



GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

**Statement by the Deputy Foreign Minister
of the Republic of Belarus H.E. Mr. Yuri Ambrazevich
on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family**

**General Debate of the Ministerial segment
of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
and the High-level Segment of ECOSOC**

New York, 17 July 2023

Mr. / Madame Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of 26 Member States of the Group of Friends of the Family comprising Bangladesh, Comoros, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe and my own country Belarus.

The Group of Friends of the Family was present from the very beginning of the intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, championing **the important link between the family and development** both at the national and international level. The Group wishes to present the following points today.

First, Member States of the Group reaffirm the importance of accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account different **national realities, capacities and levels of development** and respecting **national policies and priorities**, especially those relating to family-oriented policies and supporting the quality of life of families, particularly in the areas of poverty, employment and decent work, so that **they can realize their full potential as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development**.

Second, the Group is concerned that the contribution of the family to society and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals **continues to be largely overlooked, diminished and underestimated**. The Group is of the view that **it is crucial to recognize the indispensable role of the family** and to **have more discourse on the family** at the United Nations.

Bangladesh
Belarus
Comoros
Egypt
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Libya
Malaysia
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Qatar
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Yemen
Zimbabwe

Third, Member States of the Group reiterate **the indisputable role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development**, and stress that it will be impossible to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its promise to “leave no one behind” unless the family is empowered to fulfil its role effectively in society.

In this regard, the Group emphasizes **the multidimensional benefits of including family-centred policies and programmes in the national and international development agenda**, in order to make a crucial contribution to progress across all Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, the family is a fundamental unit of society, integral to **social cohesion, integration and intergenerational solidarity**, and plays a crucial role in **preserving the cultural identity, traditions, morality, heritage and value system of healthy society**.

The Group also expresses its **full support towards the annual resolution of the Group of 77 and China on the International Year of the Family**, to be presented at the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, that invites Member States **to undertake concerted action and increase technical cooperation efforts** to promote family issues, provide resources and develop partnership, upon their request, in this regard.

Bearing in mind the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024, **the Group calls on United Nations entities to strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academic institutions and the private sector**, in the development and implementation of family-oriented policies and programmes, and encourage the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes.

In closing, let me take this opportunity **to invite interested Member States to consider joining the Group of Friends of the Family** to promote concerted action in strengthening family-oriented policies and programmes, as part of an integrated, comprehensive approach to development.

I thank you all for your attention.