



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE family



## FAMILY CONFERENCE - III INTERNATIONAL FAMILY POLICIES

29-30 November 2014

### FINAL DECLARATION

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family designated by the United Nations, the Journalists and Writers Foundation Women's Platform organised the International Family Conference III – International Family Policies on 29-30 November 2014, with contributions of 17 speakers from 13 different countries, which dealt with family and law, family and work, family and poverty through regional practices, underlined by the presentations.

Recognizing the family as a natural and fundamental group unit of societies (E/RES/2014/8), we welcome all the preparations and celebrations happening around the world for this Anniversary. With the spirit of being part of it, Stressing that equality between men and women, especially women's equal participation in employment, shared parental responsibility and respect to the rights of children should be the essentials of family policies,

Acknowledging the evidence that family policies and laws are more effective when targeting the family unit rather than each one of its members; that balancing work and family life helps parents to be co-responsible in their tasks; and that empowering families is essential to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty,

Convinced that civil society has a significant role in promoting human rights, assessing family policies and supporting families, we urge governments to consider these recommendations:

1. Family policies should always take into consideration the empowerment of women within the family, especially in their integration to the labour market.
2. Make sure that the law always respects the rights of every member of the family to be part of the decision process within the family.
3. Respect every nation's peculiarities as long as they don't violate the international conventions and treaties; and promote mutual understanding between different societies.
4. Make sure that reproductive technologies do not violate the basic rights of all parts involved.
5. Never force women to make a choice between work and family commitments; therefore consider the cost of maternal leave and in-kind services and tax benefits as investment for the society.
6. Build a legal framework in which the private sector doesn't get extra cost when their staff receives maternal leave, and the woman has the guarantee to keeping her job.
7. Ensure the universal accessibility and quality of early child education.
8. Ensure that young generations get the skills to find a way to integrate into society and start a family through a proper job.
9. Ensure that families are not replaced in their duties, but supported and made accountable for the help they get from society.
10. Mainstream the family in the sustainable development agenda, and take into account that the achievement of the new Development Goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to their achievement.

