federation of Social Workers. The International Association of Schools of Social Work organized a workshop on "developing post-graduate social work curriculum on the family" and is planning a series of train-the-trainer workshops which would focus on new curricula contents on the family.

57. Some organizations have developed policy and position papers on the family to guide participation in the Year. For example, the International Federation of Home Economics has adopted a policy statement and a programme plan on the Year. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has adopted a policy document on the Year to serve as guidelines for affiliates and will carry out a concerted campaign for the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 156 on workers with family responsibilities. The 1991 Catholic Charities USA Congress considered a policy statement on the family. The Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted a resolution recalling the proclamation of the Year and focusing on domestic violence.

58. Some non-governmental organizations have initiated special organizational structures to enhance preparation and observance of the Year while others draw on existing ones. The International Union of Family Organizations has set up a steering committee to guide preparations for the Year. The Salvation Army has set up an advisory group and appointed a focal point on the Year. The European Union of Women, the International Federation of Home Economics, Pax Romana and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations utilize working groups or commissions on the family. A planning committee has been set up by several non-governmental organizations related to the Roman Catholic Church to develop a common response to the Year.

4. United Nations system

59. Several organizations and agencies of the United Nations system are preparing activities for the Year. Many have identified and are carrying out specific activities to support its preparation and observance. A significant step has been the designation of focal points for the Year by 23 organizations, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Secretariat to promote and coordinate activities for the Year and liaise with the secretariat of the Year. Collaboration has been successful, particularly in terms of exchanging information, awareness-raising, elaborating a programme of activities and coordinating efforts.

60. The Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat plans to produce an information kit on the family; a film on the family and ageing, that also commemorates the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Ageing (General Assembly resolution 37/51); and to sensitize non-governmental organizations at the field level, particularly in developing countries, on issues involving the family in economic development, social

development and human rights. It also plans a visual information project to co-produce two documentary films on women as one-parent family and women as heads of families. The preparatory process in the Department also includes a series of meetings with non-governmental organizations.

61. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is implementing a regional social development strategy towards the year 2000 and beyond that incorporates family issues. At its forty-seventh session in April 1991, the Commission adopted resolution 47/13 on the International Year of the Family, requesting, *inter alia*, its Executive Secretary to convene in 1993 a regional intergovernmental preparatory meeting of its members and associate members for the observance of the Year and to initiate a series of country studies on the role of the family in development to provide a basis for formulating proposals for regional action.

62. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has identified two major areas of activities: providing of up-to-date information and analysis of the current situation of the family in the region; and policy-oriented studies and proposals for action by Governments.

63. The Economic Commission for Africa plans to analyse family law and legislation in the African region, with a view to proposing appropriate reforms that would promote the role and place of the family in society. It also intends to convene a regional seminar on the impact of social and economic changes on the African family.

64. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia intends to focus on: harmonization of the role of women within and outside the family; the needs of the family in terms of shelter; and families in war-torn areas.

65. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has three programme areas directly relevant to the family: the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (General Assembly resolution 43/181) as follow-up to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, 1987; the celebration of the World Habitat Day, which in 1989 was dedicated to the topic of Shelter, Health and the Family; and the topic of Women and Human Settlements.

66. The main issues of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have important family dimensions. These include promoting family reunification; supporting unaccompanied children; strengthening the role of the family in dealing with traumatized refugee children; addressing the issue of domestic violence; and supporting refugee female-headed households.

67. The United Nations Children's Fund intends to focus on the family environment of the child and the role of the father in the growth and development of the child. Its major contribution to the Year will be at the field level. The activities connected with the Year would offer an important opportunity to implement the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (see A/45/625, annex) adopted by the World Summit for Children.

68. Two major areas in which the United Nations Development Programme plans to develop programmes to support the Year are women and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has supported activities that both implicitly and explicitly pertain to the family. At the interregional level, it has supported several projects focusing on the family: "Safe motherhood initiative"; economic situation of female-headed households; and a multi-volume publication on families of the world. At the country level, activities assisted by UNFPA include family planning activities, data collection and analysis, and research on socio-economic trends that have implications for families. The Fund plans an expert group meeting on "Family planning programmes, health and family-well-being", one of six major clusters of issues selected by the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

69. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East shifted its focus from providing emergency services to more developmental and family-oriented services. Emphasis is now on the family as a focal point for care. Innovative and promotive health activities have been developed with the family environment of refugees as the principal target.

70. Within its Human and Social Development Programme, the United Nations University is finalizing a publication on household, gender and age. It also focuses research on changes produced by different macro-events on women's fertility rates, economic decision-taking, education and work, and the impact on family structure, formation and development.

71. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women emphasizes the changing roles, activities and status of women in the family, as well as on the cultural and community contexts. Its main programmes for 1991 and 1992 focus on the preparation for the Year dealing with statistics, water, energy, credit, technology, communications and environment, among others.

72. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute concentrates on responding to the needs of the international community, particularly the developing countries, through five areas of activities: research, technical cooperation, training, library services and publications. Technical assistance and advisory support will be the major activities of the Institute in support of the Year, focusing on youth problems; drug abuse; social development and crime; community-based crime prevention; and migration.

73. In its activities for the Year, the United Nations Development Fund for Women focuses on increasing the understanding of the headship and economic maintenance roles of women in families.

74. In its programme of work, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) recognizes the important role of the family in the various aspects of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. One of its main contributions for the Year will be supporting non-governmental organizations in relevant activities.

75. The activities of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) regarding the family derive from its Convention No. 156 on workers with family responsibilities and the corresponding Recommendation No. 165. ILO undertakes research regarding measures taken to assist workers with family responsibilities in the area of child care. Another area of concern is the situation of home workers, often persons with family responsibilities.

76. To support the Year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identified five areas of activities: providing advice to Member States on supporting women as well as supporting diverse forms of families in their policies and programmes; identifying family members as participants and beneficiaries in FAO technical assistance projects; collecting data and statistics and carrying out studies on family types and their relation to production and delivery systems; focusing on food security at the family level; and training in gender issues in relation to programme, project and policy formulation.

77. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plans several important elements related to the family and the Year. These include: a study on social changes and the family; a population education project on family life education; and a project supporting government policies towards social and educational programmes on the young child and the family environment. It proposes for 1992-1993 a set of activities for the preparation for the Year, such as working groups at the national level and studies on gender roles and inter-generational relations within the family, as well as publications and disseminating of information. An interdisciplinary committee on the family will coordinate its activities for the Year.

78. The main activity of the World Health Organization in relation to family is supporting the role of the family in health by promoting knowledge of health and disease, using appropriate technology, and providing health care infrastructure based on a primary health-care approach. In the preparation for the Year, WHO will re-emphasize the changing role of women in family planning, safe motherhood, and child survival and development. The World Health Organization will consider national policies on HIV/AIDS and the impact on families.

79. Family issues are especially important to the United Nations Office at Vienna as the nucleus for social policy and development in the United Nations Secretariat. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is the focal point for the implementation of major global plans and programmes of action in the field of social policy. Attention will be given to the Year in the context of its subject areas. The Social Development Division prepared two working documents on "The family - developmental social welfare and specific social groups" and the "International Year of the Family from the viewpoint of crime prevention and criminal justice". The Division for the Advancement of Women conducted several activities related to the Year. Recently, a seminar on vulnerable women considered the situation of

female-headed households. A Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Australian Institute of Family Studies was signed, to facilitate establishing a network of family-oriented research institutes, initiated by the secretariat of the Year.

5. Inter-agency cooperation

80. In order to develop a system-wide coordinated approach and actions, ad hoc inter-agency meetings on the Year have been established. The first was held on 13 and 14 March 1991, attended by representatives of 18 organizations, bodies and agencies. It reviewed their family-related mandates and programmes; examined the role of the United Nations system for the Year and identified ways to strengthen inter-agency co-operation.

81. The meeting concluded that a distinct vision and clarity of purpose was essential for the preparations of the Year and organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should assist in achieving these, especially at the local, national and regional levels. Its recommendations included the preparation of a technical paper on such issues as conceptualization, typologies, structures and functions concerning the family in order to develop a general approach; identification of specific themes for the Year that highlight the family dimension of each agency's mandate; strengthening the role of field and regional offices in promoting local and national action; and devoting special attention to projects relating to refugee families. As also recommended by the meeting, guidelines on the expected input for the Year from the system organizations have been prepared and distributed to the concerned organizations and agencies by the secretariat of the Year. The next ad hoc inter-agency meeting is scheduled for March 1992.

82. Initial joint projects have also been developed. For example, UNESCO, with the assistance of UNFPA, has implemented a project involving five regional seminars on "The Future of the Family". An international symposium on "The Future of the Family in the World" held at Paris in January 1991 reviewed the results of the regional seminars. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and UNICEF have initiated joint efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. Coordinator of and secretariat for the International Year of the Family

83. Since his appointment in 1990, the Coordinator for the Year has been active to set into motion the preparatory process for the International Year of the Family, in both substantive and organizational terms. With this in view, he has established contacts with the major actors of the event: Member States, international organizations and agencies, the non-governmental organizations and other entities. He discussed the Year with a number of high-level Government officials and policy makers, heads of United Nations organizations and agencies, heads of regional organizations, representatives

of the academic community and non-governmental organizations. He held very encouraging exchanges of views at the headquarters of the World Bank, the Council of Europe, the Commission of European Communities and the Nordic Council of Ministers. His efforts included also fund-raising activities. The Coordinator and staff of the secretariat of the Year attended several international events on the family, where they spoke on the principles, objectives and programme of the Year.

84. The secretariat of the International Year of the Family, functioning under the Coordinator, has focused its limited resources in mobilizing and assisting Member States, concerned bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector to initiate preparatory action for the Year. For this purpose, it has engaged in a number of substantive, organizational and promotional activities.

85. The secretariat of the Year proceeded from an assumption that few other subjects dealing with social policy endeavours lend themselves better to a cross-sectoral approach than does the subject of the family, which encompasses a unique convergence and comprehensiveness of social policy issues. The secretariat has sought, therefore, to promote attention in the preparatory process to substantive issues in several social areas and sectors. These include, in particular, developmental social welfare policies and programmes, women's issues, global strategies for the integration of specific social groups, including the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children adopted by the World Summit for Children (see A/45/625, annex) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex), as well as the role of the family in the prevention of AIDS, substance abuse and crime.

86. The substantive dimensions and issues relating to the family and preparations for the Year have been brought to the attention of the secretariats of forthcoming major United Nations events, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, and the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

87. To facilitate the efforts of Governments, suggested guidelines on the establishment of national coordination mechanisms for the Year have been prepared and made available to Member States. All relevant documentation and material to launch promotional and information activities have been provided to Governments, concerned bodies and agencies of the United Nations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including relevant country and regional offices. The secretariat organized the first ad hoc inter-agency meeting on the Year, in March 1991. It has also been supporting the planning and execution of specific activities, such as substantive meetings on family issues and promotional campaigns.

88. The secretariat has provided substantive and organizational support to the non-governmental organizations Committees on the Family in Vienna and New York. Close working relationship has been established with the non-governmental organizations Group on Family of the Non-Governmental Organizations (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris and the Youth and Family Life Education Network in Geneva. An informal consultative meeting of the chairpersons and representatives of these non-governmental organizations platforms was organized by the secretariat, in order to explore ways of effective cooperation and coordination. Similar meetings will continue throughout the preparatory process. These are envisaged as a forum to facilitate coordination of work related to the Year between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations in an effective and economical manner, by exchanging information, reviewing between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations relationship, suggesting ways and means for its strengthening and identifying possibilities of mutual assistance.
89. Work has been initiated to establish a network of research institutions dealing with family issues. Several dozen centres have been approached and requested to collaborate in setting up a network, in order to stimulate national and local research on family issues; facilitate dissemination of knowledge and information pertaining to family-related research; and promote joint action, with a view to creating a publication programme "IYF Series". As a first step, information on major areas of study and programme of activities of the institutions is being compiled.
90. Initial steps have been taken to set up a database on the Year. For this purpose, WANG Austria has donated material and technical support. To facilitate the work of the secretariat in the area of communications, the Philips Dictations Systems has contributed a Philips Voice Manager.
91. Various elements of a promotional and information campaign have been carried out. An official emblem has been chosen for the Year. The simple design of the emblem, created by Catherine Littasy-Rollier, a Swiss-born artist residing in Vienna, consists of a heart sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart, to symbolize life and love in a home. Its widespread use is being promoted and guidelines on its use have been distributed in all official languages of the United Nations. In addition to the continued dissemination of the first introductory poster on the Year, a second poster has been prepared and distributed. A series of greeting cards and postal stamps to commemorate the Year is being explored with the UNICEF Greeting Card Operation and the United Nations Postal Administration, respectively. Also planned are souvenir articles on the Year and other promotional items.
92. A booklet on the International Year of the Family, bringing together basic information on the Year, has been published. Its printing and reproduction were financed through a generous contribution of the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board. The first issue of an International Year of the Family Bulletin has been launched, in order to meet the need for fast and timely dissemination of information. Three more issues are planned for 1991. Subject to availability of resources, the secretariat for the Year plans to

publish regularly an inventory of national and international action in preparation and observance of the Year.

V. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

93. In proclaiming the International Year of the Family, the General Assembly did not allocate any specific resources for its preparation in the 1990-1991 programme budget. To enable the United Nations to carry out its functions of a catalyst, facilitator and coordinator for the Year, modest resources have been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Efforts will be made to mobilize extrabudgetary resources. A number of developing countries have identified technical assistance programmes in the field of the family as a priority concern.

94. As recommended by the Secretary-General and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/133, the Voluntary Trust Fund for the International Year of the Family has been established. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited all States and interested organizations to contribute to the Fund. The resources of the Fund will be used to support national action and projects, especially in developing countries, that directly promote objectives of the Year; technical assistance and advisory services to requesting Governments regarding the Year; building national capacities for long-term family-oriented policies; and research, data collection, information exchange and experience sharing between countries on family issues.

95. To promote contributions, a number of potential donors have been contacted; others are being identified. Initial contributions have already been made or pledged, including contributions in kind, mentioned earlier. A fund-raising campaign, covering public and private sectors, will be carried out as promotional material becomes available. Generous contributions to the Fund are crucial to ensure adequate preparation and successful observance of the Year, particularly in developing countries which may be hindered in carrying out effective measures by the lack of resources and/or technical expertise.

96. In spite of the Fund's very modest resources, the secretariat of the Year has already committed its funds to a technical cooperation project, to be executed together with the Mouvement International ATD Quart Monde, which will be a study entitled "Families in conditions of extreme poverty".
