

REPORT OF THE THIRD AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

(Vienna, 10-12 March 1993)

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OVERVIEW

1. The Third Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family made six recommendations to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (see sect. II below, recommendations 1-6).
2. The participants reviewed progress made at the mid-point of the preparatory phase of the International Year of the Family (IYF). They described the programmes and activities being carried out and planned for the Year by their respective organizations, including measures made by legislative bodies.
3. The participants agreed on a draft text of a joint policy statement in support of the International Year of the Family, for issuance by the heads of organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in 1993.
4. The participants agreed on the joint implementation of eight projects, of substantive and promotional nature, in preparation and observance of the Year. They considered several other projects being implemented or proposed by the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and identified ways of collaboration and coordination with respect to those projects.
5. The participants considered the policy implications and support for families resulting from the World Summit for Children, its World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for its implementation in the 1990s, 1/ as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 2/ They identified means of highlighting the relevance of family issues and the Year in the preparatory processes of various relevant international events.
6. The participants reviewed the plans for activities of non-governmental organizations for the Year, on the basis of presentations made and papers submitted by their representatives. They identified ways of strengthening the partnership role with the non-governmental organizations and specific measures to support activities of the voluntary sector.
7. The participants agreed to recommend the holding of a fourth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on the International Year of the Family, in March 1994, for three working days, either preceding or following the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A provisional agenda was also recommended. It was further recommended that non-governmental organizations should be represented at the meeting in an observer capacity.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING 3/

8. The Third Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family was convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 10 to 12 March 1993.
9. The meeting was attended by participants from bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations (see annex I to the present report). Also

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attending as observers were representatives of the non-governmental organizations.

10. In his opening statement, the Director of the Social Development Division, United Nations Office at Vienna, and Coordinator for the International Year of the Family recalled the state of preparations for IYF a year before, at the time of the second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting, when organizational structures for the Year were just beginning to evolve and a promotional and information campaign had only just been initiated. Since that time, significant progress had been made in preparing for the Year at the national, regional and international levels. Governments, United Nations organizations and agencies as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were engaged in a wide variety of activities. At the substantive level, a broad agreement on a number of specific concepts had evolved. Two important events in the preparatory process had recently taken place: the twelfth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, at which the Committee had noted with appreciation the level and quality of the preparations for the Year; and the thirty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, the preparatory body for the Year, at which the Commission had expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for a well-coordinated and impressive effort in the preliminary and preparatory phases for the Year, despite resource constraints, and for the considerable progress made towards its observance. In addition, the Commission for Social Development had invited policy-making organs of specialized agencies and other bodies in the United Nations system to consider, in the context of their substantive mandates, the principles and objectives of the Year as well as follow-up action to the Year for the benefit of the families of the world; they were also asked to include in their programme budgets for 1994 and 1995, as appropriate, programme elements for the observance of and follow-up to the Year. The Coordinator identified five major consensus-building elements of the family which had emerged as a result of the IYF preparatory process: that the family was the natural and fundamental group unit of society and was entitled to protection by society and the State; that there were various concepts of the family in different social, cultural and political systems; that gender equality, the equal participation of women in employment and shared parental responsibilities were essential elements of modern family policy; that families were the fullest reflection, at the grass-roots level, of the strengths and weaknesses of the social and developmental welfare environment, and as such offered a uniquely comprehensive and synthesizing approach to social issues; and finally that families, as basic units of social life, were major agents of sustainable development at all levels of society and their contribution to that process was therefore crucial to its success. Having pointed out some of the challenging tasks ahead, the Coordinator stressed the need to identify more concrete measures for joint action by United Nations organizations and agencies.

11. The agenda, as adopted by the meeting, is contained in annex II.

12. The report of the meeting was adopted on 12 March 1993.

II. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

13. The Third Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family adopted the following six recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family that a joint policy statement in support of the Year should be issued by the heads of organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in 1993, 4/ the Administrative Committee on Coordination may wish to approve the draft Inter-Agency Statement contained in annex II to the present report.

Recommendation 2

In preparation and observance of the Year, the following joint projects should be implemented by the United Nations organizations and agencies:

(a) A project on families at risk, to be undertaken under the shared leadership of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to develop a conceptual framework, including indicators for the identification of vulnerable families and models for intervention. It is proposed to hold a task force meeting on the project, for not more than three working days, in conjunction with the regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1993 in Geneva;

(b) An information kit on the Year, to be prepared under the leadership of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat;

(c) A film on the impact of the ageing of populations on the family, to be produced under the leadership of the Department of Public Information, with possible financial and substantive contributions from other bodies and agencies;

(d) A video on female-headed and single-parent families, to be produced under the leadership of the Department of Public Information, with possible financial and substantive contributions from other bodies and agencies;

(e) A publication entitled "Families: Courage and hope in a world of change", to be prepared under the leadership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(f) A photo exhibit on families, to be produced under the leadership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(g) An inventory of action for the Year envisaged by United Nations bodies and agencies, to be prepared under the leadership of the secretariat of the International Year of the Family;

(h) A manual on provisions relating to the family contained in United Nations Conventions and other instruments, with illustrative examples of implementation measures, to be prepared under the shared leadership of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the secretariat of the International Year of the Family, in close cooperation with the non-governmental community.

Recommendation 3

Family issues and the International Year of the Family should be adequately taken into consideration in the preparatory processes for forthcoming major international events, particularly the World Conference on Human Rights (1993); the International Conference on Population and Development (1994); the World Summit for Social Development (1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995); and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1995).

Recommendation 4

Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should bring to the attention of non-governmental organizations working in their specific areas of concern the need to join actively in the preparations and observances for the International Year of the Family.

Recommendation 5

Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should make every possible effort to support the World Non-Governmental Organization Forum on Promoting Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies, to be held in Malta from 28 November to 2 December 1993. In particular, they should consider sponsoring professional workshops on subjects of their direct interest and should explore the possibility of financing the representation of selected national and local-level non-governmental organizations from developing countries.

Recommendation 6

In order to further advance inter-agency cooperation and coordination, a fourth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on the Year should be convened in March 1994, for three working days, either preceding or following the session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The following provisional agenda is proposed for the meeting:

1. Review of the preparatory process for the International Year of the Family and measures for its observance.
2. Inter-agency projects for the International Year of the Family.
3. Major international events of relevance to the International Year of the Family.

4. Partnership with non-governmental organizations: activities of non-governmental organizations for the International Year of the Family and measures of support.

5. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Progress made at the mid-point of the preparatory phase of the International Year of the Family

14. Representatives of the bodies or specialized agencies of the United Nations system described their completed, ongoing or planned activities for the preparation and observance of the Year. They also made available to the meeting brief papers describing in further detail the priorities and relevant activities of their respective organizations.

15. Preparatory activities of the Department of Public Information sought to increase awareness and knowledge concerning family-related issues and to build support for activities to improve the situation of families around the world. Key audiences included the news media, non-governmental organizations, government officials, educational institutions and the general public. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family and the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) at its sixteenth session, the Department had convened, in February 1993, an informal inter-agency working group, made up of representatives of the United Nations system entities located in New York, to discuss areas of possible cooperation. Elements of the Department's information programme, which were coordinated with the IYF secretariat, included an information kit containing articles on key issues concerning the family; a documentary film on ageing and the family; a video on single-parent and female-headed families; a photo exhibit, sponsored by a major magazine on family issues; television spots on the Year; and regular United Nations press, radio and television coverage of issues and activities related to IYF. United Nations organizations and agencies were strongly encouraged to contribute financially and substantively to the two video projects, which required additional resources for completion.

16. In close collaboration with the IYF secretariat and the Government of Colombia, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was organizing the United Nations Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the IYF, to be held in Cartagena from 10 to 13 August 1993. The ECLAC perspective on family issues was linked to a broader proposal for the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries, that had become the main point of reference for institutional thinking and a source of inspiration for work on different areas. The central thesis of the proposal was the simultaneous achievement of both changes in productive patterns and higher social equity, which was necessary to avoid any reversal in the progress made in any one of the two objectives. Research done by ECLAC within this general framework showed that recent changes in family constitution and structure had particularly impaired the socialization capacity of low-income families. The results also suggested that improving the socialization capacity of vulnerable

families was one of the more effective ways to avoid the perpetuation of poverty and social inequalities between generations. The findings would be presented in the 1992 edition of the ECLAC publication entitled Social Panorama.

17. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa (ESCWA) pointed out that it was important to identify the conditions of the Arab family in a period when the region was going through rapid transformations. Any change which took place in the Arab family must reflect changes in the status of Arab women, for whom the main focal points of change or significant marks of progress consisted in the levels of their education and employment. These were the two main variables that constituted the foundation for change in the status of women and, consequently, in the Arab family. ESCWA, in September 1992, had adopted resolution 186 (XVI) on the International Year of the Family and had initiated an activity entitled "Assessment of the situation of Arab women returnees and their families as a result of the Gulf War". In collaboration with the IYF secretariat, ESCWA would convene an expert group meeting in preparation for the Year, tentatively scheduled for 8 to 11 November 1993. The Arab Regional Population Conference had under its provisional agenda a paper entitled "Family planning, health and family well-being in the Arab countries". ESCWA would also devote a special session to the issue of "support services received by the elderly from the family: the changing role of traditional social networks" at its regional meeting on the situation and prospects of ageing and development of policies and programmes for the elderly, tentatively scheduled to be held during the second half of 1993. It was also initiating an inter-agency task force on the family with United Nations agencies in the region, regional Arab organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations involved in IYF preparations.

18. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights stated that many international human rights norms and standards existed to promote and protect human rights relating to the family. These included the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 5/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2/ and the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons. 6/ Human rights bodies could make an active contribution through their dialogue with Member States and by raising awareness about family issues and the role of the family in promoting human rights and development. The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities dealt with the problems of child prostitution, the sale of children and child labour exploitation. Under a recently elaborated programme of action, reference had been made to the need for preventive educational measures aimed at vulnerable groups including street children, adolescent mothers and single and abandoned mothers. It had emphasized the need for social measures and development assistance that gave priority to formulating family policy aimed at preventing abuse.

19. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements indicated that the physical conditions under which families lived were of fundamental importance as they had a significant influence on the ability of families and households to survive in urban and rural settlements. Particularly in developing countries, public sector programmes had largely failed to prevent the further deterioration of the living environment, as evidenced by the uncontrolled spread of slums and squatter settlements. In response, the work programme of the Centre assisted countries with the implementation of strategies

which called for cooperative partnerships with households and community organizations to improve conditions in those settlements. The activities of the Centre in observance of the IYF focused on those conditions in urban and rural settlements which determined the living environment of families. The organization had identified four programmes which had particularly contributed to meeting the objectives of IYF: (a) the Community Development Programme, implemented through operational projects in Bolivia, Zambia and Sri Lanka; (b) the Women-in-Development Programme, which promoted the role of women in improving the living environment; (c) the Environmental Health Programme, which contributed to a better understanding of the relationships between the urban environment and family health; and (d) the improvement of living conditions for the elderly and disabled, which offered guidelines to Governments of developing countries on community-based programmes to assist the elderly and disabled. The Centre was currently preparing a brochure on its programmes for IYF. In accordance with established practice, the 1993 World Habitat Day (4 October) would again focus on the impact of shelter conditions on the quality of life for families. For 1994, a family-related theme for World Habitat Day (4 October) was currently being considered. It was noted that the General Assembly had decided to hold a second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in June 1996.

20. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had made intensive efforts to involve all UNHCR field offices in preparation for and observance of IYF. Activities were aimed at enhancing the role and functions of the refugee family. UNHCR had developed a plan of action, which consisted of enabling the refugee family to care for its most vulnerable members (such as the elderly, disabled, mentally ill, unaccompanied minors and women-headed households) by integrating appropriate activities into the programme for each country; promoting national legislation that facilitated the reunion of separated families and regularized their documentary and legal status; and involving other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and Governments in efforts to assist the refugee family in achieving economic self-reliance and viability as a social unit. Actions undertaken included an awareness campaign among field offices through dissemination of material, posters and other literature related to the Year; competitions for refugee children and UNHCR staff; development of a UNHCR logo and slogan that linked UNHCR and IYF; dissemination of model programmes among offices; and a discussion paper on UNHCR and IYF. An overall community-based approach was being adopted to provide support to individual families through mutual support systems. Cross-cultural dimensions and gender issues as well as the changed roles and functions of men and women would be addressed in preparation for and observance of IYF. In-service training would be provided to staff to promote creativity and sensibility regarding the needs of refugee families.

21. In preparation for IYF, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had undertaken an internal review of both its policies and programmes of assistance with respect to their relevance and ability to respond to changing trends in family structures as well as to the mobilization of families in support of global goals for children. The information materials on IYF had been shared with regional and country offices. They had been encouraged to assist in the promotion of IYF and to participate in national level actions related to its observance. In most countries, the IYF focal points were UNICEF counterpart ministries, which had allowed close collaboration, the advocacy of

"family-friendly" programmes and the reorientation of existing programmes to maximize family impact. UNICEF advocacy included utilizing public events to focus on IYF. For instance, the family would be the theme for the observance of the Day of the African Child in Swaziland in June 1993. Similarly, the family would be the main theme for the proposed meeting of the First Ladies of Latin America in Costa Rica in mid-1993. UNICEF was cooperating with the Department of Public Information in the production of a film on the family and an IYF information kit; with four other United Nations agencies on the Global Family Project, which would lead to a publication entitled Families: Views from Within; and with the Population Council, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other agencies on a special IYF publication on the family, which would highlight the policy implications of changing family structures and provide new insights to programmes responsive to emerging needs. UNICEF was also assisting in the preparation of a publication on women in the family. Finally, the Greeting Cards Office of UNICEF had developed special IYF products, such as the IYF bookmark, a set of earrings and a brooch with the IYF logo, a desk agenda and a set of greeting cards on the family theme.

22. UNFPA was supporting a number of research and awareness-raising activities in connection with the International Year of the Family, including a study of changing family structures and composition, with particular emphasis on the phenomenon of female-headed families. In the area of women, population and the environment, UNFPA was supporting an in-depth study in four countries of the impact of environmental changes on the role of women in the economy and the community, with particular emphasis on the effects of environmental degradation on the health and well-being of the family. It was also funding a number of monographs pertaining to the family, including a publication entitled Families: Views from Within. The Fund was also providing assistance to a multi-volume review entitled "Families of the World". A number of UNFPA activities in connection with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994 had direct relevance to the preparation of the IYF. Several of the monographs being prepared for ICPD would address, inter alia, the implications for the family of demographic change. The six Expert Group Meetings in preparation for ICPD, particularly those on Population and Women and on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being, had discussed and made recommendations pertinent to the interrelationship between population trends and the family. In addition to those various initiatives at the global level, UNFPA was working with countries to assist in efforts pertaining to the family and IYF. UNFPA had encouraged countries to adopt components of the Safe Motherhood Initiative in their programming as one means of promoting family well-being.

23. The programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in the areas of education, health and relief and social services were of great significance to the family life of the more than 2.7 million Palestine refugees. Its Education Department had planned essay competitions and special discussion groups for students on family and family-related topics, while its Health Department had planned to strengthen its family-planning services as an integral part of its maternal and child health services. A basic function of its Relief and Social Services programmes was to support the family as an important social institution and fundamental unit of the community. During the IYF, it would intensify efforts to develop its women's programme centres, which were multi-purpose focal points in the refugee camps designed to accommodate UNRWA work with women and to support women's own

initiatives. The centres offered basic rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, supporting their families and involving disabled persons in the life of the community. The UNRWA Public Information Office would highlight the IYF through its information activities which would mark the Year with a special focus on the Palestine refugee family.

24. The United Nations University (UNU) and its research and training centres, especially the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), had produced many monographs that related directly to the issues and concerns of IYF. In particular, these monographs could serve as relevant background material for IYF regional preparatory meetings, especially for the Western Asia, Asia and Pacific and European regions. As part of the UNU/WIDER research programme on women and development for the next biennium, a proposal would be submitted for a workshop on economic crisis and the family covering a selected number of countries. The workshop would address issues of social protection, employment, income, labour migration and household division of labour, as those issues had been affected by the world economic crisis and experienced at the family level. Collaborative work with Women in Development Units and IYF focal points in other agencies and regional commissions was being explored, including support for the World Non-Governmental Organization Forum, to be held in Malta.

25. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was involved in a number of projects that would assist in the understanding of the current situation of families. Work was proceeding on a study designed to look at data requirements for a more holistic view of the elderly, especially elderly women; a study on migration, to develop a conceptual framework and identify needs for the compilation of statistics on the migration of women and women refugees, with a particular emphasis on the effects of migration on families; and a study to develop and test a methodology for the collection of time-use data needed to reaffirm the extent and value of productive work undertaken on an unpaid basis within households in the internal sector and in subsistence agriculture. In addition, the Institute would be involved in the design of methodology for improving the use and quality of existing statistics on women in the area of drug abuse, addressing women as both drug users and major preventive agents within the family. The second issue of INSTRAW News in 1993 would focus on women and the family.

26. The representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) pointed out that the family was not only the victim of drug abuse but could also be an important agent in the struggle against it. Since women played an important role in creating an anti-drug abuse environment in all societies, UNDCP coordinated cooperation within the United Nations system in respect of activities addressing the role of women in drug control-related matters. The Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, held in Vienna from 14 to 16 September 1992, had decided that in 1994 the theme of the Inter-Agency Meeting should be women, drug abuse and drug control. The Meeting had also agreed that the United Nations system should endeavour to elaborate a single, system-wide position paper for the Fourth World Conference on Women on the above-mentioned theme, in close consultation with concerned entities. UNDCP would also prepare a paper on drugs and the family.

27. At its 225th session, in Geneva, in February and March 1993, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (ILO), took note of its contribution to IYF. This included the General Survey of the application of the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) and Recommendation (No. 165), to be carried out by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, in March, and to be subsequently considered by the Conference Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in June 1993. The standards aimed at promoting equality of opportunity and treatment between men and women workers with family responsibilities, as well as between workers with family responsibilities and other workers. They also highlighted a sharing of family responsibilities within the family as a means of achieving that end. The findings of the General Survey would serve as a basis for organizing seminars and providing technical advisory services to Governments, employers and workers' organizations throughout 1994 in support of efforts in the field. The adoption in 1994 of new standards on part-time work, a form of work which was often used in order to accommodate family commitments, was also relevant. Two special issues of the Conditions of Work Digest were forthcoming, one in late 1993 on maternity protection and the other in 1994 on workplace family-friendly policies; both issues would serve to promote integrated measures on work and the family. A study of measures being taken to assist workers who had caring responsibilities towards elderly family members would also be published by 1994. Other relevant work items were under way, including research on workplace programmes for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, which could severely affect family cohesion. ILO would continue its work in the areas of employment, unemployment and poverty alleviation; the promotion of equal opportunities and treatment for men and women in employment; and the abolition of child labour and the improvement of the conditions of working children.

28. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had convened an IYF Team to identify family and household-focused programmes and projects, including the Participatory Interregional Community Forestry Programme and its Impacts on Families and a study on the traditional uses and forest management strategies of families and communities. The Plan of Action of the International Conference on Nutrition, held in Rome in December 1992, had given priority to household food security issues and the nutritional needs of families. The Global Information and Early Warning System had widened its range of indicators for monitoring food situations and had initiated the development of operation risk maps to obtain information disaggregated by groups of food-insecure households. The plant production activities included family nutrition improvement interventions through the technical improvement of garden and household food production activities and training in vegetable seed production. The Integrated Pest Management Programme involved all farm family members in its training activities; the promotion of small-scale community processing centres focused on the prevention of post-harvest food losses at the village level and the production of indigenous crops by rural families. The implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development had geared its priority activities to training-of-trainers in social and gender analysis and integration of gender concerns with cross-sectoral themes (participation, environment, poverty alleviation and empowerment); the provision of policy advice to member Governments; the refinement of non-formal population and family-life education methods and tools considering linkages between women, population and environment; and the assessment of statistics and data

disaggregated by sex in agriculture by improving their collection, processing and dissemination. The Plan of Action for People's Participation had been promoting people's participation in rural development through farmers' cooperation and organizations. Another priority was to develop agricultural education and extension programmes. FAO had made a direct contribution to the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) and had committed assistance to the inter-agency production of a video on female-headed and single-parent families. A proposal had been submitted to the World Food Day Committee to include the theme "Food and rural families" among the topics to be selected for the Day activities in 1994. The five FAO regional offices were participating in various regional Task Forces, inter-agency and inter-institutional IYF activities.

29. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was approaching the International Year of the Family from a broad intellectual perspective, in which the educational, social and cultural functions of the family were emphasized and supported. Owing to its widespread network of national commissions, non-governmental organizations, clubs and associated schools, as well as its close links with ministries of education world wide, the major UNESCO orientation for the IYF had been public awareness raising. A series of regional workshops on the family had been held in cooperation with UNFPA and in early 1993 a book entitled Le devenir de la famille had been published. Several other publications were being prepared, as were art series and photographic exhibitions on the theme of the family. A serious effort had been made to place the family on international education and research agendas. With this in mind, a position paper was being prepared for the next session of the UNESCO Executive Board. Several UNESCO university chairs were being planned in population and early childhood studies, in which the theme of the family would be the subject of research and supportive intervention. In addition, UNESCO would place IYF on the agenda of several collective consultations to be held in 1993, such as the International Symposium of Associated Schools, the Collective Consultation of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations and the Collective Consultation of UNESCO National Commissions. UNESCO would support with funding a meeting of the Paris Consortium of Family Non-Governmental Organizations. At the level of field operations, UNESCO is promoting, through its Young Child and the Family Environment Project, the full cooperation of families and communities in basic education. It cooperated actively with other agencies, particularly UNICEF, in undertaking programmes to improve child care and the education of women.

30. The various programmes of the World Health Organization (WHO) had integrated the development of technical documentation and supporting materials for the International Year of the Family as part of their programme of work for 1992-1994. In addition to a monograph on emerging needs in family health, a series of working/position papers had been published or were near completion, including a general position paper, a document on substance abuse and family health and background materials on the family and AIDS. The World AIDS Day theme in 1994 would be "AIDS and the Family". The November-December 1993 issue of World Health would be devoted to family health, while a double issue in 1994 of the WHO Statistical Quarterly, a technical publication, would focus on statistical and methodological issues in family health and family planning. The WHO regional offices were being encouraged to contribute to and participate in the regional preparatory meetings for IYF. As a direct follow-up to the

recommendations of the Second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on IYF, the WHO Executive Board had discussed the implications of IYF and the family in relationship to the goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000". The potential of the Year for mobilizing intersectoral action for health had been recognized. It had been requested that the issue be brought to the attention of the World Health Assembly and that a resolution be submitted to the Assembly supporting the objectives and principles of the Year as applied to the Organization's health goals and its collaboration with other agencies in the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations.

31. Various programmes of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna had been carrying out numerous activities of direct relevance to the family and the Year. Its Division for the Advancement of Women, in preparing reports for the Commission on the Status of Women, had placed emphasis on the International Year of the Family and on family issues. With regard to domestic violence, the Draft Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women had provided a definition of violence against women which encompassed the physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women had prepared a general draft recommendation on equality in marriage and family relations based on articles 9, 15 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 5/ focusing on the equal rights of men and women to enter into marriage, their equal rights and responsibilities during marriage and its dissolution, and their equal rights regarding guardianship. When preparing the priority theme "development" for 1996, the Division would consider the role of the father, the sharing of responsibilities and tasks within the family.

32. In the work of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, the breakdown of the family had been seen as a significant factor in the causation of crime and domestic violence. The plight of street children, especially in the inner cities of some developing countries, was a glaring example of the serious problems resulting from the breakdown of the family in modern societies. Another area of concern in relation to the International Year of the Family was the problem of domestic violence, a manual on which had been developed by the Branch in cooperation with the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control and the Department of Justice of Canada. It had been recognized that the family and strong family ties could play an important role in the resocialization of offenders both during and after detention or imprisonment. The detention of juveniles represented a special situation in which family contacts were often vital to rehabilitation and resocialization.

33. The Centre's Youth Policies and Programmes Unit had publicized the IYF in its publications. Together with the IYF secretariat and in close cooperation with the All-Chin Youth Federation, it would organize the United Nations Interregional Meeting on the Role of the Family in the Socialization of Youth, to be held in Beijing from 31 May to 4 June 1993. Family life had always been a most important element of the United Nations programme on ageing. In preparing for IYF, the Ageing Unit had co-sponsored a workshop on empowering older persons in their families and communities during the International Conference on Population Ageing, held in San Diego in September 1992 and had prepared a paper on empowering the elderly in the family, to be published in the IYF Occasional Papers Series. The Unit was also preparing an information kit on the elderly

and the family. The observance of the International Day of Older Persons in 1994 would focus on families. During the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, the role of the family in supporting disabled persons in their advancement and efforts to attain full participation had been clearly identified. The Disabled Persons Unit, together with Rehabilitation International, had organized a workshop on the Family and Disability, as part of the programme of the 17th World Congress of Rehabilitation International, held in Nairobi from 7 to 11 September 1992.

34. Though not represented at the meeting, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Fund for Women submitted papers describing their activities for the IYF. The Economic Commission for Africa had been cooperating with the IYF secretariat in preparations for the United Nations Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the Year. It had prepared a working document for the meeting on policy implications of the impact of social and economic changes on the African family. A study was planned on the role of the elderly in the family and family responsibilities towards the elderly. The Commission also planned to prepare reports and organize seminars/expert meetings on family issues during 1994 and 1995. The United Nations Development Programme, together with other entities, was supporting the Global Family Project. It was also co-financing a project on strengthening national capacity to reduce maternal deaths and disabilities. It was providing support for IYF preparations at the field level through representatives in the country field offices. The United Nations Development Fund for Women, in its contributions to the IYF, would focus on activities which highlighted the role of women as income-earners and their contribution to the economic well-being of the family. It was also supporting a number of publications on the family.

35. The representatives of the Non-Governmental Organization Committees on the Family in Vienna and New York, who attended the meeting in an observer capacity representing the non-governmental community, described some major initiatives and activities undertaken and planned by their Committees and other voluntary organizations.

B. Observance of the International Year of the Family at the national, regional and international levels and the role of organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

36. In introducing this item, the Coordinator for the Year stressed the importance of developing concrete and achievable projects which would capitalize on the strong commitment to inter-agency cooperation on the Year. It was emphasized that such projects should have tangible benefits in awareness-raising for the Year and should facilitate action at the national and grass-roots levels. This approach should include a full use of the field and country offices of United Nations organizations and agencies.

37. The participants stressed the importance of integrating activities within existing programmes of work and highlighting the association of such work with the Year; focusing on intersectoral projects geared towards families; continuing efforts to raise awareness of the Year; and further strengthening the various

actions already being taken for its preparation and observance. They noted that the family was a natural focus for intersectoral, cross-disciplinary approaches. The deteriorating situation in many parts of the world pointed clearly to both the need for positive interventions in support of vulnerable families and the value of a family focus in approaching these multi-problem situations.

38. Project on families at risk. The meeting discussed how to proceed further with the implementation of the recommendation of the Second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on IYF regarding the project on families at risk. It was suggested that the project should integrate the concept of vulnerability. The meeting agreed that it would be extremely useful to attempt to pool together system-wide expertise in order to initiate a project to develop a conceptual framework for families at risk, provide indicators for their identification and design models for intervention. The concept of vulnerability should encompass the full range of factors affecting families, including those which were based within families; those that existed as conditions of the social, economic and natural environment; and the interplay of those various factors in the family context. The participants considered draft terms of reference submitted by WHO for an inter-agency task force to further elaborate the framework and modalities of the project. The terms of reference would include the identification of sensitive indicators of vulnerability along particular dimensions; an exploration of how and to what extent vulnerability in one or more respects of family life indicated the likelihood of other problems arising; and the identification of specific opportunities for multisectoral action on behalf of vulnerable families relative to a concrete set of desired outcomes. WHO, jointly with UNICEF and UNESCO, would assume responsibility for coordinating the project. As a first step, WHO agreed to host a meeting of the task force in Geneva for not more than three working days, to coincide with the regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1993.

39. Film on the impact of the ageing of populations on the family. Participants were briefed on this project, entitled We Will Join the Club. Bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations would consider financial and substantive contribution to the project, which had been developed and partially funded by the Department of Public Information.

40. Video on female-headed and single-parent families. The meeting was informed of the details of the project as well as commitments already made by bodies and agencies to the production costs of the video project initiated by the Department of Public Information. It was agreed that other bodies and specialized agencies would consider making financial and substantive contribution to the project.

41. Photographic exhibit. A photo competition and exhibition in observance of the International Year of the Family and the World Decade for Cultural Development was being organized by UNESCO and the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO and would be displayed in Tokyo, Addis Ababa, Amman, Santiago, Bangkok, Paris, Vienna and Geneva. The prizewinners would be brought to UNESCO headquarters in November 1993 to receive the official prizes, including the IYF Prize. In addition, the Department of Public Information, in association with Parenting magazine, will mount an exhibition in New York in either May or October 1994. Organizations and agencies were requested to promote awareness of

the event and contribute substantively to it. It was agreed that this event would be coordinated with the exhibit organized by UNESCO.

42. Information kit. The preparation of an information kit on IYF was considered in the context of the relevant recommendations of the Second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on IYF and the discussion of the sixteenth session of JUNIC. It was agreed that an information kit would be developed, under the leadership of the Department of Public Information, which would address a letter to all concerned inter-agency partners requesting a brief description of their activities for the IYF. Inclusion in the kit of the booklet entitled "Facts for life" was also recommended.

43. Statistical Quarterly. The representative of WHO presented the forthcoming issue of its Statistical Quarterly on the subject of family, health and family planning. Substantive input was requested from other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. WHO agreed to circulate an outline of the publication to participants for feedback.

44. Families: Courage and Hope in a World of Change. The representative of UNESCO introduced a publication entitled Families: Courage and Hope in a World of Change, which it was preparing for IYF, in cooperation with Gaia Books Limited. Brief descriptions of IYF activities of United Nations organizations were invited for inclusion in the publication.

45. Statistical wall chart. The meeting was informed of the statistical chart being prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office in cooperation with the IYF secretariat. It was observed that this chart could be a visible expression of the multisectoral basis for inter-agency cooperation on family issues. It was agreed to circulate to participants an outline of the various dimensions to be covered on the chart.

46. International centre for family studies. Participants reviewed a proposal regarding the establishment of an international centre for family studies. They were informed of the proposal of the Government of Slovakia to host such an institute, to be affiliated to the United Nations. They also took note of the relevant operative paragraph in the draft resolution adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session. Participants were requested to consider whether and to what extent their organizations might be able to support such a centre.

47. Use of the IYF logo. The meeting agreed that the IYF logo should be used extensively in projects undertaken by the various bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations as a vehicle for promoting awareness on IYF.

48. Mobilization of action at the field level. It was agreed that efforts to inform and involve staff in the regional and field offices of the United Nations system should continue. To facilitate work, a list of materials available from the IYF secretariat could be sent to those offices. It was also suggested that inter-agency meetings at the national level should be encouraged. It was observed that the joint inter-agency statement on the IYF could serve as a basis for concrete collaborative action at the national level.

49. Draft resolution adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session. The participants took note of the resolution and, in particular, of operative paragraphs 12 and 13, which called for action by United Nations bodies and agencies in support of the Year. It was noted that such actions were already under way in some agencies. It was agreed that participants would bring the relevant sections of the draft resolution to the attention of appropriate authorities in their organizations.

50. Inventory of inter-agency projects. The meeting proposed that an inventory of action for IYF by United Nations organizations and agencies should be prepared. In this regard, the inventory of national action on IYF served as a model. The IYF secretariat would take the lead role in its preparation.

C. Policy implications and support for families resulting from the World Summit for Children, its World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for its implementation in the 1990s as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child

51. To facilitate the consideration of the item, the meeting had before it a paper prepared by UNICEF. In introducing both item and paper, the UNICEF representative stressed that the family as the basic social institutional unit had always been the central focus of UNICEF policies and programmes. The strategic importance of families in fulfilling the UNICEF mandate for the survival, development and protection of all children was well recognized. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ^{2/} had been ratified and aimed to set universal standards for the defence of children against neglect, exploitation and abuse. The representative further discussed changing family structures; the child in the family; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and follow-up to the World Summit on Children; national programmes of action and policy support for families in the achievement of child goals; and opportunities and challenges. She indicated that the main considerations regarding the family were its changing capacity and competence, its strengths and weaknesses, its nurturing role and its role as an agent of change. She then described several national programmes of action on family and children policies and programmes, drew attention to the problems of families affected by the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS, and noted both international conventions and declarations and national action that should serve to enhance the capacities of the family as an institution in the realization of development with a human face.

52. Participants stressed the relevance of the agenda item, especially in the context of the preparations, observance and follow-up of the International Year of the Family. They drew attention to the need for data collection and dissemination; research, policy analysis and indicators; legislation and policy adoption, monitoring and implementation; training and advisory services to strengthen the national capacity of Member States to take such action; and concrete measures, including technical cooperation projects to better serve the basic needs of families.

53. Participants noted the key steps in the development processes of children and the important role of the family in that regard. It was observed that numerous international conventions adopted by the intergovernmental governing

bodies of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including those dealing with children, related to the goals of the IYF. However, the adoption by Member States of such international conventions was only the beginning. It was extremely difficult to monitor progress on the implementation of such instruments, for which there was a lack of data. The difficulty of implementing international conventions, including those concerning the family, was noted. But policy-makers, researchers and activists often found such international instruments to be useful. The need for research and indicators on family well-being was stressed. It was also observed that there was a tendency towards a proliferation of international plans of action. There was a great need to strengthen the capacity of national Governments to monitor their implementation in the first place.

54. It was important to involve families as much as possible in all such efforts to promote family well-being. It was pointed out that the World Non-Governmental Organization Forum, to be held in Malta, would also address issues related to children and the family.

55. The work of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the reporting procedures for Member States and various national measures taken to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child were described. The question of paternity leave in support of the family was also raised. It generated both problems and opportunities world wide to strengthen the family. It was observed that there were different ways to approach preparations for the International Year of the Family, such as focusing on children, gender inequality, the roles of men, responsible parenthood and standard-setting. Also relevant was the question of families affected by HIV/AIDS, as was the shift of responsibilities in families. It was noted that the secretariat for the International Year of the Family played a synergizing role in both promoting and consolidating those different themes into the overall fabric of IYF.

56. International instruments and standards adopted by the International Labour Conference concerned the family on such issues as minimum age for admission to employment, maternity, protection and workers with family responsibilities (Convention 156 and Recommendation No. 135). The important role played by non-governmental organizations in promoting legislation and awareness about such instruments and standards was stressed. The role of community-based organizations was also important in efforts to improve the situation of poor families in developing countries. Attention was called to the problem of child labour in developing countries and the need for families to resume their role in child-rearing, which had been lost due to poverty. There was also a need to train staff for programmes to improve the situation of families and to better serve the needs of families and their members.

- D. Major international events of specific relevance to the International Year of the Family and to family issues, including the World Conference on Human Rights (1993); the International Conference on Population and Development (1994); the World Summit for Social Development (1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995); and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1995)

57. The meeting noted that several forthcoming international events had specific relevance to family issues and IYF and it was imperative to give adequate consideration to the family and IYF in the preparatory processes of those events, as well as to identify how those events could contribute to IYF.

World Conference on Human Rights

58. The discussions were guided by a paper prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and a presentation made by the representative of the Centre. A number of substantive linkages were identified between the World Conference and the International Year of the Family, including the human rights issues of women, children and vulnerable groups and development issues such as the right to development. The centrality of family issues to human rights had been well illustrated in Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 7/

59. Several participants raised the issue of domestic violence and expressed the hope that the issue would be discussed in the context of the World Conference on Human Rights. It was noted that many existing human rights instruments, directly or indirectly made reference to the family, and those references, in combination, formed a framework for understanding rights as they applied to families. It was thought useful for such a compilation to be made available to the Preparatory Body of the Conference for consideration with respect to the International Year of the Family.

60. The meeting was appraised of projects related to human rights issues being developed by the IYF secretariat, including papers solicited on Human rights and the family and Families and indigenous peoples. A project was being developed on family law focusing on the process of law-making and including models for developing the substantive and organizational infrastructure for national family legislation. The draft resolution recommended by the Commission for Social Development for adoption by the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of members of the Commission on the desirability of working out a declaration on the role, responsibility and rights of families on the occasion of the International Year of the Family.

International Conference on Population and Development

61. The discussion of the topic was undertaken on the basis of a paper submitted by UNFPA and the introductory comments offered by its representative, who outlined the key areas of substantive linkage between the Conference and the International Year of the Family. The inclusion of development as a key

component of the 1994 conference in Cairo was stressed as an important indication of how population issues were being recast in a holistic framework, including their relationship to family issues. It was noted that the dimension of family had been addressed in the expert group meetings and in the two regional population conferences that were held in 1992.

62. There were many strong and well-established linkages between population and family issues, as indicated by the Dakar declaration on "Population, Family and Sustainable Development". It was observed that since the proclamation of the IYF in 1989, a remarkable maturation of political sensibilities had taken place on the interface of population and family issues, so that early concerns that the IYF would lead to confrontation on such questions as family planning had largely disappeared.

63. It was suggested that materials generated by the various preparatory meetings could be distributed to IYF national focal points and others concerned with IYF as a way of developing awareness of issues shared by both the Year and the Population Conference. It was pointed out that the IYF secretariat had participated in the Expert Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being and contributed a paper on family well-being. It was also noted that the Commission for Social Development had considered as a priority matter the report of an expert group meeting on population growth and demographic change, with particular emphasis on the family, which had been convened by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

World Summit for Social Development

64. The Coordinator for the International Year of the Family informed the meeting of the relevant provisions regarding the World Summit for Social Development contained in the draft resolution proposed by the Commission for Social Development for adoption by the General Assembly. The draft resolution had called for the inclusion of family-oriented components in the World Summit. The Coordinator also brought to the attention of the meeting the comments made by the Commission on the Summit.

Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

65. Discussion of this subject was facilitated by a written submission and a presentation on the Conference by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Office at Vienna. The representative of the Division noted, in particular, the family emphasis implicit in the gender analysis approach; the priority of building partnerships in families, with particular emphasis on the sharing of work and family responsibilities; and the importance of partnership in families in the Platform for Action prepared for consideration by the World Conference. The importance of family questions in preparations for the Conference and in the issues to be discussed was stressed.

66. Comments were also offered by the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women, who stated that she did not want to see the important role of families eroded and that change and reform in families should be accepted as a positive development. The issue at hand was to manage change in the family. She noted that responsibilities in the family also had to be seen as a question of balance in inter-generational responsibility and that families could not be

reduced to the single dimension of male-female relationships. The importance of families to individuals and society was stressed. Specific reference was made to the adaptability of the family to changing circumstances. It was also suggested that conventional treatment of gender issues had been too confined to the particular problems of a limited stage of the life cycle. The concept of the family provided a broader framework for understanding the experience of women, both as girls and as older persons.

67. It was noted that the changing focus in women's issues to a concern with gender provided the opportunity to talk about the roles of men and the whole configuration of responsibilities within the family. This redefinition of issues was thought to be proliferating throughout the system, as evident in concern with the role of men in the family in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development. A number of specific issues were highlighted as having a particularly strong family focus, including stereotypes of gender being supported in the family; the situation of the girl-child; family-based decision-making on family planning questions; the need for intra- and inter-familial cooperation in rural or agricultural development; and the recognition of families in participatory models of development. There was a need for further research aimed at a better understanding of the process of gender-role acquisition, with particular regard to the points in that process at which it would be most effective to intervene for positive changes. The approach of the IYF and the current work plans for the advancement of women were not only compatible but also offered very complementary contributions to both the Fourth World Conference on Women and the overarching policy questions arising out of gender analysis.

68. The meeting was informed of a number of IYF projects that might contribute to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including an occasional paper on the subject of women and the family; the video project undertaken by the Department of Public Information on the subject of single-parent and female-headed families; and the meeting on changing families/changing societies organized by the International Council of Women, in cooperation with the IYF secretariat.

Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

69. The representative of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch provided an overview of the preparatory process for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Four substantive topics had been identified for the Congress, including one on the subject of crime prevention strategies, particularly as related to crimes in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including assessment and new perspectives on the question of victims. In the context of the theme, a number of family-related questions would be raised, including the issue of domestic violence. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had adopted a resolution which had specifically raised the question of domestic violence relative to the International Year of the Family.

70. Several participants raised the issue of inter-generational aspects of criminality, including the need for innovative approaches to intervening in

support of children exposed to criminality and violence in the family setting. Aspects of the question receiving particular emphasis were domestic violence, preventive and educative approaches, remedial services for all members of affected families, mechanisms for exchange of experience and the problem of exposure to violence and criminality in the media. The concept of the underclass was thought to offer particularly useful insights for a comprehensive approach to criminality as it related to families. In that regard, some crime-related factors present in the case of migrant and refugee families were also noted.

E. Partnership with non-governmental organizations: review of plans of activities of non-governmental organizations to observe the International Year of the Family and measures of support

71. In introducing this item, the Coordinator stressed the importance placed on the involvement of the non-governmental community as full partners in the preparation and observance of the International Year of the Family and notably their irreplaceable role in mobilizing grass-roots action and support for the Year. He emphasized the cooperation between the IYF secretariat and the Non-Governmental Organization Committees on the Family in Vienna, New York, Paris and Geneva. The full participation of their representatives in the inter-agency mechanism was similarly indicative of the importance accorded to non-governmental organizations in the IYF process.

72. Participants were provided with background information on the activities of the non-governmental sector through presentations from representatives of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Family, the New York Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Family and the representative of UNESCO speaking on behalf of the Non-Governmental Organization Group on the Family of the Non-Governmental Organization (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris.

73. The New York Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Family had been attempting, through its contact and consultation with non-governmental organizations in various sectors, to bring a broader family approach to specific issues. This was also accomplished through workshops on such issues as fathers, families in indigenous cultures and religion and the family.

74. The Non-Governmental Organization Group on the Family (UNESCO) Standing Committee in Paris had conducted a survey among more than 600 non-governmental organizations affiliated with UNESCO and, on that basis, had formulated select priority areas of concern, which included family functions, current family problems, the need to support families, inter-generational issues, the future of the family, family and the environment, family and multi-culturalism, the role of women in families and families in extreme poverty. The Group would conduct two workshops at the World Non-Governmental Organization Forum in Malta on the themes of education and culture.

75. The Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Family had undertaken a number of significant projects relative to the preparation for and observance of the Year. This had included, most recently, the presentation of a

joint Non-Governmental Organization statement to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session. It was noted that the draft resolution on the International Year of the Family adopted by the Commission had made specific reference to the work of non-governmental organizations and had called for support for the World Non-Governmental Organization Forum. The representative of the Vienna Committee expressed the hope that United Nations bodies and specialized agencies would be strongly represented in Malta and would offer tangible support for the event as an expression of system-wide commitment to non-governmental involvement in the Year. Specifically, it was suggested that agencies should consider proposing and/or financing the participation of key-note speakers or resource persons; providing background papers or organizing/sponsoring workshops in their field of interest; and sponsoring the participation of non-governmental organizations working in their specific field, especially those from developing countries or those with a particular regional focus.

76. Participants expressed support for the idea of a World Non-Governmental Organization Forum and for the view that a focus on concrete outcomes and supportive action was an important contribution to the Year. It was suggested that specific measures should be taken to broaden the base of non-governmental involvement in the World Forum through existing non-governmental organization consultative mechanisms and field offices. There was general agreement that agencies could play an important role in the Forum by sponsoring or organizing workshops on specific issues, and that this avenue for participation should be further explored in consultation with the organizers, as appropriate. It was suggested that agencies consult with non-governmental organizations in their field of interest, with a view to holding workshops at the Forum. It was further suggested that the list of topics should include refugee families; social security issues; and judicial, legislative and family policy aspects. The development of a regional dimension in the programme of work was also suggested. The UNFPA representative requested that population questions as they related to families be included in the topics for discussion at the Forum. Participants expressed the view that the Forum would provide an opportunity to work towards consensus on a statement of the rights and responsibilities of families, building on the provisions that already existed in international instruments.

77. The Coordinator indicated that the possibility would be explored of holding a non-governmental organization segment in connection with the plenary session of the General Assembly to launch IYF in December 1993. That would be an appropriate occasion to present a consensus statement that might be developed during the Forum. Participants were also informed of the satellite world conference, Family Fest 1993, organized in connection with the Year, and were requested to consider supporting this non-governmental initiative. The Coordinator reaffirmed the commitment of the IYF secretariat to continued partnership with the non-governmental community in preparation for the Year and underscored the recognition of its important contribution contained in the draft resolution adopted by the Commission for Social Development.

F. Other matters

78. The participants considered the next Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family and suggested that it should be held in March 1994 for three working days, preceding or following the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

79. The participants considered the proposed meeting in 1994 to be of crucial significance for the observance of the Year and its follow-up. The following provisional agenda for the meeting was suggested:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of the preparatory process to the International Year of the Family and measures for its observance.
4. Inter-agency projects for the International Year of the Family.
5. The family and major international events of relevance to the International Year of the Family.
6. Partnership with non-governmental organizations: activities of non-governmental organizations for the International Year of the Family and measures of support.
7. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

80. It was further proposed that non-governmental organizations should be represented at the meeting, in an observer capacity, by the Chairpersons of the Non-Governmental Organization Committees on the Family in Vienna, New York, Paris and Geneva.

Notes

- 1/ A/45/625, annex.
- 2/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
- 3/ The present report should be read in the context of the recommendations and the report of the Second Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family (ACC/1992/8).
- 4/ ACC/1992/8, para. 12, recommendation 8.

Notes (continued)

- 5/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
- 6/ General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX).
- 7/ See General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

United Nations entities and programmes

Department of Public Information	Willard Hass
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Rubén Kaztman
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Amina Adam
United Nations Centre for Human Rights	Neela Ghai
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements	Mathias Hundsalsz
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Marie Lobo
United Nations Children's Fund	Sreelakshmi Gururaja
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	Richard Hooper
United Nations University	Valentine Moghadam
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	Margaret Shields
United Nations Population Fund	Catherine S. Pierce
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	Pavel Sturma

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organisation	Marie-Claire Séguret
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Leena M. Kirjavainen
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	John Bennett
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Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda and the organization of work.
3. Progress made at the mid-point of the preparatory phase of the International Year of the Family.
4. Observance of the International Year of the Family at the national, regional and international levels and the role of organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.
5. Policy implications and support for families resulting from the World Summit for Children, its World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for its implementation in the 1990s as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
6. Major international events of specific relevance to the International Year of the Family and to family issues, including the World Conference on Human Rights (1993); the International Conference on Population and Development (1994); the World Summit for Social Development (1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995); and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1995).
7. Partnership with non-governmental organizations: review of plans of activities of non-governmental organizations to observe the International Year of the Family and measures of support.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

Annex III

DRAFT INTER-AGENCY STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
THE FAMILY, 1994

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family, with the aim of both creating among Governments, policy-makers and the public a greater awareness of the family as the fundamental unit of society and of promoting activities in support of families. The Assembly called on all concerned organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to exert every effort in the preparations for the Year, in its observance and in the achievement of its objectives.

This joint statement, issued by the heads of concerned organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, is an expression of intent about the commitment of the organizations to the objectives of the Year.

As the basic units of society, families and their well-being are germane to all our organizations. Our programmes affect them in one way or another, even if this is not always, or immediately, apparent.

Families are entitled to protection by society and State in order to be able to fully assume their responsibilities as fundamental group units of society. The need for such protection has been recognized in relevant international instruments which make it a duty for States parties to adopt legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure adequate protection to the family and its unity, either directly or through support to the activities of relevant social institutions.

In spite of the many changes in society that have altered their forms and functions, families can provide a vital nurturing framework for the emotional and material support essential to the growth and well-being of their members. Families play an important role in formal and informal education and are active agents for transmitting human values and cultural identity as well as for preserving inter-generational links. In this, families are vital to sustainable development. The process of development, however, tends to change the nature of the family. While many of these changes are generally accepted as positive, these and other changes have often constrained the ability of many families to meet their basic human rights and needs. These constraints have increased in many countries, as programmes of retrenchment, adjustment and economic transition take place.

The pace and prevalence of change have also differed in different countries, just as families differ in their types, strengths and weaknesses. There is, therefore, no simple view and no easy definition of the family or of family policy. Yet, despite the major changes most societies have undergone in recent decades, policies and programmes still tend to be based on concepts and family models that may no longer reflect reality, notably with respect to gender equality and the rights of most of their vulnerable members, especially children.

In the positive sense, families are primary agents of socialization and are capable of enabling constructive change and development. They can constitute an

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essential mechanism for promoting respect for the human rights of all individuals. But negative aspects, including social problems, exploitation and abuse, are also often evident within family relationships, hindering individual initiative and personal development. There is a constant need, therefore, to foster the development of perceptions and perspectives regarding families and intra-familial relationships that are consistent with basic human rights, fundamental freedoms and internationally accepted social policy standards and principles. The traditional gender-based division of productive and reproductive functions in the family does not reflect current realities. More and more women in all parts of the world take up productive employment outside the home. Yet they continue to have the major responsibility for reproductive, caring and household functions. A partnership between men and women on the basis of equal rights and responsibilities is the challenge for the modern family. Basic to this challenge is gender equality in the household, equal sharing of family responsibilities between men and women and participation of women in employment.

We welcome the opportunity offered by the International Year of the Family to focus attention on the numerous family issues and, in particular, on vulnerable families. Single-parent families, especially the growing number of households headed by females, are among the poorest families. The poverty level of families with disabled members is also high. Labour migration to secure a livelihood is frequently a source of family tension and disintegration, also leading to intensified responsibilities for female members. Refugee and internationally displaced families, both political and environmental, call for particular attention. The plight of people forced to flee for fear of their lives and liberty or because of the destruction of their livelihoods as a result of environmental degradation is one of the greatest tragedies of our times, which disrupts the unity and role of the family. Families affected by HIV/AIDS virus constitute another group requiring attention. Family breakdown is reflected in increasing domestic violence, drug addiction, sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect. There is much to be done to raise awareness of these problems and their effects. Similarly, access to family planning information and quality services, long recognized as a basic right for all individuals, needs to be improved. The role of the family in achieving "health for all by the year 2000" and "education for all" should be further reinforced.

In seeking to achieve the objectives the General Assembly has set for the Year, the first goal should be to recognize the participation of families in the achievement of fundamental human development aims, such as poverty alleviation, health, nutrition, education, shelter and employment. A second goal might then be to formulate "family-sensitive" policies and help to improve national capacities to monitor their implementation. A third goal should be to encourage organizations and agencies, whether governmental or non-governmental, national or international, to assess how their decisions and action will affect families. Without the full involvement of families and community organizations, there can be no sustained improvement of people's living conditions and quality of life. While families are targets of social welfare policies, they also contribute to the stability of rural and urban communities and, as such, should be seen as chosen partners of participatory development initiatives, including those aimed at improving the local environment. The Year offers an opportunity to link family well-being to the goals of sustainable development.

Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, and within the parameters of the mandates of our organizations and agencies, we have been extending our support and cooperation for the preparation of the Year. In order to better coordinate activities and develop a system-wide approach, ad hoc inter-agency meetings have been instituted and various kinds of multilateral activities are growing.

These efforts will be strengthened, as far as programmatic considerations permit, so that the objectives of the Year can be achieved. Where it is not possible to develop and implement new programmes in the context of the Year, efforts will be made to incorporate IYF elements into existing programmes. This could include introducing the concept of "family impact" into programme planning and evaluation. Existing channels of information dissemination will be used to promote the objectives of the Year. The field/country office networks will be encouraged to support national and local IYF efforts, in order to strengthen the national and local-level focus of the Year.

The subject of the family provides a unique convergence of numerous issues of social policy, human rights and development. The International Year of the Family can contribute significantly to the consolidation of achievements in the numerous areas of direct concern to our respective programmes. It is an occasion to promote the concept of the family as the smallest democracy at the heart of society. We solicit the active participation and support of all our partners and collaborators in its observance.

Heads of concerned organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

(Names of organizations)
