Declaration on the Role of the Family as the Foundation of Humanity and the Moral Resilience of Society

Adopted following the Panel Session "The Family as the Foundation for Preserving Humanity" held within the Second World Public Assembly.

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Preamble

The family is the first and most important space where a person learns to be human: to love and care, to respect others, to take responsibility for one's actions, to support those in need of help, to keep the link between generations, and to live in harmony with those around them. It is within the family that the main moral guidelines, language, traditions, and memory of ancestors are born and passed on – all what shapes individual and collective identity and makes society not merely a collection of people, but a cohesive community united by shared values.

In the context of large-scale global changes - growing population mobility, economic and climate challenges, mass displacements, and rapid digitalization - familiar social supports are becoming less stable. Under these circumstances, the family remains a "quiet force" that helps people retain their footing, preserve their dignity, and pass on to their children a sense of belonging and meaning.

The participants of the Panel Session recognize that the family, in order to fully fulfill this mission, needs not only personal resilience but also systemic support - from local communities to state and international mechanisms. The family should be viewed not as a "problem" to be "fixed," but as a resource for development and the moral resilience of society.

This Declaration sets out a values framework and policy commitments for states, institutions, non-profit organizations, and business, aimed at strengthening the creative potential of the family and creating conditions for its sustainable functioning in the modern world.

Basic Principles

The family is a resource for development, not a problem. Support for the family should be aimed at unlocking its creative potential: the ability to nurture humanity, transmit values, preserve cultural identity, and form a sense of belonging. Family policy should be based on recognizing its strengths and resources, rather than focusing on deficits.

Respect for the diversity of family models while maintaining a foundation in traditional values. Recognizing the diversity of forms of family life, we emphasize the value of stable intergenerational ties, mutual responsibility, care, and respect within the family as universal moral foundations.

The priority of creative practices over paternalism. Effective support for the family is built on partnership, the involvement of families themselves in designing solutions, and the development of communities and mutual-aid practices, rather than on directive management or purely service-based approaches.

Balancing tradition and innovation. The preservation of cultural identity and family traditions should be combined with the use of modern tools (including digital ones) to strengthen family ties, transmit experience, and adapt to new conditions.

Prevention and resilience instead of crisis response. Family support policy should be proactive, aimed at preventing risks and strengthening resilience, rather than limited to assistance measures in crisis situations.

Commitments of Participants

States undertake to:

formulate and implement intersectoral family support strategies that ensure coordination between social protection, education, healthcare, migration policy, and culture;

create legal and institutional conditions for the involvement of families in decision-making that affects their interests, including through mechanisms of public participation and feedback;

provide targeted support to vulnerable categories of families (large families, single-parent families, adoptive families, families with children with developmental disabilities, families in situations of displacement), taking into account regional and cultural characteristics;

support practices for preserving intergenerational connection, cultural heritage, and family memory, including through educational and cultural programs.

Public institutions, NGOs, and local communities undertake to:

develop practices of mutual aid, mentorship, and parent communities aimed at strengthening family resources and preventing social disadvantage;

involve families in the design and implementation of support programs, ensuring their participation as co-authors and experts;

promote positive images of family and parenthood, avoiding stigmatization and paternalism, and contributing to a culture of respect for parental work.

Business and digital platforms undertake to:

develop and implement digital tools and services that help strengthen family ties, preserve family memory, and facilitate access to support (including navigation and information services);

take family interests into account when designing digital products and services, ensuring safety, privacy, and ease of use for all generations;

participate in partnership projects and corporate programs supporting employee-parents, promoting work-life balance.

Intersectoral Priorities for 3–5 Years

Migration and family adaptation. Developing comprehensive programs of sociocultural adaptation for families in situations of displacement, including language and psychological services, support for parent communities, tools for preserving native language and traditions among children, as well as navigation services for accessing services.

Fatherhood and shared parenting. Promoting a model of responsible fatherhood and shared parenting through educational programs, media campaigns, psychological and counseling support services, as well as practices for involving fathers in the upbringing process and family decision-making.

Digital environment and family memory. Creating and scaling digital tools for preserving family memory (archives, family chronicles, interviews with older generations), as well as developing recommendations for the safe and constructive use of digital technologies to maintain intergenerational ties.

Support for vulnerable categories of families. Implementing targeted support programs for large, single-parent, and adoptive families and families with children with developmental disabilities, including measures to reduce administrative barriers, improve access to services, and develop social accompaniment practices.

Coordination Mechanism and Pilot Programs

To ensure consistency of action and achieve measurable results, we call for:

establishing a working group (council) on family support at the international level that will coordinate the implementation of priorities, ensure the exchange of best practices, and monitor results;

launching pilot programs in each of the priority areas with mandatory assessment of their social impact (including qualitative and quantitative indicators) and the possibility of scaling up successful solutions;

providing mechanisms for feedback from families and their participation in evaluating the effectiveness of programs, in order to ensure that measures correspond to the real needs and resources of families.

Final Provisions

This Declaration reflects the consensus of the participants of the Panel Session regarding the role of the family as the foundation of humanity and the moral resilience of society and serves as a guide for shaping policy, designing programs, and developing partnerships in the field of family support.

We call on all stakeholders to join in the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration and to contribute to strengthening the creative potential of the family, preserving intergenerational connection, and forming a society based on respect, care, and mutual responsibility.