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Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

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Dear Readers of Families International,

This double issue features the text of a presentation at an International Forum in the Vienna International Centre of the United Nations, during a Full Committee Meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family on November 11th 2013, by Dimiter Philipov of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, Vienna Institute of Demography, entitled 'Families in a Sustainable World'.

Further included is news from the United Nations and from member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, as well as an outline of recent and upcoming events of interest.

With kind regards,

Peter Crowley Ph.D.

Editor

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From the United Nations

United Nations

Nation Unies



General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session

Third Committee

Agenda item 27 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Fiji:* revised draft resolution

Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [44/82](#) of 8 December 1989, [50/142](#) of 21 December 1995, [52/81](#) of 12 December 1997, [54/124](#) of 17 December 1999, [56/113](#) of 19 December 2001, [57/164](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/15](#) of 3 December 2003, [59/111](#) of 6 December 2004, [59/147](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/133](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/129](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/133](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/126](#) of 19 December 2011 and [67/142](#) of 20 December 2012 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year in 2014 provide a useful opportunity to draw further attention to the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking con-

certed actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of

children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Recognizing also that family policies are most effective when targeting the family unit and its dynamic as a whole, including taking into consideration the needs of its members, and noting that family-oriented policies aim in particular at strengthening, and should be designed to enhance, a household's capacity to escape poverty, ensure financial independence and support work-family balance to help manage family functions and foster child development,

Cognizant of the need for continued inter-agency and regional cooperation on family issues in order to generate greater awareness of this subject among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

Noting with satisfaction the close collaboration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the family field, as well as its research efforts and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Encouraging the active role of the regional commissions and organizations, and acknowledging the participation of civil society in the preparatory process for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

1. *Encourages* Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;

2. *Decides* to devote one plenary meeting during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in 2014, to the

elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Invites* Governments and regional intergovernmental entities to provide for more systematic national and regional data on family well-being and to identify and ensure support for constructive family policy developments, including the exchange of information on good policies and practices;

4. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be made to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes and to give due consideration to advancing family policy development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Encourages* Member States to promote policies that strengthen social integration and intergenerational solidarity through investment in family-centred support programmes, including social protection assistance, the prevention of the abuse of older persons, the protection of persons with disabilities, including in particular children with disabilities, and investments in cross-generational facilities and intergenerational learning, and volunteer programmes for youth, older persons, mentoring and job-sharing;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies and programmes that address family poverty, social exclusion, domestic violence, work-family balance and intergenerational issues, and to share good practices in those areas;

7. *Further encourages* Member States to promote the delivery of family centred benefits, such as housing assistance, child benefits, old-age pensions, cash transfers, social protection, social transfer programmes and other relevant measures to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

8. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and in accordance with national plans and policies, to strengthen provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, enhance paternal involvement in family responsibilities and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, including investing in quality early childhood care and education, in order to improve work-family balance;

9. *Urges* Member States to create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all fami-

¹ A/68/61-E/2013/3.

observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in order to discuss the role of family-oriented policies in the

lies, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child;

10. *Invites* Governments to continue to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;

11. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year at the national level;

12. *Invites* Member States, United Nations organizations and bodies, regional commissions, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year and to share good practices and data on family policy development;

13. *Invites* Member States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

14. *Encourages* Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to continue research activities and provide assistance to countries, upon their request;

15. *Recommends* that United Nations organizations and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector play a supportive role in promoting the twentieth anniversary of the International Year;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution and on the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 at all levels;

17. *Decides* to consider the topic "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" at its sixty-ninth session under the sub-item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" of the item entitled "Social development".

United Nations

Nation Unies



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM

Switzerland High-Level Symposium

“Development cooperation in a post-2015 era: sustainable development for all”

24-25 October 2013, Montreux, Switzerland

A universal and unified development agenda...

The world is reaching environmental and social tipping points. Despite the development progress made, extreme poverty, inequality and hunger persist. This suggests two central tasks for a post 2015 development agenda: completing any unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals; and putting the world on a more sustainable development path. The agenda would thus be ‘unified’ in its substantive focus, as well as ‘universal’ in its applicability to all countries.

Implementing such an ambitious agenda will require a renewed global partnership for development. The DCF Ethiopia High level Symposium concluded that such a partnership will be essential to mobilize support for an enabling international environment for sustainable development. It must build on ODA as a vital source of development financing; engage all actors on an equal footing; intensify action on policy coherence for development, to address the range of issues underpinning sustainable development and provision of global public goods; and ensure effective monitoring and accountability for delivery on commitments by all partners.

...will have major implications for development cooperation.

The post 2015 development agenda will have implications on how actors in development cooperation will operate. Instruments, channels and division of labour among partners will have to adapt. Development cooperation will also have to break down silos and ensure integrated action on economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, particularly to support poor and vulnerable communities.

Additional resources will be required to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, including addressing climate change and managing global commons. There is need to assess the use of all other available forms of financing, including public and private and cross border and domestic sources, in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus. Some countries will have more room to maneuver, as they engage with a broader and more diverse range of actors. Others, however, may find traditional funding reduced.

Focus and objectives of the Switzerland Symposium...

The DCF Switzerland High Level Symposium will stimulate a critical rethinking of the role of development cooperation in realizing equitable and sustainable development. It will examine:

- How can development cooperation advance equitable and sustainable development post 2015?
- What implications could a unified and universal post 2015 development agenda have for the allocation of different types of development cooperation financing, among and within countries and sectors?
- How can development cooperation be used to mobilize additional public and private sources of finance for sustainable development?
- How can development cooperation and sustainable development experts improve their effectiveness and best leverage their comparative strengths to promote equitable and sustainable development?
- What would enhanced global monitoring and accountability look like for development cooperation in the post 2015 setting?

The Switzerland Symposium will contribute to the on-going discussions on a post 2015 development agenda as well as prepare for the 2014 ECOSOC DCF.

It will have an open, interactive format and engage high level experts from all stakeholder groups:

donor and programme countries, Southern partners, civil society, private sector, philanthropic organizations, parliamentarians, local governments and international organizations.

Several pre-meetings are planned for 23 October 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

**Vienna NGO Committee on the Family - Full Committee Meeting
United Nations Vienna International Centre November 11th 2013
International Forum**

FAMILIES IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Dimiter Philipov

Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global human Capital

Vienna Institute of Demography

Why this title?

Unrestrained economic growth can be harmful to nature and environment; there is an abundant discussion today about deforesting, about air and water pollution, and climate changes invoked by uninhibited harmful human activities. It can also bring about negative social consequences such as increase in inequality which makes the richer more rich and the poor more poor. Constraining economic growth to guard societies against these undesirable developments; environmental protection and fight with poverty, inequalities form the essence of sustainability as a focus of sustainable development. In the words of the Brundland Commission of the United Nations from 1987 “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Sustainable development has three pillars (outlined at the 2005 World Summit on Social Development): economic, environmental, and social. The three pillars pose constraints on each other thus controlling for a harmonious development of societies to ensure an adequate well-being of all humans.

Where is the family in this framework? The family as the fundamental cell of society performs a crucial function: biological and social reproduction of humans. The social column of sustainable development requires that social well-being will be maintained in future generations: therefore families of today should reproduce so that their ancestors will not be worse-off than their predecessors.

A poor family will have poor children who will accustom to poverty and will reproduce it at adult age. Thus poverty reproduces itself. Similarly so-

cial exclusion can be reproduced. Reproduction may refer to harmful habits practiced in some minorities. Thus considering the family from the point of view of sustainable development requires a break of the vicious circles of reproduction of negative trends within the family. Moreover it requires tracing development of family forms and preferences of people to live in diverse family forms, as well as a thorough view on perspectives of family policy development.

This note describes first recent changes in family forms and other family-related changes, and then discusses findings from the project “ICPD beyond 2014”. ICPD is the acronym of the International Conference for Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 whose 20th Anniversary is the topic of the project. Family issues were extensively considered in this report. The discussion refers to countries where family changes have been most pronounced; these are the European countries with some exceptions of countries situated in Eastern Europe.

The background: recent trends related to families

During the last few decades families experienced considerable changes initiated mainly at the level of individuals. These changes were provoked by and large by ideational shifts and specifically in individual preferences and values. Moreover, shifts in individual value systems compound to corresponding changes in relevant social norms that allow societies to accept new behavior that has previously not been accepted.

Achievement of women’s personal autonomy is a major characteristic of recent ideational shifts. It refers to family life but also to completion of education and participation in labor up to one’s personal preference. Thus young adults (particularly

women) face with an increased set of choices they can make about their life.

Increasing diversity in family forms

A conspicuous example of a new family form that is a result of ideational shifts is extra-marital cohabitation, especially where one or more children were born in this family configuration. This kind of cohabitation should be distinguished from the traditional fiancée-type of co-residence. In contemporary cohabitation men and women have equal rights and since they are not bound by law each one can leave the household up to his or her personal wish. Thus women have more personal autonomy in decision-taking about their lives in a couple as compared to the past.

Cohabiting couples are on the spread first in Scandinavian countries followed by other European regions and last in southern Europe where traditional family norms still persist. During the 2000-s fertility in cohabiting couples increased, with 55 per cent of all first births in Norway being registered in such a couple, 46% in France, 18% in Russia and Hungary, and only 5% in Italy. This percentage is also very high in several countries from Eastern Europe; for example in Bulgaria more than 50% of the first births were registered to cohabiting couples.

Another example of a recent change in family forms refers not to a family in the strict sense of the term but more generally to households: increase in the proportion of lone mothers. In 2001, according to the last available population census data lone motherhood was about 8% in Germany, 14% in Hungary, 15-17% in Croatia and the Czech Republic. For fathers the proportion is much lower, about 1-3%. In Austria this proportion was 13.6% in 2001, and 15% in 2011. The problematic issue is that lone mothers do not have sufficient material and time resources to care adequately for their children. They usually live below standards and poverty is not uncommon. This trend can only be considered as negative from the perspective of family development.

Other new forms refer to childless couples. Their proportion is particularly high in Austria and Germany where it amounts to nearly 30% of the women with higher education. Childlessness is the result of two different types of behavior: (i) rejection of entry into parenthood, and (ii) postponement of a birth till later years of life when conception becomes difficult. Postponement is discussed below. Another new form of living in a couple is constituted by same-sex couples. Their existence is being officially recognized in an increasing

number of countries although social norms are frequently explicitly against this form. Living-apart-together (LAT) is a new form where partners live in different places, frequently as a result of business obligations.

Postponement of family formation

Postponement refers to entry into a family and having children later in life as compared to previous cohorts and years. The mean age of mothers at the birth of the first child increased considerably during the recent few decades, from values around 22-24 to values close to 30 in some countries. Postponement is the result of increased participation of women in studies and in labor. Women increasingly prefer to make a career and postpone events that interfere with their aim, such as childbirth with the subsequent childcare.

Increased age at first marriage is frequently attributed to a preceding life of the couple in cohabitation without marriage.

Increased instability of families

Union disruption (it can be either a divorce or a break of cohabitation) can be the outcome of the increased desire of women to achieve personal autonomy. Usually after a divorce the children (if any) are entrusted to the mother: a practice which fathers increasingly disagree with, and in search of defense for their parental rights they constitute their own non-governmental organizations.

The changes discussed above lead altogether to a decline in family size> Fewer children are born, increasing number of individuals live without a partner, and separation becomes more frequent.

Effect of ethnicity and migration

As of the 1990s immigration to most of the European countries increased considerably. It had a pronounced multifold effect on families. On the one hand, immigrants tend to arrive without families and thus the problem of family reunification arises. Based on the protection of human rights, governments support family reunification of immigrants that have established themselves in the country of destination. Problems arise with the integration of these immigrants as sometimes the family members do not speak the local language and are not familiar with culture and legal system in the accepting country. Hence they remain closed in their ethnic circles under conditions of social exclusion. Inversely, due to their different culture they might remain unaccepted by the local population and again, problems of social exclusion arise.

Ethnic families of immigrants pertain not only to their own culture but also to their religion and thus might be subject to adversity. This undesirable trend is due to prevalence of traditional norms among the local population. However, ethnic families sometimes pertain to harmful practices that cannot be accepted (for example female mutilation). These practices decline in number but still exist although they are sometimes declared as illegal.

“ICPD Beyond 2014”: what does it tell us about families?

The year 1994 set a crucial milestone in population and development issues. An International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was held this year in Cairo. The Conference participants from close to 200 countries in the world adopted a Programme of Action (PoA) for the next 20-years period. The project “ICPD beyond 2014” was designed by the UNFPA with the purpose to prepare reports on the PoA and set activities for the future. To this end all countries filled a specific questionnaire that informs about diverse policies. The UNECE prepared its regional report based on the information about its 56 member-countries; the questionnaire was filled by 45 countries. The questionnaire includes a specific section on the family, out of altogether eight sections. Selected information related to this section is placed below.¹ It is divided in two groups: family issues and priorities about the future.

Family issues

A complete set of family issues reported in questionnaires by governments of 45 countries is too large to be considered here; the discussion focuses on a selection of most important matters outlined by a large number of countries.

Compatibility between work and family

This issue is familiar and central to concerned stakeholders for more than 20 years, and it is a persistent issue in the future. Related policy measures include: Protection of women’s employment; Opportunities for part-time and flexible work; Availability of child-care facilities; Re-qualification course for mothers returning to work. Sweden has introduced a gender equality bonus for sharing parental leave in the couple. Many countries report a regular update of the three main pillars of family policies: child care, parental

leave, and financial support. Child care is considered to have a specifically high importance.

Providing financial and social protection to single-parent families

As it was discussed in the previous section single-parent families are on the rise and they are especially vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. Policies aim to reduce poverty among these families. Provision of housing and easier access to education, are other important policy measures.

Development capacity to monitor the impact of policies

Monitoring policies is crucial for the achievement of improved implementation and higher policy effectiveness. A frequent approach is the design of an annual report on the family as is the case for example in Germany and Russia. Digitalization of information and making it available on-line is another prospective approach.

Assisting families who care for family members with disabilities or HIV

This issue includes a variety of policy instruments and measures such as: Special state allowances; funded services; Day-care centres; Bringing services to the home; Supporting vulnerable families; Guarantees by law. Problems with social exclusion still remain open as persons with disabilities or HIV are frequently not desired in social networks or work places. Similar problems exist also where families are specified as migrants, or are of specific ethnicity or religion.

Priorities about the future

The following priorities are outlined as being of primary importance during the next 5-10 years.

Reducing poverty. This is probably priority number one. Its importance is enforced by the fact that the family is a fundamental unit in society where societal norms and values are reproduced by the next generations. So poor families may reproduce poverty and thus the vicious cycle “poverty reproduces poverty” exists. Apparently it must be broken and this is the role of policies.

Other priorities for the future include issues considered as being of primary importance to stakeholders: Reconciliation between work for pay and work for the family; Protection to be provided to single-parent families; assisting families with members with disabilities and HIV.

Priorities in the future include several specific issues, such as Decentralizing services to local government units; expansion of family-home ser-

¹ A more detailed discussion is available in the UNECE regional report which can be found on website of the project “ICPD beyond 2014” under www.unece.org/pau.

vices; improving relations with NGOs; Support care for orphans and their adoption.

Remarkably the list of priorities gives less attention to matters that should gain more interest. These include care for old-age family members; cohabiting couples; same-sex couples. Less attention is paid also to monitoring policies.

The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations

The table below includes information on NGOs related to family issues that has been collected from the ICP Beyond 2014 questionnaires. Each country has been asked to include not more than three NGOs in each one of the answers.

Type of CSO	Number	Area of involvement *	Number
1) National NGO	67	1) Service Delivery	54
2) International NGO	19	2) Research and Data Collection	43
3) Youth Groups	0	3) Advocacy and Policy Formulation	56
4) Academic/research centres	6	4) Awareness Raising and social mobilisation	55
9) Other	10	5) Monitoring and legal counsel	27
		6) Education and training	40

Altogether 19 international NGOs have been cited by the countries. This is a relatively high number when compared with other sections of the questionnaire (which include matters of old age, youth and adolescence, persons with disabilities, migration, health and mortality, education). However it is striking to find that not a single youth NGO or another form of a civil society organization (CSO) has been cited. This is strange because young families need support more than families of adults, and hence they do need their CSO/NGOs. This is an observation that should be carefully considered for relative action by stakeholders.

CSO involved in monitoring and legal counsel are relatively less in number when compared with other areas of involvement. Again, this observation should raise concern among stakeholders.

Creation of fathers' NGOs is an emerging issue where CSOs are considered. These NGOs are still young and need support in their development. They are expected to help fathers exercise their parental rights, frequently impaired after a divorce when the children are allocated to the mother.

Conclusion

Recent trends in new family forms are expected to bring about their proliferation in the future. This development might have an adverse effect on social sustainability because families can be vulnerable to poverty, social exclusion and other un-

desirable problems. Protection of social sustainability is therefore indivisible from protection of families in need.

What are the family needs? A primary criterion in their definition links with human rights. Whenever they are impaired the corresponding family members need support. This is the case where social exclusion is the result of non-acceptance, or where poverty may reproduce poverty, to mention but only two examples.

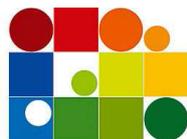
Defining needs on the basis of human rights is necessary but insufficient. Policies and stakeholders should consider needs in a broader perspective related to preferences. The work and family dilemma restricts choices of mothers to pursue a career: even if not an issue of human rights this dilemma can be solved by increasing the set of choices that individuals would like to make, such as guaranteed part-time employment or re-qualification after parental leave. Freedom of choices is a major driver of policies today that goes beyond human rights.

An important issue is however the identification of restricted choices where policy or other intervention might be desirable. In this respect use can be made by scientific research; by information gathered through NGO-related activities, and by monitoring policies for their effectiveness and speed of implementation.

From Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

IFFD PAPERS no. 26

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Assessing family perspective

The family impact report as a tool for policymakers and practitioners

1st December 2013

While United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has the opportunity to avail itself of valuable and expert advice from NGOs, the NGOs in turn also have the opportunity of expressing their views and influencing the work of the Council. NGOs have specialized competence, hands-on experience and flexibility that is of great value to the UN. By having consultative status, an NGO could provide expert analysis on issues directly from its experience in the field; serve as an early warning agent; help monitor and implement international agreements; help raise public awareness of relevant issues; play a major role in advancing United Nations goals and objectives; and contribute with essential information at organization events.²

For this reason NGOs are often encouraged to submit written statements to address subjects under the different areas of work of the Council. Resolution 1996/31 states the following about written statements: "Written statements relevant to the work of the Council may be submitted by organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on subjects in which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Secre-

tary-General of the United Nations to the members of the Council ..."³

As an organization in general consultative status, IFFD has issued the following statement for the Commission for Social Development to be held in February 2014. Since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Commission for Social Development has been the key UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Each year, the Commission has taken up key social development themes.⁴

The meaning of 'family perspective'

The long-standing effort of United Nations to protect human Rights has empowerment at its core and has been enriched during the past years with the goal of empowering the world's women and empowering the next generation through the work on youth. We feel that adding families to the agenda would be another step forward, provided it includes the removal of all barriers to the active participation of families in society, especially including decisions on investments in health, housing and education. Too often, the time, effort and money families invest in their children finds no social or economic incentive by the society bene-

² United Nations, 'Working with ECOSOC - An NGO Guide to Consultative Status' (New York, 2011). Available at: <http://csonet.org/content/documents/Brochure.pdf>

³ Ibidem

⁴ Ibidem. For more information on the Copenhagen Summit, see <http://social.un.org/Home/WSSD1995.aspx>

fitting from them, because there are no political instruments to implement it.

And this step would in return help also women and children, as they are part of the family. We need to realize the extent to which family breakdown has contributed to the feminization of poverty and the fact that family structure matters in the long term fight against poverty, in particular child poverty. If we are serious about reducing poverty, valuable short term solutions, like food banks and shelters, must partner with long term solutions, which include examining family structure and eradicating family breakdown.

For this reason, we welcome the recent Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that “encourages Governments to continue to make every possible effort to realize the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes and to integrate a family perspective into national policymaking.”⁵ 4 And, to put this into practice, we suggest the family impact report to be implemented, as a tool to assess the impact of a given policy or program in families situation. The Declaration of the Civil Society on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, sponsored by more than 200 NGOs from the five continents, notes “the opportunity it provides to revisit family-oriented policies as part of overall development efforts, supporting its objective to aim at responding to challenges faced by families and continuing to guide national efforts that benefit families worldwide and to integrate a family perspective by introducing a family impact report or assessment as a standing and compulsory part of policymaking.”⁶ That is why we think that all the contributions made by the Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars 6 are to be considered, and more specifically the six principles they establish for such reports:

1. Family support and responsibilities

Policies and programs should aim to support and supplement family functioning and provide substitute services only as a last resort. Therefore, they shouldn't provide incentives for other persons to take over family functioning when doing so may not be necessary, nor set unrealistic expectations

for families to assume financial and/or care-giving responsibilities for dependent, seriously ill, or disabled family members. They should also enforce absent parents' obligations to provide financial support for their children.

2. Family membership and stability

Whenever possible, policies and programs should encourage and reinforce marital, parental, and family commitment and stability, especially when children are involved. Intervention in family membership and living arrangements is usually justified only to protect family members from serious harm or at the request of the family itself. Moreover, they should use allocate resources to help keep the marriage or family together when this is the appropriate goal and recognize that major changes in family relationships such as divorce or adoption are processes that extend over time and require continuing support and attention. Appropriate criteria to justify removal of a child or adult from the family should also be defined.

3. Family involvement and interdependence

Policies and programs must recognize the interdependence of family relationships, the strength and persistence of family ties and obligations, and the wealth of resources that families can mobilize to help their members. They should recognize the reciprocal influence of family needs on individual needs, and the influence of individual needs on family needs, as well as the complexity and responsibilities involved in caring for family members with special needs (e.g. physically or mentally disabled, or chronically ill). Some other aspects would be to involving immediate and extended family members in working toward a solution; acknowledging the power and persistence of family ties, even when they are problematic or destructive; building on informal social support networks (such as community/neighborhood organizations, religious communities) that are essential to families' lives; respecting family decisions about the division of labor; addressing issues of power inequity in families; ensuring perspectives of all family members being represented; assessing and balancing the competing needs, rights, and interests of various family members; and protecting the rights and safety of families while respecting parents' rights and family integrity.

4. Family partnership and empowerment

Policies and programs must encourage individuals and their close family members to collaborate as partners with program professionals in delivery of services to an individual. In addition, parent and

⁵ A/C.3/68/L.16/Rev.1. Available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/68/L.16/Rev.1

⁶ Available at <http://www.family2014.org/declaration.php> 6 See <http://familyimpactseminars.org/>

family representatives are an essential resource in policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation. In that sense, they should provide full information and a range of choices to families. They should also respect family autonomy and allow families to make their own decisions. It is also important to analyze on what principles are family autonomy breached and program staff allowed to intervene and make decisions; if professionals are encouraged to work in collaboration with the families of their clients, patients, or students; if the family's need to coordinate the multiple services required is taken into account; if it integrates well with other programs and services that the families use, make services easily accessible to families in terms of location, operating hours, and easy-to-use application and intake forms. They should also prevent participating families from being devalued, stigmatized, or subjected to humiliating circumstances, and involve parents and family representatives in policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation.

5. Family diversity

Families come in many forms and configurations, and policies and programs must take into account their varying effects on different types of families. Policies and programs must then acknowledge and value the diversity of family life and not discriminate against or penalize families solely for reasons of structure, roles, cultural values, or life stage. The policy or program should acknowledge intergenerational relationships and responsibilities among family members; provide good justification for targeting only certain family types (for example, only employed parents or single parents); avoid discrimination against or penalize other types of families for insufficient reason; and identify and respect the different values, attitudes, and behavior of families from various racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and geographic backgrounds that are relevant to program effectiveness.

6. Support of vulnerable families

Families in greatest economic and social need, as well as those determined to be most vulnerable to breakdown, should be included in government policies and programs. The policy or program should identify and publicly support services for families in the most extreme economic or social need. Also, it should give support to families who are most vulnerable to breakdown and have the fewest resources and target efforts and resources

toward preventing family problems before they become serious crises or chronic situations.

Some other requirements

The Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars gives some other general comments that we consider interesting to keep in mind when designing how to define a family impact report. First, about when it is done, they can be a preliminary process conducted at an early stage when a policy or program is being designed or launched, at an interim stage when a policy or program has been implemented, or at a later stage when being evaluated or reauthorized.

It is also important to determine which family types might be affected. Policies or programs may have different effects on diverse family types. Family impact analysis should consider various aspects of diversity such as family structure (e.g., birth family, adoptive family, step family, family of origin, extended family), family life stage (e.g., families with young children or elderly dependents, aging families), geographic locale (e.g., rural, suburban, and urban), heritage (e.g., specific cultural, racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds), presence of special needs (e.g., cognitive, emotional, and physical needs), and socioeconomic diversity (e.g., income, education, number of wage earners).

To conduct a family impact analysis, expertise is generally needed on families, family impact analysis, and the specifics of the policy or program. The analysis can consist of conducting an in-depth empirical study or computer simulation. Typically it is a more qualitative process of drawing from existing evidence to estimate likely consequences. Conducting the analysis may involve such tasks as collecting new data, interviewing informants, reviewing relevant research, consulting with experts, and so forth.

In any case, a family impact analysis seldom results in overwhelming support for or opposition to a program or policy. Instead, the analysis identifies several ways in which a policy supports families and others ways it does not. After completing the analysis, policy implications can be drawn regarding the likely effects of the policy and its implementation on specific types of families and particular family functions. These implications raise issues that policymakers and practitioners may wish to take into account in their decision-making, and sometimes reveal conflicts between competing principles or varying impacts for different family types. These value judgments typically are made by policymakers on behalf of their con-

stituents or by program administrators on behalf of their boards and the families they serve. After the analysis is done, a plan should be made for disseminating the results to those policymakers or professionals who are in a position to apply them to policy and practice. The results may generate interest in and the momentum for developing policies and practices that are more responsive to and supportive of family well-being.

Family impact analysis is often difficult to conduct if family data are unavailable. Therefore, sometimes data need to be collected before a family impact analysis can be completed. When possible, data on cost effectiveness and political feasibility should also be collected and taken into account in the analysis.

The family impact analysis is meant to be nonpartisan. The intent is not to end up supporting or opposing a policy, program, agency, or organization. Instead, the goal is to raise several, often

competing, considerations that policymakers and professionals may want to weigh and factor into policy and program design, deliberations, and decisions. Also, in analyzing the data and presenting the results, keep in mind that family impact analysis has the potential to build broad, nonpartisan consensus. To do so, the analysis must be a high-quality, rigorous examination of the issue that clearly and fairly presents ways that families are and are not supported. Instead of making recommendations, the analysis should include implications for those responsible for making program and policy decisions.

Finally, the purpose of the family impact analysis is not to plan for the sake of planning, but rather to plan for the sake of acting. To move from analysis to action, be sure to develop next steps for discussing and disseminating the results and, when possible, for assessing the implementation and impact of any actions undertaken.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENTS

ICCFM (International Confederation of Christian Family Movements) is an NGO with member organizations all over the world. CFM groups are parish groups of couples who live in sacramental marriage. Their aim is to help married couples and their families deepen and strengthen their Christian faith, thus becoming more and more committed in living out their Christian vocation in the world. Besides the CFM groups, the other pillar of the movement are the series of "FIRES" programmes by Fr Gabriel Calvo. These are two-day spiritual programmes of witness, reflection, sharing, and prayer for sons and daughters, engaged couples, married couples, individuals, priests and vowed religious men and women, to build more honest and loving relationships with self, with family, with others and with GOD.

ICCFM had its World Assembly of Families and ICCFM General Assembly in summer 2013 in Bucaramanga, Colombia. The General Assembly has elected the new president couple, Jorge and Rosalinda Carillo from Mexico. At the same time the revised Constitution and By-laws of the Confederation have been approved. The new presidents are engaged to serve the Confederation with much enthusiasm and professionalism. A visible sign of this is the renewed homepage of the organisation, where more information about ICCFM and its activities are available: <http://www.iccfm.org>. As a next step, the executive team of the ICCFM is going to meet in Mexico at the end of January 2014. The purpose of this meeting is to get familiarised with the needs of the members and to be able to offer a better service. The meeting will be also an occasion to discuss tasks for the future and establish strategies for their implementation.



**RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER THE REALIZATION OF THE XXIII CONGRESS ON FAMILY POLICIES -
"PROMOTING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS"**

PROSALIS - Health Project in Lisbon organized on the 1st of October 2013, in the Auditorium of the New Building of the Parliament the XXIII Congress on Family Policies - "FAMILY AND AGEING - PROMOTING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS."

On the other hand, PROSALIS holds Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC - Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (with this status NGOs have the opportunity to be heard by an audience truly worldwide and contribute to the achievement of its goals, to express their opinions and influence the work of the Council), also integrating the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family (United Nations, Austria) and the NGO Committee on Ageing (United Nations, New York), participating in the work of these committees, in particular Working Group on Ageing, seeking to contribute for the creation of a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

It also became important to remember, while Family Association that the XXIII Congress intended to give emphasis to the beginning of the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (1994-2014). For this year celebrations PROSALIS has the support of a newly formed institution,

EMBRACE THE FAMILY - Association for the Recognition of Family which has collaborated on this event. The best way to begin the celebrations was with a message from Renata Kaczmarek, from the Focal Point of the Family at the United Nations who has prepared an important message to the attendees of our Congress, which we have the pleasure to attach. We are very honored and grateful for her important contribution. In this statement, Renata Kaczmarek referred the annual message of Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations for the International Day of the Family, this year with the theme "Promoting

social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities" which referred:

"Families hold societies together, and intergenerational relationships extend this legacy over time ... Around the world, family members are doing their part. They deserve support from policy-makers and decision makers, from public institutions and private business. There is a growing recognition around the world that we need to strengthen policies promoting intergenerational solidarity and support programmes and intergenerational initiatives."

Celebrating also on the day of this Congress the 23th Anniversary of the Day International Older People's the Institution could not remain indifferent to this date and at the Opening Session made a reference to the Message from Secretary General of the United Nations to this day, which included: "On this International Day of Older Persons, I call on countries and people to try to remove the barriers to older people allowing their full participation in society while protecting their rights and their dignity. " We attached the XXIII Congress report prepared by research assistants under the guidance of PhD. Marta Gonçalves.

To conclude, we would like to identify two recommendations of the outmost importance:

1 - FAMILY

"Families are basic pillars and essential building blocks of societies and have a crucial role in social development. Despite many demographic, social and economic changes, the Family remains a basic unit of reproduction, consumption and asset building. Families are primary providers of economic support and care to their members. This

social protection function of Families is especially important and more visible now in times of uncertainty and vulnerability when families bear the brunt of consequences of persisting financial and economic crisis" (Message sent by Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point on the Family, UN).

The economic and social crisis that our country is going through has shown the wealth that family represents and family solidarity that translates into more secure support from those who are confronted with unemployment or abrupt fall in incomes and the consequent inability to tackle commitments intended to satisfy essential family needs. (Program of the 1st Meeting of EMBRACE THE FAMILY - Association for the Recognition of the Family) We recommend the development of national policies and programs Family oriented and designed to improve your well-being, with the goal of helping families cope with their responsibilities, supporting them in their different functions instead of replacing them.

2 - AGEING

The report "Global Aging 2013 Index" prepared by HelpAge International, in particular data of Portugal states that the country already has a high percentage (26.6%) of elderly, and it is expected that

this figure rises to 40.4% 2050, making Portugal pass from eighth to second place among 195 countries on the elderly population. One International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons would provide to the Government a legal framework and a support that would help to protect and promote the rights of older people in society of increasingly ageing. This Convention would demonstrate a definitive and universal position which would demonstrate that to ignore the rights of older people is morally and legally unacceptable. We recommend to our government to support the adoption of a Convention, with the support of the United Nations on the Rights of Older People. We also recommend that in the Development Agenda of Members of the United Nations post-2015 should be given a dynamic and universal answer to the ageing framework. Once that population structures change, laws, policies, social attitudes and institutional practices must adapt. Members of United Nations have an historic opportunity to ensure that the new global development framework contains an approach which helps to ensure sustainable development and equivalent for people of all ages and capacities.

Maria Helena Patrício Paes
(Chairperson)



SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF MMM ACTIVITIES

MMM President member of UN NGO Committee on the Family Executive Board

On 23 May 2013, MMM President Florence von Erb was elected member of the Executive Board of the UN NGO Committee on the Family in New York.

MMM at the 37th General Conference of UNESCO

At the 37th General Conference of UNESCO held from 5 to 20 November 2013, MMM UNESCO representatives Pauline Ambrogí and Gabrielle de Milleville delivered a speech to the Education Commission on “The importance for girls and women to acquire education, knowledge and skills needed to cope with Information and Communication Technology (ICT).”

The speech can be found at: http://www.makemothersmatter.org/ficdoc/13118_UNESCO_37th.pdf.

Human Rights Council UN Geneva: MMM raises mothers' unpaid care work issue

On 18 September 2013, MMM raised mothers' unpaid care work issue at a side event to the **24th Session** of the Human Rights Council on “**Unpaid care work, women's rights and poverty: making the connection**”. The event was jointly organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, MMM & Association Points Coeur, and sponsored by the permanent Missions of Chile, Finland, France and Uruguay in Geneva, as well as the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva. Building on the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty, the ILO, UNRISD, OHCHR, as well as the experience of MMMI in this area, the event presented arguments for consideration of unpaid care work as a major human rights issue, and proposed strategies for the better recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work, as an important step towards the better realization of women's human rights and their fight against poverty.

For more information and the MMM presentation “Addressing unpaid care work? What matters to Mothers” visit:

<http://www.makemothersmatter.org/en/un/onu/geneve/291/2013/sept/18/hcr24/side/event/unpaid/care/workwomen/rights/poverty>

Make Mothers Matter joins call for Social Protection Floor

Make Mothers Matter signed the petition established by the NGO Committee on Social Development, New York, calling for a Social Protection Floor for all, and invites other organizations and individuals to join this campaign. The Social Protection Floor refers to a basic set of social rights derived from human right treaties to guarantee income security, food security, adequate nutrition and access to essential services. For more information see www.socialprotection.org

→ Support the Social Protection Floor Initiative (the petition is also available in French and Spanish) at:

<http://www.ngosocdev.net/index.php/socialprotectionfloorcampaign/>

MMMI also supports the NGO Committee's 2013 Civil Society Declaration, which explicitly notes that “Men and women must benefit equally from social protection systems.”

→ Visit our website to read the Civil Society Declaration 2013.

MMM conference during Annual General Meeting in Brussels

Find out how the MMM UN Delegation and European Delegation voice mothers' concerns and read about the many grassroots activities of MMM members to help mothers develop their strengths within and outside Europe: France, Great Britain, Belgium, Sweden, Zambia, Colombia and other countries.

<http://www.makemothersmatter.org/en/whatwearedoing/conferences/gb/283/makemothersmatter/conference/duringannualgeneralmeetinginbrussels>

International Day of Families 2013: Make Mothers Matter Press Release; Make Mothers Matter Newsletter

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DOWNLOAD THE LATEST NEWSLETTER AT:

<http://www.makemothersmatter.org>

On the occasion of the International Day of Families celebrated on 15 May 2013, MMM urged governments around the world to review and weigh the socio-economic difficulties faced by families. Find the full text at: [http://www.makemothersmatter.org/ficdoc/130506_press-release_MMMI_International-Day-Families1.pdf](http://www.makemothersmatter.org/ficdoc/130506_press%20release_MMMI_International%20Day%20Families1.pdf)

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ECOSOC - Special Consultative Status - Since 1947
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2 December 2013

Dr Peter Crowley, Secretary
Vienna NGO Committee on the Family
Josefstrasse 13
A-3100 St. Poelten
Austria

Dear Dr. Crowley,

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is one of the largest international organisations for rural and farming women with over 460 societies in more than 70 countries. One of our objectives is to raise the standard of living for rural women and families through education, training and community development programmes.

ACWW has been an NGO with special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947.

We wish to bring to your attention that during our 2013 International Triennial Conference in Chennai, India the following Resolutions were passed:

Maternal Health

Be it resolved that ACWW Member Societies urge their governments to provide a well-trained and re-sourced quality maternity health service and to improve maternal health education for all women and girls to ensure the best outcomes for mother and baby, giving particular regard to the special needs and isolation of rural women.

Registration of Births

Be it resolved that ACWW member societies urge their governments to record without prejudice the births of all children born within their jurisdiction to ensure that all children are recognised as citizens.

Stop the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation

Be it resolved that ACWW calls on all people worldwide to stop the practice of female genital mutilation, female circumcision and cutting which endangers the health and life of young girls.

Stop Violence against Women and Girls

ACWW urges all member societies to focus strongly on the situation of girls and women who are victims of different forms of violence.

Women as Victims of Conflict

Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World and its member organisations urge their governments to act, not only adopt, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

We request that the NGO Committee on the Family take into consideration these Resolutions when determining policy.

Yours truly,



Ruth Shanks
World President

Recent and Forthcoming events

23RD JANUARY 2014

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Conference 'Addressing health inequalities 2014 and beyond: building cohesion and strengthening health for growth'

This conference is for leaders and champions at European, national and regional levels who are responsible for producing or shaping policies and strategies that address the social determinants of health such as housing, environment, education and employment, and those from NGOs and academia who are seeking to influence the uptake of policies to reduce health inequalities.

The purpose of the conference is to:

- Showcase the results of the Joint Action on health inequalities 'Equity Action';
- Assess progress on addressing health inequalities in the EU; and
- Consider opportunities and priorities for action.

As well as hearing examples from Equity Action partners, there will be various high level speakers who will share their analysis, and identify how work scheduled for the 2014-2020 programming period could help.

There will be leadership key notes from Sir Michael Marmot (Institute of Health Equity), Commissioner Tonio Borg (DG SANCO), Zsuzsanna Jakab (director WHO Europe office) and political contributions from the European Parliament and the United Kingdom Department of Health as well as a representative from the Greek Presidency of the EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.equityaction-project.eu/final-conference/>

26TH JANUARY 2014

SAN DIEGO, USA

The 28th Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment

Examining the Evidence Base for Working with Men and Boys: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse – An Interactive Global Institute,

A brief outline of the challenges and the state of present evidence-based information related to programmes involving men and boys in preventing child sexual abuse. The process followed by ISPCAN is one of reiteration during which previous information and research findings related to the topic will be summarized and presented. This will be followed by discussion and debate with the intention of further expanding our existing evidence-based knowledge on sexual abuse prevention.

FURTHER INFORMATION: http://www.ispcan.org/events/event_list.asp

28TH TO 28TH JANUARY 2014

CENTRAL LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Missing and Runaway Children

Our event equips you with the expert advice required to safeguard vulnerable children. Shining a spotlight on early intervention, workforce training, data sharing and effective placement planning.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/missing-and-runaway-children-conference.html?code=SMCA>

30TH JANUARY TO 1ST FEBRUARY 2014

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Early Years Conference 2014 - Shaping Childhood: Factors that Matter

This conference will explore the complex nature of the social, physical and biological environments that shape children's development. View conference brochure and register online. Early bird registration deadline is December 6, 2013.

Organized by: UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 31st May 2013

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/earlyyears2014/default.asp>

13TH TO 14TH FEBRUARY 2014

VADODARA, GUJARAT, INDIA

International Conference on Women and Millennium Development Goals: A Social Work Response

The conference will attempt to maintain the momentum for accelerating progress to 2015, take stock of lessons learnt from efforts to achieve the MDGs so as to help understand the Global Social work response to the development agenda beyond 2015.

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 10th January 2014

FURTHER INFORMATION: : <http://www.msubaroda.ac.in/wmdg/>

15TH TO 16TH FEBRUARY 2014

PILANI, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Youth Conference 2014, BITS PILANI

BITS Pilani presents a two day long Conference, a confluence of young minds with veteran leaders and nationalists. Youth Conference'14 is a one-off avenue for the young and propelled minds, people with panoramic experiences in life.

Organized by: National Service Scheme, BITS Pilani

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 20th January 2014

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.nss-bits-pilani.org/youthcon/>

19TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2014

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Child Sensitive Social Policies International Conference 2014

The Conference – themed - ‘Towards a Child Sensitive Society in Africa’, seeks to explore the centrality of children in African contexts.

Organized by: Women's University in Africa in conjunction with UNICEF

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 10th December 2013

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.wua.ac.zw>

3RD TO 4TH MARCH 2014

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Child Online Safety and Protection Conference

The Inaugural Child Online Safety and Protection Conference will focus on policies, programs and practices for protecting children's privacy rights and ensuring their safety online. Time: 9am-5pm, Booking <http://atnd.it/5288-2>, Price:1094.50

Organized by: Informa Australia

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://atnd.it/5288-0>

14TH TO 16TH MARCH 2014

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

9th Global Conference: Creative Engagements: Thinking With Children

This global research project seeks explore the concept of genuine ‘engagement’ within the overarching framework of ‘creativity’.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/education/creative-engagements-thinking-with-children/call-for-papers/>

26TH TO 27TH MARCH 2014

DUBLIN, IRELAND

What's Working for Young People 2014

This international conference will bring together some of the world's leading experts in the field of adolescence to explore the most effective and innovative ways of working with young people, from policy, practice & research perspectives.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://www.whatsworkingforyoungpeople.org>

Impressum

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