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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

We, ministers and representatives of Governments at the national and local levels, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, parliaments, the private sector, the media and families, counting 334 participants from 74 countries representing all continents of the world, participating in the World Family Summit +8, held in Iguassu Falls, Brazil, having fulfilled the Summit agenda with fruitful plenary discussions,

Having considered the theme “Families in balance: placing science and technology, culture and innovation in the heart of sustainable development at the local level and in the family”,

Recognizing that science, technology, culture and innovation can play a critical role in achieving each and every one of the Millennium Development Goals, by:

- Fostering access to knowledge
- Increasing productivity, industrialization, economic growth and the creation of decent jobs
- Promoting health and access to essential drugs
- Achieving food security through sustainable, equitable agricultural systems and by raising production and incomes, especially of smallholder farms
- Promoting renewable energy technologies in order to respond to the dual challenge of reducing energy poverty while mitigating climate change

Acknowledging that families provide the basis for building a sustainable future and are the convergence point where the impact of public policies are felt, where new people-centred technology can be deployed, where culture is transmitted from one generation to the next and where attitude and behaviour can be changed to favour sustainable lifestyles,

Reaffirming that the World Family Summit +8 focused first of all on implementing the global sustainable development agenda to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of families and also to examine how to shape local sustainable development agendas, policies and actions that capture the family perspective,

Recalling that the Summit also relied on the perspective of national ministers, local government representatives and civil society stakeholders and the shared lessons learned from case studies around the world,

Recognizing that the Summit also built on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and sought ways to achieve inclusive people-centred sustainable local development, requiring broad public participation and access to information as well as the meaningful involvement and active participation of all stakeholders at the local level,

Highlighting that science and technology, culture and innovation for the realization of the future we want has a strong interface with education for sustainable development and sustainable consumption and production,

Noting that, over the past 20 years, knowledge-generation and information-sharing has grown at an accelerated pace, that the number of people in the emerging

global innovation cluster has more than doubled and that communication and interconnection have reached previously unimaginable levels,

Acknowledging that all these advancements should in principle put humanity in a much better position to find solutions to sustainable development challenges,

Understanding that development is a complex interaction of multiple economic, social, cultural, ecological, political and legal factors with cross-border elements tying together people across the globe,

Reaffirming that development strategies and policies should provide guides for priority-setting at all levels and should create an enabling environment to meet shared objectives and support global, national and local solutions while supporting the empowerment of families to determine their own future,

Supporting the initiative of the United Nations to propose a people-centred, inclusive and sustainable development agenda, as a possible context for a post-2015 agenda that is responsive to both today and tomorrow's global challenges,

Unanimously resolve to commit ourselves:

(a) To advocate for an urgent need to find new development pathways that encourage creativity and innovation in the pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and development;

(b) To advocate for an integrated framework for defining the post-2015 development agenda, built around the three fundamental principles of human rights, equality and sustainability, and the four core dimensions of inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development and peace and security;

(c) To advocate for the inclusion of different voices in the process in order to capture the perspectives and contribution of all stakeholders, including families;

(d) To encourage efforts in the implementation of priority areas for sustainable development, such as poverty eradication, food security and sustainable agriculture, including family agriculture, the sustainable use of water and energy, the use of sustainable transportation and mobility, sustainable cities and human settlements, full and productive employment, decent work and social protection;

(e) To recognize the important contribution that the scientific and technological community makes in sustainable development and to strengthen the science-policy interface when establishing family-focused frameworks;

(f) To encourage the adoption of a green economy in the context of sustainable development as one of the important tools for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication;

(g) To encourage local authorities and families to develop and utilize sustainable development strategies as key instruments for guiding needs, decision-making and the implementation of sustainable development, and for promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

(h) To advocate that all stakeholders, Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society adopt and adapt the concept of

social innovation to ensure that families are in balance in their journey towards sustainable development and happiness;

(i) To advocate that, although technology is a must in our family and societal lives, Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and all other stakeholders should be aware that technology can also be harmful and that there is a need to take preventive and protective measures on a global scale for our children and family members;

(j) To advocate that the transmission of family values and culture to future generations is important and that all stakeholders should put family values and culture at the centre of their development efforts, and that, in this sense, as a useful tool, the promotion and implementation of family education should be offered to all;

(k) To advocate that it is not enough to listen and to read about the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals, Agenda 21 and other United Nations goals and objectives, and that, as citizens, we must ask our local authorities to act on them and to propose concrete measures to implement them in the community;

(l) To take actions to enable civil society to be informed, sensitized and mobilized to participate and asked to contribute to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals, Agenda 21 and environmental protection, at the local level close to them and their families;

(m) To take actions to provide genuine training and education programmes to be put in place to promote the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals, Agenda 21 and other major sustainability objectives for humanity, with respect for economic, social and cultural diversity;

(n) To encourage all stakeholders to make available budgets and strategies to introduce training and education on the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and Agenda 21, if we really want the present and future generations to become real actors and to get involved in their achievements.

The organization welcomes all families of the world to join in its efforts with the United Nations, Governments and all stakeholders to fulfil their commitments towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development goals and Agenda 21, constituting the biggest partnership with a view to building a present and future world characterized by more peace, security, justice, equity, transparency, tolerance, solidarity, prosperity and integration, by mobilizing and promoting the basic economic, political, sociocultural and sustainable unit of society, namely, the family.
