



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 December 2023

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-eighth session

11–22 March 2024

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by **Coordinadora Europea de Familias Numerosas**, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The European Confederation of large families speaks for almost 198 million people living in families with three and more children in Europe (Eurostat 2022), but also – as it has contributed to the birth of large families’ associations in Latin America and Asia – of millions of large families in the world. Among other issues, we fight the social stigma affecting large families and the common place of large families’ mothers being uneducated women (see Bujard,2020) who “would choose not to have many children if they could do it” as it was recently referred by an important European politician.

Maternity has become a taboo for girls, afraid it would reduce their professional and personal development and their economic situation. They tend to postpone it and then it could be too late. On the other hand, pregnancy has become a poverty risk factor (C. Laucello and K. Thelwell). All this is deeply wrong. Women should not be put in the situation of choosing between motherhood and personal and professional aspirations. Having children should not be an exclusion or poverty risk factor. Maternity should not prevent girls and women to live a full social, economic and cultural life and society should be tailored to help them in their tasks.

For all these reasons, we ask UN Women to advocate for the recognition of the fundamental role of maternity and of the women that choose to be mother. It permits the transmission of life, of culture, of values, of love and the very existence of communities. It has to be recognised in its social and human value and therefore protected and supported by society.

Women should be allowed to fulfil their desire of motherhood with social protections as maternity leaves, working time flexibility, employment policies, work-life policies, remote working facilities (according SDG 8), health security (SDG3), financial support (SDG2), proper living conditions (SDG11). Moreover, the invisible work of care they produce everyday should be valued and recognized, according SDG 5.4.
