

I- REINFORCING THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Promoting individual well-being through family well-being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All human beings are (or have been or will be) linked to one or several families, and their well-being is affected by the quality of the support available from these families. Thus, family well-being is relevant to individual well-being. The societal ills such as social exclusion, poverty and unemployment that create instability, hardship and insecurity within families have proved to be very resistant to traditional welfare approaches and have thwarted efforts to cure them. The situation calls for a fundamental rethinking of the objectives and policies of traditional welfare programmes and poverty reduction strategies. Families are at the heart of this rethinking process. 	<p>a) To strengthen the role of the family in accordance with the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF. 166/9, annex II) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/CONF. 171/13);</p>	<p>1) Formulate and adopt development strategies that acknowledge the value of investing in people and in their families and that give priority to such investments;</p>
		<p>b) As part of a long-term approach to sustainable development that is preventive rather than reactive, to recognize the pivotal role of families in achieving individual well-being and to identify and remove impediments to individual and family well-being;</p>	
		<p>c) To create individual well-being by empowering families and fostering the conditions that will allow them to improve their own well-being and that of future generations;</p>	<p>2) Formulate family-sensitive policies in the fields of housing, work, health, social security and education.</p>
		<p>d) To promote a people-centered approach to sustainable development</p>	

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Integrating family well-being and development strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a tendency to look at families as private units and as beneficiaries of, rather than actors in, the development process. The development strategies of the past several decades have not sufficiently taken into account the role of families in society or the effect of those strategies on families. <p>There is need for a major change in thinking about the ways in which families and households participate in economic activity and in sustainable development. The care and nurture provided by family members directly and without compensation is just as important as the output of the whole market economy. Development strategies need to be concerned with the way the activities of the formal and informal sectors are interrelated. This also means rethinking notions of efficiency and value. Too often, notions of efficiency in the use of resources refer only to paid resources used in production and ignore unpaid resources used in the support of individuals. To introduce reformed concepts of efficiency and value and to integrate unpaid work into development strategies, broader indicators need to be used and unpaid labour must be accounted for. Such a reform would humanize the development process and integrate social and economic development processes. Policies that aim at influencing the entire economy should be based on a good knowledge of the economic and social roles of families and of their needs.</p>	a) To recognize the contribution of families to development, notably in respect to unpaid work and support for individual and community development;	1) Introduce a family dimension to the decision-making and administrative processes of the government agencies responsible for economic, environmental and social policies and programmes;
		b) To elaborate a family-sensitive approach to development;	
		c) To incorporate a family dimension into all policies and programmes concerned with sustainable development;	2) Refine indicators of output to account for the value of unpaid work in families.
		d) To strengthen entitlements and support for those caring for other family members.	

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<p>Families and sustained economic growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty remains the greatest challenge to development efforts. In much of the world, the harshest threats to family life and human well-being stem from extreme poverty and unequal access to resources. Economic growth within the context of sustainable development is essential for eradicating poverty. 	<p>a) The objective is to ensure that economic and social policy set goals that will generate employment and lead families out of poverty, ensuring higher standards of living.</p>	<p>1. Address the special needs of families and their members, to help integrate them into the workforce;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic growth is also essential for maintaining the integrity of family life and the ability of the family to function as a social unit: The structure and the dynamic of the global economy continue to cause widespread unemployment, poverty, homelessness, family disintegration and many other societal ills, reducing the ability of families to meet the needs of their members. Structural adjustment programmes may also have a negative impact on the family, because they cut the number of jobs, raise food and energy prices and curtail spending on social welfare, health and education. 		<p>2. Monitor the negative effects of structural adjustment policies on family well-being and take steps to mitigate them;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macroeconomic and sectoral policies geared towards economic reform tend not to pay attention to the impact they have on families. Were they to take family issues into account, they could promote the participation of women in the paid labor 		<p>3. Take into account families and their concerns when formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating economic policies and programmes for sustainable development, including the role of families as production units and employers as well as their support of family members in paid employment;</p>
			<p>4. Take measures to ensure equal access of women and men to employment, education and job training and to encourage the sharing of domestic responsibilities;</p>
			<p>5. Design social welfare policies that respond to the needs of families without placing an undue burden on the ability of business to compete;</p>
			<p>6. Create programmes that</p>

	<p>force, giving them a greater say in the decision that shape their lives and those of family members. Such policies should also consider the effects of migratory labor patterns, on of which is absentee fathers, on familial support structures.</p>		<p>encourage family business as a source of employment and financial self-sufficiency. Such programmes could teach skills, marketing techniques, accounting procedures and quality control as well as incentives for family entrepreneurship;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of the recession and structural adjustment programmes have been magnified by cutbacks in services provided by the State. In part, the cutbacks are the result of the diminished ability of governments to finance such services; no less significantly, they also reflect a perception that the cost of such services pose an obstacle to economic recovery. This perception may, however, obscure the equally compelling view that sustainable development cannot progress far in the absence of a sound social service system. Indeed, the attainment of social goals is a prerequisite to the attainment of many economic goals. 		<p>7. Remove the obstacles to family businesses posed by legislation, policies and practices, one example of which is the ineligibility of those engaged in small family enterprises to participate in contributory unemployment benefit schemes;</p> <p>8. Undertake macroeconomic studies on the effects on the family of increased trade and movements of the labor force within and beyond national borders.</p>

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<p>Families and the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which took place at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, was a milestone for the understanding of the delicate balance between people and the physical environment in which they live. By seeing themselves as an essential part of the global ecosystem, families can become efficient stewards of their environments. Families have to protect that balance by practicing responsible parenthood, consumption and resource use. A holistic view of families and the environment recognizes the interdependency between people, between families and between social systems and, especially, the relationship of families to the natural environment. 	<p>a) The objective is to enable families to meet the developmental and environmental needs of the present and future generations, in accordance with the objectives of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/26), by eliminating unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.</p>	<p>1. Change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, pay attention to families as consumers whose purchasing power has a potential impact on the economy and as producers whose methods have environmental ramifications;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and children everywhere are at risk from environmental deterioration. The poor and the socially and economically vulnerable are usually most at risk. Families should be empowered to respect and protect the richness of the planet's natural world. 		<p>2. Train families to deal with land, forest and water resources in an integrated and sustainable manner and improve the use of their land and combat its degradation;</p>
			<p>3. Encourage family organizations to give priority to environmental concerns, including the consumption patterns of households, and to mobilize</p>

			support for recycling waste by means of community-level campaigns;
			4. Support families and local communities in their efforts to combat soil erosion, desertification and other forms of environmental degradation and draw on their knowledge and experience;
			5. Offer support and training that will encourage families, as consumptive and productive units, to introduce sustainable, environment-friendly practices and to eliminate unsustainable practices.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Families and social integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As agents of socialization, families can strengthen social integration by promoting respect for pluralism and diversity. They can also promote good citizenship. 	a) To recognize and strengthen the central role of families in improving social integration;	1. Undertake campaigns to raise public awareness of the potential for families to promote tolerance, respect for diversity, democratic values and civic responsibility;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families have always been effective advocates for disadvantaged groups in society by promoting the social integration of disadvantaged family members, by fostering an awareness of their special needs and by pressing for services to meet those needs. Families should be supported in these efforts. 	b) To promote attitudes and behaviours in families that are consistent with and supportive of social integration;	2. Support the formation and operation of family organizations that work to integrate disadvantaged, marginalized or vulnerable groups by means of legislation and incentives;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the case of poor families or minorities, marginalization, discrimination and intolerance are often experienced by all family members. The support offered 	c) To support families in their advocacy of disadvantaged family	3. Take measures to end exploitation and abuse of women and children and other vulnerable

	<p>within a family can be vital, but it can also place an enormous strain on the family. Additionally, the absence of family supports can hinder the social integration of groups such as refugees and migrants.</p>	<p>members and in caring for them;</p>	<p>family members and violence against them;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notwithstanding the contribution of families to social integration, many of their attitudes and practices, namely those that deny the full and equal participation of women in society and in family life, as well as the rights of children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, pose problems for family members. The social exclusion of some people by virtue of family status (single parents and their children are one example) and the economic hardships they face pose a particular challenge for policy makers. Problems such as these must be addressed in any comprehensive approach to social integration. 	<p>d) To raise public awareness of social integration and action in support of it, including respect for family diversity and recognition of how families can help to eliminate discrimination;</p>	<p>4. Develop mechanisms to ensure that all members of families have equal access to education and employment and equal opportunity to participate in community life;</p>
<p>e) To lessen the poverty and unemployment that marginalize families and keep individuals from participating fully in the life of their community.</p>		<p>5. Act to eliminate stigmatization of the poor and unemployed and to alleviate poverty and unemployment;</p>	
<p>f) To built strong, family-friendly societies based on the tenets of social integration contained in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.</p>		<p>6. Strengthen mechanisms that would encourage all family members to be involved in the decision-making and problem-solving inherent in family life;</p>	
		<p>7. Recognize the importance of family reunification for documented migrants and of their social integration in the receiving countries.</p>	

II. CREATING AN ENABLING SOCIETAL ENVIRONMENT

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vital role of families in sustainable development and the importance of their functions underscore the need to create family-friendly societal conditions that favour families and support their functioning. There must be a general awareness of and sensitivity to the real strengths and needs of families. 	a) To make all sectors of society, including the political and social leadership, policy makers, the service sector, the private sector, the media and the general public, aware of the functions and conditions of families;	1. Increase awareness of family issues by means that might include references to them by political leaders in speeches and policy statements, published materials, cultural activities;
		b) To ensure the widest possible observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May (United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/237) as an instrument for raising awareness of family issues.	2. Observe the International Day of Families on 15 May of every year, taking the opportunity to raise awareness of international and national family-related issues.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Knowledge about families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The up-to-date knowledge that is necessary to translate family needs into concrete support is often lacking. Rapid social change leads to substantial changes in family forms, structures, functions, conditions and values, making it necessary to constantly upgrade the information that serves as basis for family policies and programmes, particularly to reflect the special needs of all forms of families. 	a) The objective is to ensure that the perceptions of families and policies and programmes regarding families are based on accurate and up-to-date	1. Support institutions doing research on family issues by providing financial and other forms of assistance, including the training of family researchers;
			2. Collect data on the family, particularly on its inter-generational or multi-household aspects, through national institutions;
			3. Identify information gaps and fill them with data from the census and similar sources;
			4. Ensure that new policies, programmes and laws are based on up-to-date knowledge that reflects the special needs of various forms of families;
			5. Consult research and academic institutions concerned with family issues to ensure that current realities are reflected in policy decision-making processes;

		information.	6. Disseminate the results of studies on families to as broad a public as possible.
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Family empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite its relevance to national goals, family well-being is rarely a priority in national policy. The caring, nurturing, educational and socializing functions of the family are as vital to achieving social progress and justice as they are to achieving sustainable development. Families provide emotional and other support for their members and cater for their needs. Moreover, democratic, well-informed families can help to prevent social problems such as disability, crime, alcohol and drug addiction, neglect, abuse and violence. They are also an essential means to promote the enjoyment of human rights as well as to preserve and transmit social values and culture. 	a) The objective is to enable families to provide for their members and to contribute to their communities and the development process.	1. Recognize in national policy that empowering families and supporting them in their functions is an investment in the well-being of the whole society;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families should be empowered to perform their multiple functions. An enabling environment, as well as specific support, will safeguard family well-being by promoting family strengths. A comprehensive range of interventions may be required, including educating the public on the available services and benefits. Appropriate training and delivery mechanisms must be provided to helping professionals and agencies. 		2. Identify and implement policies and programmes that would help families to carry out their functions. Interventions might include free or subsidized services; cash allowances, tax benefits or other means of ensuring adequate income; ensuring access to good housing, health care, community services and a healthy and sustainable natural and built environment; and public information about family life and available services and programmes;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The well-being and empowerment of families is closely linked to employment and income. Controlling unemployment, sustaining adequate rates of pay, providing credit, creating jobs and offering training are among the means of eliminating poverty and empowering families. 		<p>3. Sensitize and train professionals engaged in providing services. Particular attention should be paid to the efficient delivery of social services, proactive interventions and support for families in difficult situations;</p> <p>4. Make families aware of existing programmes and services and give them information on eligibility requirements.</p>
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Family-impact consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many policies and programmes other than those directed specifically at families deal with issues that have direct consequences for families, even though those consequences are generally not acknowledged. It is important to realize that policies and programmes in many spheres of activity are likely to have an impact on families, on how they are formed and on whether they will thrive and be able to carry out their functions. Because family concerns span all levels of society and reach across generations, many policies that are not explicitly regarded as relevant to families may have unseen or long-range implications. It is important, therefore, to pay attention to the impact of all policies on families, throughout the process of policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, while taking measures to minimize the long-term negative effects on family well-being. 	<p>a) The objective is to promote consideration of the impact on families of all policies, programmes and legislation that affect them and avoid any negative consequences to family well-being and ability to contribute to society.</p>	<p>1. Make families a focus of public policy concerns by officially recognizing that decisions and actions will usually have an impact on families;</p> <p>2. Routinely assess the impact on families at all stages of policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and alleviate any negative consequences for families. Prepare family impact statements for each proposed law or policy or specify situations when such statements are required.</p>

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<p>Improving family infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate and strong infrastructure and policy instruments are needed to strengthen and support families and to promote a conducive environment for them, reconciling these goals with overall socio-economic goals and priorities. Such instruments are essential to promote family awareness; increase knowledge on families; identify, develop and carry out measures to empower families; advance family-impact consideration; and achieve family participation and subsidiarity. Elements of this infrastructure include family law, family policy, family-specific institutions and family associations. 	<p>a) The objective is to improve family law; develop and improve family policy; establish or strengthen institutions and administrative arrangements dealing with families; and support family associations.</p>	<p>1. Draw up legal instruments pertaining to the family, in accordance with the provisions of international instruments and standards;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power of institutions that deal with family issues and their technical and political skills will affect the adoption of economic and social policies that are favorable to families. These institutions need to be strengthened and, if necessary, new ones created. Family associations can be a powerful force for promoting the concerns of families. 		<p>2. Review and reform national family laws to ensure that they are non-discriminatory and respect the human rights of all family members. Such laws might relate to the formation and dissolution of families, to other associations based on kinship, to gender relations within the family, to the rights of spouses, mothers, fathers, children and other family members, to inheritance and property ownership or to domestic violence. Family legislation and administrative procedures should be responsive to various family forms and changing conditions;</p>
	<p>3. Establish or strengthen gender equality before the law in the administrative practices derived from it;</p>		
	<p>4. Establish or strengthen national mechanisms for an</p>		

			integrated, periodic review of legislation dealing with family issues, based on changing conditions;
			5. Develop or strengthen technical assistance for formulating family law and develop mechanisms for sharing experience gained in this area;
			6. Initiate or strengthen family policy at the national level;
			7. Encourage local communities and non-governmental organizations to participate in the elaboration of policy and the design, delivery and monitoring of programmes;
			8. Strengthen the institutions that deal with family issues, giving them the political power, financial resources and technical competence they need to influence policy. If necessary, create new ones.
			9. Support existing family associations and networks and encourage the creation of new ones. Establish collaboration between them and other governmental and non-governmental institutions. Assist them in internationalizing their concerns and becoming more knowledgeable about the economic and political consequences of the changes occurring in the world and the impact of these changes on families.
			10. Draw up legal instruments pertaining to the family, in accordance with the provisions of international instruments and standards;

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Democracy, participation and subsidiarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biggest political power block with a vested interest in family matters and the potential to influence public policy is families themselves. 	a) The objective is to enhance the participation of families in the decision-making and to enable	1. Establish mechanisms, including family associations, by which families can participate in

	<p>The involvement of families in decision-making on issues that concern them will help to ensure that the decisions are appropriate to the needs of families.</p>	<p>them to contribute to problem-solving.</p>	<p>decisions and processes affecting them, either directly or indirectly. Pay particular attention to the participation of women, on the basis of democratic principles, and to increasing the proportion of women in political decision making. Promote the participation of children as well, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A democratic system based on equal rights for women and men will allow all family members to influence decisions affecting their situation. Participation, particularly by women, will give family issues political urgency. 			<p>2. Enlist the expertise of community development specialists in mobilizing family groups to solve local problems and to advise on national public policy;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many public decisions regarding families are best taken at the grass-roots level, allowing the families too share in the development process and making the programmes flexible enough to meet local needs. 			<p>3. Support advocacy groups for family issues, particularly those who advocate on behalf of people with special needs or minorities or other disadvantaged people.</p>

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Rights and responsibilities of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Societies all over the world recognize that families have a number of societal functions and responsibilities and that they have 	<p>a) To state clearly the</p>	<p>1. Review national laws, bearing in mind relevant</p>

families	<p>corresponding rights. In many instances, these are stated, directly or indirectly, in national constitutions and laws; in others, they are informally recognized by traditions and social norms. A number of International instruments and declarations, including the International Bill of Human Rights* and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, recognize the family as the basic unit of society and its entitlement to protection by society and the State.</p>	<p>functions, responsibilities and rights of families;</p>	<p>international human rights instruments, to ensure that they contain a clear, consistent statement of the rights and responsibilities of families;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The explicit articulation of the rights, functions and responsibilities of families can be a source of inspiration and a point of reference for efforts to support families and create family-friendly societies. 	<p>b) To promote awareness of families among all segments of society;</p>	<p>2. Make all segments of societies more aware of the rights and responsibilities of families;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Societies all over the world recognize that families have a number of societal functions and responsibilities and that they have corresponding rights. In many instances, these are stated, directly or indirectly, in national constitutions and laws; in others, they are informally recognized by traditions and social norms. A number of International instruments and declarations, including the International Bill of Human Rights* and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, recognize the family as the basic unit of society and its entitlement to protection by society and the State. 	<p>c) To enable families to fulfill their responsibilities and realize their rights.</p>	<p>3. Create conditions that will enable families to fulfill their responsibilities and enjoy their rights.</p>

III. BUILDING FAMILIES BASED ON PARTNERSHIP

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Human rights and families as democratic units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basic principle of social organization is the human rights of individuals, which have been set forth in international instruments on human rights. Several of these instruments refer to the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society and recognize that it should be accorded the widest possible protection and assistance. The power of the family is and should be limited by the basic human rights of its individual members. The protection and assistance accorded to families must safeguard these rights. 	a) The objective is to promote the enjoyment of human rights within the family by all its members, on the basis of equality and human dignity, and to foster respect for human rights and the practice of democracy in society at large.	1. Pay more attention to the role of families in promoting human rights, particularly in regard to relations between their individual members;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the basic social unit, families are important in promoting human rights, particularly their enjoyment within the family but also in the larger society. For this, families must be helped to meet the basic needs of their members and must be founded and function on the principles of equality, the inviolability of the rights and responsibilities of the individual, mutual respect, love and tolerance. The principles of human rights and democracy should be learned, practiced and respected, first and foremost, in families. <i>De jure</i> democracy in society is directly linked to <i>de facto</i> democracy within families. 		2. Review and/or enact relevant national laws and legislation, in accordance with international human rights instruments, to ensure they are compatible with the principle of equal rights for all family members;
			3. Ensure that national policies and programmes respect individual rights and the practice of democratic principles within the family;
			4. Promote, through education, particularly human rights and family life education, the ideal of families functioning on the principles of human rights and democracy;
			5. Examine the family-specific aspects of existing United Nations instruments, their implementation and their monitoring by various

			committees of the Economic and Social Council: the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Stronger family components could be built into international monitoring guidelines, and information on families could be obtained from States parties to these instruments.
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Social protection, rights of children and other vulnerable members of the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain social groups should be protected from poverty and exclusion: people who cannot find work; those who cannot work due to sickness, disability, old age or maternity; those caring for their children or for sick or older relatives; families that have lost income through death or marital breakup; and people who have lost their livelihood as a result of natural disaster or civil violence, wars or forced displacement. 	<p>a) To design social protection and support programmes to help families, including those of self-employed people and migrant workers, to become self-sufficient;</p>	<p>1. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and take effective measures to implement it;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Millions of children around the world are denied their right to be loved and care for, as well as their right to food, health care and education. Some of them face domestic violence and gross abuse of their rights within their families. Street children and child-headed families, which consist of siblings who have been orphaned, abandoned or separated from their kin, are especially vulnerable. Their numbers have 	<p>b) To promote family stability and to support families in their role as nurturers and educators of children;</p>	<p>2. Undertake measures to help families to protect children and promote their right to a standard of living adequate to their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, including free education, health care, freedom from abuse and exploitation, and family reunification;</p>

	<p>increased dramatically, especially in war zones, famine areas and countries with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The human rights and needs of the elderly, people with disabilities and the ill are met largely by their families. In multi-generational families, grandparents transmit knowledge, moral values and life skills to younger generations. As such contact between generations dwindles, however, the elderly become alienated and lonely and children are deprived of their cultural heritage. 	<p>c) To protect children, to provide for their needs, to extend to them the legal, civil, social economic and cultural rights accorded by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to help families to do the same;</p>	<p>3. Establish or strengthen programmes to protect and assist vulnerable children, including children at risk of abuse, neglect and violence, children living in extreme poverty, refugee children, street children and child-headed families;</p>
		<p>d) To ensure that the decisions and recommendations of the World Summit for Children (New York, 30 September 1990), contained in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children (A/45/625, annex) are implemented;</p>	<p>4. Assist families to meet the needs and promote the rights of their most vulnerable members, such as the elderly, persons with a disability and the ill;</p>
		<p>e) To protect the rights of other vulnerable persons, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and the sick, and enable families to meet their needs;</p>	<p>5. Recognize the contribution of families to the care of their members and rectify the disproportionate responsibility for caring borne by women.</p>
		<p>f) To encourage inter-generational partnership and counteract inter-generational alienation.</p>	

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Gender equality in the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The right of women and men, girls and boys, to be treated equally in family and public life derives from the inherent dignity of all human persons. Equality between women and men is based on the fundamental and equal worth of each person and is essential to the well-being of the family and society at large. 	a) The objective is to achieve <i>de facto</i> and <i>de jure</i> gender equality within families and in society at large, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women.	1. Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and take measures to implement them;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners in marriages and consensual unions should have equal responsibilities and rights and share equally in the benefits and duties of the relationship. Their contributions to it should be regarded as of equal worth. The law should respect the principle of equality between partners, both during a relationship and after it, if it ends. In practice, full gender equality in the family is not a reality, nor are the necessary public policies in place for realizing it. The power imbalances that impede the attainment of gender equality operate at many levels in all societies, including in the family. Gender discrimination often starts in the earliest years of life, within the family. Even when <i>de jure</i> equality is assured by law, <i>de facto</i> equality is more difficult to achieve. <i>De facto</i> gender equality within the family is crucial to achieving it in the larger society, particularly because it is families that most influence the ability of an individual and his or her opportunities in life. 		2. Enforce laws on the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age at marriage, in accordance with the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (General Assembly resolution 1763 A (XVII)). Implement this Convention;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The numerous obstacles to achieving gender equality within the family create inequality at other levels as well. When women are assigned a lower status than men, they may have less access to education, training and employment and, ultimately, less income-earning capacity. A woman's contribution as an unpaid career and home-maker may not be as highly valued as that of her male partner as a paid employee, yet women and girls are frequently required to take full responsibility for child care and household work, which 		3. Enact and enforce legal and policy measures to forbid discriminatory practices against women and the girl-child in the context of the family. Such measures should also promote a knowledge of the law among women and men;
	4. Eliminate gender-based discrimination before the law, notably in respect to legal provisions for inheritance, marriage, child		

	<p>may restrict their access to education and paid employment. Men generally fare better than women on almost every socio-economic indicator: women and girls work longer hours than men; their nutritional and health status is lower because they receive less food and medical care; they get less than their fair share of the family's income and have limited control or none at all over that income or property or assets. On the other hand, men may have jobs that demand very long hours of work or long absences from home and that keep them from fulfilling family responsibilities. A man is also much less likely than a woman to be granted legal custody of children when a marriage breaks down. Similarly, parental leave may not be available to men when it is available to women.</p>		<p>custody and property ownership;</p> <p>5. Ensure that policies and programmes for families foster gender equality and that support services are accessible to both men and women;</p> <p>6. Adopt laws, regulations and other measures to ensure that women are able to combine gainful employment with child-bearing, breast-feeding and child-rearing and that men and women alike are able to assume household, child-rearing and other family responsibilities without negatively affecting their career prospects and pension benefits;</p> <p>7. Undertake or accelerate efforts to eliminate stereotyped gender roles in education and the mass media and promote equality and democracy in the context of family life;</p> <p>8. Promote equality between the girl-child and the boy-child and assure that the rights of girl-children are respected in families;</p> <p>9. Support research on gender issues in families, particularly in priority areas such as barriers to equality within families and changing attitudes to the familial roles of men and women.</p>
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Changes in family organization: equal sharing of rights and responsibilities and the role of men</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families have been undergoing significant transformations, reflecting changes in the aspirations of individuals and the realities of modern life. In many parts of the world, however, the notion of the family is still associated with power, control, patriarchal domination and repressive hierarchical structures that perpetuate inequality and obstruct individual rights, freedom, choice and initiative. It is necessary to promote positive changes in the internal organization and operation of families in conformity with human rights and social policy standards, as reflected in the motto of the International Year of the Family: “Building the smallest democracy at the heart of society.” 	<p>a) To promote changes in the internal organization of families that would lead to equal partnership;</p>	<p>1. Promote patterns of partnership and sharing within families that are based on gender equality, using information campaigns, the mass media and educational institutions for the purpose. Support and facilitate transition towards families based on partnership, including increased access to family life education and parenting education; Develop and disseminate educational and promotional materials that emphasize the obligations of men not only to earn an income but also to share in caring and household responsibilities; Provide parenting courses for mothers and fathers and convey the idea that both parents share equally the responsibility for children;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Societies have traditionally assigned gender-based roles and given men a privileged position within the family. They have held that men should seek an income and engage in activities outside the home while women should take responsibility for the care of children and other members of the family and household work. The sweeping accomplishments by and on behalf of women in changing gender-based roles in society have not been accompanied by parallel accomplishments in changing the role of men, particularly in regard to family responsibilities. The challenge is twofold: first, to recognize the financial responsibilities of men without strengthening the view that it is their only responsibility and that it is theirs exclusively and, 	<p>b) To achieve the equal sharing of rights and responsibilities between men and women within families;</p>	<p>2. Develop employment policies that enable both male and female workers to achieve a satisfactory balance between work and family. Measures could include parental leave, paternity leave and flextime;</p>

	<p>secondly, to expand the non-financial dimensions of the male role, particularly as fathers, nurturers, educators and emotional supporters of children.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving true partnership between men and women in family life requires an equal sharing of rights and responsibilities within the family. There are significant differences in terms of their involvement in family life, the tasks they perform and the responsibilities they take. All over world, women continue to bear most of the responsibility for the upbringing of children, caring for other family members and carrying out household work, even when they engage in gainful employment. Balancing family and work responsibilities is a big problem for many women and men. Given the extent to which family responsibilities are perceived as the province of women, balancing their work and family responsibilities may be even more difficult for those men who wish to assume their share of domestic responsibilities. 	<p>c) To achieve greater involvement of men in family life and to strengthen their role as fathers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote responsible fatherhood and provide incentives to encourage fathers to play a larger role, especially with regard to home-making, child care, child growth and development, and family planning; Promote change in organizational cultures and management attitudes and practices, to give men and fathers the flexibility they need to be fully involved in family matters; Sensitize practitioners and policy makers to the need for fathers and mothers to share responsibility for children; Train professionals to identify problems and offer assistance in changing gender-based stereotypes of family life; Use the educational system to encourage reflection on the male experience of family life and to promote constructive change.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Combating human rights violations in families: domestic violence, abuse and neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notwithstanding their numerous positive contributions to the well-being of their members, families have too often been a refuge for patriarchal domination and served as a vehicle for the subjugation of women and children. In such situations, family life has been dominated by the invocation of male privilege, intimidation, coercion, threats and violence; economic abuse; isolation and other forms of emotional abuse; and child abuse, neglect and child labour. Because of the intimate nature of the relationship, such destructive behavior was often tolerated within the family and domestic violence and abuse were largely ignored as a public concern. 	a) To eliminate violence, abuse and neglect in the family;	1. Acknowledge freedom from domestic violence as a fundamental and universal human right, as set out in the International Bill of Human Rights, as well as in instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex);
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victims of domestic violence can be female or male, young or old, rich or poor. Domestic violence may take various forms: the most common is violence by men against their wives, female partners, daughters, sisters or mothers. Children also become victims, either as primary victims or secondary ones, when they witness the violence. They are sometimes abused or sexually assaulted by other family members, even their parents. Elderly, sick or disabled members of the family, as well as domestic workers, are also sometimes maltreated. 	b) To discourage human rights violations within the family by means of education and behavioral change, as well as to punish and rehabilitate the perpetrators of such violations;	2. Acknowledge and publicize the prevalence of domestic violence, abuse and neglect and the need to address them. Accord domestic violence the same legal treatment as other acts of violence, and take measures to ensure that instances of it are detected and reported;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing domestic violence calls for comprehensive, cooperative efforts by the criminal justice system, the service sectors and social organizations. These efforts must also 	c) To mitigate the social isolation of families with children.	3. Ensure that perpetrators are held responsible for their violent actions. Amend existing legislation or introduce new laws to criminalize all forms of domestic violence;

	<p>recognize the long-term effects of domestic violence in families.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social isolation of families with children is a contributing factor in abuse and makes it less likely than any such abuse can be detected. 		<p>4. Change attitudes about domestic violence and promote the idea that such violence is not a personal matter, protected by the right to a private family life. This might be done through public education and media campaigns that stress the criminal nature of family violence and its consequences;</p>
			<p>5. Recognize and promote the role of the community, religious organizations, health and social service providers, and law enforcement and criminal justice officials in remedial and preventive areas. Sensitize them to the issue of family violence and train them to deal with the problem;</p>
			<p>6. Provide short- and long-term assistance to victims of family violence, including legal assistance and facilities for abused or exploited women, children and other victims of family violence;</p>
			<p>7. Incorporate education and rehabilitation programmes for the perpetrators of domestic violence into a criminal justice response to the problem that emphasizes sanctions, penalties and restraining orders;</p>
			<p>8. Enact and enforce laws to prohibit female genital mutilation and give vigorous support to efforts by non-governmental and community institutions to eliminate such practices, accompanied by educational programmes showing the harmful effects of such practices;</p>

			<p>9. Repeal laws and regulations and prohibit practices that discriminate against or harm the girl-child;</p> <p>10. Adopt legal measures prohibiting infanticide, prenatal sex selection and trafficking in girls and boys for purposes of prostitution and pornography;</p> <p>11. Encourage informal support networks to reduce the social isolation of families with children;</p> <p>12. Publicize the idea that the right to be free from domestic violence is a fundamental and universal human right. The work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women could be an important input into such a campaign. The United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (General Assembly resolution 49/184) could be a framework for educational programmes concentrating on the rights of individuals within families.</p>
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IV. PROMOTING FAMILY STRENGTHS AND PROVIDING FOR FAMILY NEEDS

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Poverty and low-income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty is the main cause of social exclusion, and in almost all societies it threatens the ability of families to meet the needs of their members. Poverty permeates all aspects of family life and is often transmitted from generation to generation. It also breeds powerlessness, as poor families usually have little or no control over resources such as land. Everywhere, poor families are being severely affected by cuts in services and subsidies. 	To enable all families to have enough income to maintain an acceptable standard of living;	1. Make the alleviation of poverty a top development priority and adopt policies that strengthen the family and contribute to its stability, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families experiencing unemployment or having a low income are especially disadvantaged. Income is often low in families where only one parent is employed and in single-parent families, especially those headed by women. 	To help low-income and impoverished families to overcome poverty;	2. Expand education and training opportunities for unemployed parents and their children to prevent the inter-generational transmission of poverty;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is necessary to identify the reason for increasing numbers of families living in poverty globally, provide social services to the poor, establish transfers of wealth and safety nets, increase the command of poor families over resources and improve their access to skills, credits and technology. 	To break the chain by which poverty is transmitted from one generation to the next;	3. Facilitate the access of poor families to credit, skills, technology and land;
		To increase the command that poor families have over resources, making them better able to control their own lives.	4. Consider compensating families in which one parent remains outside the workforce to care full-time for young children by such means as direct payments or tax subsidies; 5. Consider augmenting family income through

			family payments;
			6. Support employment, education and training programmes that would help unemployed parents, especially single parents, to get jobs.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Learning, education and transmission of culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education is a basic human right. States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child are required by its article 28 to make primary education compulsory and free to all. The World Declaration on Education for All, contained in the final report of the Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs (Jomtien, Thailand, March 1990) also requires the close cooperation of families, communities and schools. It recognizes five major educational channels in contemporary society: families, early childhood development programmes, the school system, non-formal education and the media. 	a) The objective is to strengthen and utilize the educational capacity of families and to work towards education for all, in recognition of the World Declaration on Education for All, the Convention against Discrimination in Education (UNESCO), the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	1. Take measures to fully recognize and reflect the educational role of the family in education policies and programmes;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning begins at birth; the family is the primary educator of children, the main influence on the values and attitudes of each new generation. The learning that occurs in the early months and years of life will either enhance or handicap learning throughout later life. It is therefore important to recognize the potency of the educational role of families. The education process starts in the family and continues in the larger society. The family is a setting for informal education, a base from which members seek formal education, and it provides a supportive environment for learning, It is also an important vehicle for preserving and transmitting cultural values and building a cultural identity. The decisions taken collectively by the society and individually by parents determine the type and amount of education children receive. 		2. Assist families to fulfill their educational responsibilities and promote equal opportunities for girls and boys through policies and programmes that emphasize education for all;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education policies should be oriented towards preparation for life, in all its dimensions, and not limited to preparation for work and entry to higher levels of learning. With that broad orientation, education, in particular early childhood education, is able to prepare family members for economic and social change. The school can also be an effective 		3. Recognize, through policies and other supports, that adult education and informal education are

	<p>conduit for non-formal educational services to parents and for support services to families in need.</p>		<p>important tools for updating and enhancing the skills that make adults employable, especially in agriculture and other industries, including family-based enterprises;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally, the family will provide a stimulating and informative environment for the child and serve as a foundation for continued learning in an equally stimulating school environment; parents and the school will cooperate, providing mutual assistance and support in the education of children. Few parents, children and teachers experience this ideal situation, however. All over the world, many parents still cannot afford to send their children to school because of persistent poverty, lack of facilities, armed conflicts and human-made and natural disasters. 		<p>4. Emphasize the partnerships between home, school and community and between parents and teachers in the educational process, recognizing the important but not exclusive role of schools.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge gaps persist between men's and women's educational achievements in much of the world. Of the world's 950 million illiterates, two thirds are women. Many girls and women are still denied equal access to educational and training resources: of the 130 million children with no access to school, 63 percent are girls. This has critical consequences for women and their families, as education decides a woman's access to paid employment, control over her fertility, family size and spacing of children, and the education and health of her family. 		

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Health, nutrition and food security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the hand, the various aspects of health, such as nutrition, food security, clean water, vaccinations, primary health care, infant and maternal health, and applied family health are crucial to development and to families. They have 	<p>a) The objective is to satisfy the health needs of families and to enable</p>	<p>1. Ensure that families have access to adequate and affordable health services;</p>

	<p>a direct bearing on family well-being, the health of all family members, including the physical and intellectual growth of children, the reduction of discrimination based on gender, participation in the labour force and the prevention of disabilities.</p>	<p>families to promote the health of all their members.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the other hand, the family is a key player in those same aspects of health. It performs basic tasks for treating illness and preventing it, as well as for maintaining good health. It is the basic provider of health services and care for the sick and disabled. Its role in the storage and preparation of food and the protection of the household water supply is instrumental in promoting sound nutrition and warding off disease. It can promote healthy personal habits and discourage harmful ones. Harmonious family life or, alternatively, conflict and tension have a direct bearing on the physical and mental health of a family's members. 		<p>2. Intensify efforts to ensure a safe drinking water supply as well as adequate food for families;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health professionals and therapists are often inadequately trained to work sensitively and in collaboration with families. The health-care professions have tended to focus on the individual even though many problems and solutions may lie within the family. Now, however, the trend towards family-centered approaches in the health care and psychotherapeutic fields is growing. In many countries, more health care is delivered at home than in hospitals and medical offices. As hospitals seek to control their costs, day-to-day responsibility for care of the ill is returning to the home and family. 		<p>3. Make certain that health policies pay attention to the role of families in preventing and treating illness as well as in providing health care. Develop, where appropriate, a family focus in health service delivery;</p> <p>4. Ensure that families have easy access to primary health care providers and that the providers function so as to invite family participation in the prevention and early treatment of illness;</p> <p>5. Target health education and preventive health care at families as well as individuals;</p> <p>6. Promote community-workplace partnerships in implementing changes in the health care system that are beneficial to family life;</p> <p>7. Ensure that health insurance schemes</p>

			<p>adequately compensate health care professionals who adapt diagnostic and treatment plans to fit family and home circumstances;</p>
			<p>8. Promote an explicitly family-oriented approach in health-care policy and in the training of medical professionals and other health service providers;</p>
			<p>9. Train community health-care providers to make the family the framework for their interventions and to be sensitive to its religious practices, ethical beliefs and cultural mores;</p>
			<p>10. Educate family members so they can work effectively with health-care providers, encourage healthy behavior, identify symptoms, enlist the cooperation of the whole family and provide correct information to care providers;</p>
			<p>11. Train parents and other adult family members to recognize and, where possible, treat acute illnesses of children;</p>
			<p>12. Assist families who wish to provide home health care. This would include compensating them and giving them professional assistance and emotional support, especially in the case of degenerative diseases, cancer and HIV/AIDS;</p>
			<p>13. Ensure that all policy decisions in favour of de-institutionalization and care in the community assess the capacity of families to provide care and the supports they will require.</p>
			<p>14. Ensure that families have access to adequate and affordable health services;</p>

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Reproductive health and family planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproductive health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system and its functions and processes, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Reproductive rights rest on the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, as well as the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. Government – and community – supported policies and programmes in reproductive health, including family planning, should promote the responsible exercise of these rights, notably the principle of informed free choice. 	a) To ensure that comprehensive, factual information and a full range of reproductive health-care services are accessible, affordable, acceptable and convenient to all users;	1) Ensure that reproductive health care is accessible to all through the primary health-care system;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate knowledge about human sexuality, inappropriate or poor-quality reproductive health information and services and the limited control many women and girls have over their sexual and reproductive lives are some of the barriers to achieving reproductive health. 	b) To facilitate responsible, voluntary decisions about child-bearing and family planning, as well as methods of regulating fertility that are not against the law, and to impart the information, education and means to do so;	2) Design reproductive health-care programmes to meet the needs of women and adolescent females, and involve women in the leadership, planning, decision-making, management, implementation, organization and evaluation of health-care services and the health-care system;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adolescents are particularly vulnerable because they lack information and access to relevant services. Motherhood at a very young age entails a greater-than-average risk of maternal death, and children of young mothers have higher levels of morbidity and mortality. Early child-bearing also continues to impede 	c) To meet reproductive and sexual health needs as they change over the course of people’s lives and to do so in ways that are sensitive to local circumstances;	3) Develop innovative programmes to make information, counseling and services for reproductive health accessible to adult men. Such programmes would educate men and let them share more equally in family planning, domestic and child-rearing

	<p>the educational, economic and social improvement of women.</p>		<p>responsibilities and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal relationships between men and women in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including respect for the physical integrity of the human body, require mutual respect and willingness to accept responsibility for the consequences of sexual behaviour. Responsible sexual behaviour, sensitivity and equity in gender relations, particularly when instilled during the formative years, promote respectful and harmonious partnerships between men and women. 	<p>d) To promote responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour by men and women and equity and mutual respect in gender relations;</p>	<p>4) Make available to adolescents comprehensive information and services, suitable for that age group, that would help them to understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Support parents in providing adolescents with guidance in these matters;</p>
		<p>e) To give women and girls control over their sexual and reproductive lives and an equal voice in decisions on reproduction and fertility.</p>	<p>5) Support sex education and services for young people with the support and guidance of their parents, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p>

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Families and the HIV/AIDS epidemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic, debilitating or terminal illness has severe emotional and disruptive effects on families. Most traumatic in terms of its impact on families and on persons afflicted with it is HIV/AIDS, which is pandemic in parts of the world. In many societies, a family is stigmatized when one of its members is known to be infected with HIV or to have AIDS. Moreover, the sexual partner of the sufferer can be at increased risk of contracting the disease. 	a) The objective is to help families prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and care for affected members and to avert their stigmatization and overburdening of the families.	1. Develop family-oriented HIV/AIDS education and prevention programmes for both men and women at locations such as institutions of higher education and in the workplace;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the disease is increasingly spread through heterosexual contact, growing numbers of women aged 20-40 have become infected by the HIV/AIDS virus. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS among young women and men is causing a social catastrophe whose greatest impact is borne by children orphaned by AIDS and by elderly people left without support. In many countries, the disease is widespread among young, educated people whose death deprives society of its most economically productive members. As HIV/AIDS spreads, it undermines the economic, social and cultural fabric of a society and poses a threat to family life. 		1. Develop comprehensive community-based educational material that sensitizes families to the threat of HIV/AIDS. The material should be age-appropriate, culturally sensitive and responsive to the needs of the family's most at-risk members and should seek to reduce the risk of becoming HIV-infected;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender relations affect the spread of HIV/AIDS. Its heterosexual spread is greatly facilitated by the lower status of women, which leaves them unable to protect themselves against the disease. Moreover, women and girls are often called on to become the primary carers of their infected partners or sick children. 		1. Assist family caretakers in meeting the physical and emotional needs of family members with HIV/AIDS. Make support available through health-care policy to enable families to care for ill member while continuing to meet other family needs. Develop support programmes that provide information, training and resources on how to care for family members with HIV/AIDS and encourage intra-family support networks;
	Families can prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS by teaching members how to safeguard against it and		1. Encourage the distribution of caring functions between the sexes and between different

	<p>inculcating responsible sexual attitudes and practices.</p>		<p>family members so that the burden of caring does not fall primarily on women;</p>
			<p>1. Adopt legislation prohibiting discriminatory practices in the workplace against people with HIV or AIDS, particularly to prevent the reduction of family income or its loss altogether;</p>
			<p>1. Give employees flexible work arrangements that allow them to care for family members with AIDS;</p>
			<p>1. Support extended families that are burdened by caring for children orphaned by AIDS and elderly family members. Establish foster care and adoption programmes to provide homes for children orphaned by AIDS.</p>

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Disability and chronic illness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities constitute a significant proportion of the world's population. Both the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/37/351/Add.1) and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex) call for the prevention of disability, rehabilitation, the equalization of opportunities and the full participation of people with disabilities in social life. Families are a crucial resource and play an important role in achieving these 	<p>a) To recognize and support the role of families in preventing disabilities and in caring for people with disabilities, rehabilitating them and equalizing opportunities for them;</p>	<p>1. Promote the full participation of people with disabilities in family life;</p>

	<p>goals. This role is growing as de-institutionalization policies shift to care of people with disabilities from State institutions to families and communities. Given the complex and long-term nature of the care families are expected to provide, they need financial, emotional and professional support, including training.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse in the family, in the community or in institutions and need to be taught how to avoid such abuse, to recognize it when it has occurred and to report it. 	<p>b) To eliminate abuse or discrimination against people with disabilities in the family and in society at large.</p>	<p>2. Promote the right of the disabled child to special care, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;</p> <p>3. Ensure that laws do not discriminate against people with disabilities with respect to sexual relationships, marriage and parenthood;</p> <p>4. Promote awareness and understanding of the crucial role of families in preventing disability, caring for people with disabilities and providing equal opportunities for them, pursuant to the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;</p> <p>5. Allow people with disabilities to choose to live with their families and set up family counseling programmes to deal with disability and its effects on family life. Make respite care and attendant care available to families that have a member with disability. Remove obstacles for people who want to foster or adopt a child or adult with a disability;</p> <p>6. Pay special attention to appropriate training for care givers. Ensure that families have access to information about new developments that could benefit disabled persons;</p> <p>7. Warn people with disabilities and their families to</p>

			take precautions against sexual and other forms of abuse;
			8. Provide prenatal and post-natal immunization against communicable diseases as well as nutritional and other programmes that can prevent physical or mental disability, and help families to make use of these services;
			9. Give families with members who have disabilities a voice in the treatment, rehabilitation and caring programmes to which they are expected to contribute, while preserving the right of people with disabilities to self-determination. Try to ensure that family-based care does not unduly affect the quality of life of the family members who provide the care;
			10. Encourage informal support networks to mitigate the social isolation of families with members who have disabilities.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Families, addiction and substance abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both the causes and consequences of addiction, including alcoholism and drug abuse, can often be located within the family. Families also play an important educational and formative role in preventing addiction and substance abuse as well as in rehabilitating addicts. Thus, preventive interventions will be most effective if they target the whole system of family relationships at the biological, psychological and cultural levels. Substance abuse should be seen as a family concern not just as an individual habit. 	a) The objective is to address the family-specific causes and consequences of substance addiction and drug abuse and enable families to play their crucial role in prevention as well as in the rehabilitation of addicts.	1. Pay more attention to the family-specific aspects of addiction and drug abuse, including research to help understand the underlying mechanisms and create a solid basis for action;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families can be gravely damaged or even destroyed when there is excessive use of psychoactive substance abuse by its members. The damage can be immediate, such as violence associated with intoxication, or long-term, such as economic problems, discord and 		2. Enhance the ability of families to promote healthy behavior by providing information, assisting in early detection and offering prompt assistance through primary health care facilities when drug

	<p>breakdown resulting from dependence and impaired health. Child neglect is a common problem in substance-abusing families. Children who run away from physical and psychological violence by substance-abusing parents may escape to the streets only to face another violent world; some may fall into prostitution and themselves get involved with drugs. Children who stay at home with drug-abusing families are likely to be forced into early adulthood.</p>		<p>abuse becomes a problem;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The correlation between excessive alcohol use and marital violence, including marital rape and incest, is well established. Women are the most frequent targets and victims of physical violence by those who are substance abusers. At the same time, substance abuse among women is itself a growing problem. The female alcoholic is less likely to have family support, health insurance and child care. 		<p>3. Identify family-centered interventions for preventing and responding to drug problems. Emphasize support for the family as a unit rather than simply for the substance abuser as an isolated individual; for this, the primary health-care system needs to interact with families, schools and the workplace;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not only can substance abusers disrupt their families, but problematic families can also induce their members to abuse substances. Drugs pose a threat throughout the life cycle. Adolescence is a vulnerable stage of life where peer pressures may override better judgement or family upbringing. Adults who faced a crisis in life, difficulties at work or disappointments in interpersonal relationships may resort to drug abuse. Growing old, too, may be accompanied by increasing drug use. The loss of families, friends and gainful employment during old age compounds the problematic use of drugs and other substances. 		<p>4. Offer families alternative forms of gainful employment or of income-generating crops, to reduce the production of drug crops;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families in certain parts of the world are dependent on drug production, trafficking and dealing for their economic survival. That these families need other sources of income must be recognized. 		<p>5. Develop tools for the early detection of substance abuse by pregnant women and their spouses, as well as for the treatment of pregnant substance abusers and small children in at-risk</p>

			families;
			6. Develop training material for health-care workers relevant to the detection, treatment and prevention of substance abuser during pregnancy, early childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age;
			7. Promote the role of families in preventing the use of children for the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Child care and socialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The care and education of young children is an essential task, and responsibility for it falls primarily on families and parents. The family is where children spend most time, and, ideally, it is where they learn to live with other people, to profit from school and, through their work, to contribute to society. Parents and families, like schools and day-care centers, have an opportunity to mould the young generation, teaching them independence, autonomy and creativity. 	a) The objective is to assist parents and families, especially those in disadvantaged situations, in the upbringing and socialization of children, adolescents and young people.	1. Develop policies to ensure that families can provide an environment conducive to the positive development of children, enabling parents to carry out their parenting tasks effectively and in consonance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the objectives of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everywhere, families with young children, in particular single-parent families, are becoming poorer. The effects of poverty on the socialization and education of the children should not be underestimated. Children particularly are affected by changes in family structures and forms. In many parts of the world, the number of children in difficult circumstances has increased, as evidenced by data on child abuse, juvenile crime, substance abuse and street children. One safeguard against child abuse and neglect 		2. Ensure that policies and programmes directed at children take into account the family environment of the child and accord priority to the children of single parents, children with disabilities, children in poverty, children deprived of an adequate

	<p>is informal support networks, particularly those available through extended family systems, child-care services, family support centers, schools, information centers and neighborhood organizations.</p>		<p>family environment, immigrant children, children belonging to minority groups and children at risk of abuse or neglect;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-care services are crucial in supplementing parental care in promoting children's social, cognitive and personal development. Access to good quality, affordable child care is a priority for families in which both parents work. It enables parents, especially women and single parents, to participate in employment, education and training. Almost everywhere, informal child care in the community, outside the family, is making up for the shortage of formal services. 		<p>3. Ensure that child-care programmes have stability, continuity and flexibility and that child-care centres are conveniently located, offer their services at appropriate times and cater for mixed ages;</p>
			<p>4. Consider the introduction of tax incentives for employer-sponsored child-care services and facilities.</p>

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Shelter and living environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In both urban and rural settlements, the physical conditions in which families live greatly affect their ability to survive and thrive. In many countries, public sector programmes have not succeeded in preventing deterioration of these conditions, as demonstrated by the spread of slums and the growing number of homeless people. Poverty in rural areas drives millions into the cities, where families end up living in slums and shanty towns or on the streets. 	<p>a) The objective is to improve the shelter and living conditions of families and to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter. (Resolution A/43/8/Add.1 of UN General Assembly).</p>	<p>1. Encourage families and community organizations to improve housing and living conditions and support joint projects between Governments and community organizations to improve infrastructure and services;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In most cities of the developing world, a large proportion of families lives in one or two rooms in cramped and overcrowded tenements, cheap boarding-houses or shelters built on illegally occupied or subdivided land. An estimated 600 million people 		<p>2. In urban areas, make available affordable, legal sites for housing on a large enough scale to create a downward pressure on the price of land and housing. Other measures could include granting land tenure;</p>

	<p>in Africa, Asia and Latin America live in circumstances that threaten health and even life: inadequate housing, lack of adequate infrastructure and services, and sites prone to flooding and other natural threats.</p>		<p>simplifying building codes; approving the use of indigenous, low-cost building materials; regularizing informal settlements that are not exposed to contamination, flooding or landslides; providing infrastructure; and promoting low-cost shelter, including rental housing;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large number of poor rural families in developing countries live in inadequate shelters. The uneven distribution of land and resources in many countries also forces countless poor families to live on land prone to desertification, drought, cyclones, flooding or bush fires. 		<p>3. Improve housing in rural areas and try to provide the same services and infrastructure in rural areas as in urban areas, such as a safe water supply, sanitation and electricity.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some forms of families, such as single-parent or multi-generational families, have special housing needs, which are often inadequately recognized in policies or services. 		

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Employment and family-supportive workplaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For many families, meeting the needs of their members requires that all eligible members be employed. 	<p>a) To give all eligible members of families a chance for gainful employment;</p>	<p>1. Give high priority to reforming macroeconomic policies and to implementing measures that would stimulate gainful and equitable employment for all, irrespective of gender, so that families can have enough income to give their members an adequate standard of living;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The personal and social impacts of unemployment on families include poverty, financial hardship, debt, homelessness or overcrowding, family tensions and disintegration, boredom, alienation, shame and stigma, isolation, crime, erosion of confidence 	<p>b) To develop family-enhancing employment policies that enable both male and female workers to achieve a satisfactory balance between work and</p>	<p>2. Accelerate efforts for the implementation of ILO Convention No. 156 concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities and the corresponding Recommendation No. 165, as well as ILO</p>

	<p>and self-esteem, the atrophy of work skills and ill health. Long-term unemployment puts large numbers of children at risk and transmits poverty across generations.</p>	<p>family responsibilities;</p>	<p>Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and the corresponding Recommendation No. 146;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making it possible for both men and women to work and share family responsibilities has become a key issue. Employers need to take into account the family responsibilities of employees. Family-friendly employment policies can improve productivity, staff morale and commitment as well as help with recruitment and reduce turnover of both women and men. 	<p>c) To support family enterprises in order to enhance family income and employment;</p>	<p>3. Take steps that would allow family members to better manage their work and family responsibilities. This could include granting parental leave to encourage the sharing of parental responsibilities, setting flexible and reduced working hours for parents with younger children, increasing the availability of part-time jobs, and providing job-sharing opportunities and entitlement to care leave;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work schedules often make it difficult for women and men to combine professional and family responsibilities. Similarly, many practices and expectations, particularly those for male employees, make impossible the equal participation of men in the nurturing and domestic work of families. Although many States have adopted legislation requiring equal pay and opportunities for women and men, it is often circumvented by employers or inadequately enforced. 	<p>d) To recognize the contributions of informal economic activity to the well-being of individuals and communities.</p>	<p>4. Motivate businesses to assume more social responsibilities in general and to become more involved in the family concerns of their employees in particular, and give them incentives to create a family-friendly workplace;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many families support themselves by family enterprises. Notwithstanding that these enterprises can also strengthen the ties between family members and teach life skills to the young, their job creation potential and importance generally have not been recognized, and support for this economic sector is lacking. 		<p>5. Encourage businesses to offer on-site child care by tax and other incentives, and increase the number of such facilities in the larger community;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work schedules often make it difficult for women and men to combine professional and family responsibilities. Similarly, many 		<p>6. Revise regulations on employment to help family members cope with work and family responsibilities. Take steps to ensure that leave to</p>

	<p>practices and expectations, particularly those for male employees, make impossible the equal participation of men in the nurturing and domestic work of families. Although many States have adopted legislation requiring equal pay and opportunities for women and men, it is often circumvented by employers or inadequately enforced.</p>		<p>care for a family member or part-time working hours do not detrimentally affect job security, career prospects or pension entitlements;</p> <p>7. Ensure that the concerns faced by women as a consequence of their child-bearing function are fully considered by employers and in all work-related laws and regulations. Adjust policies and legislation to prevent a woman's child-bearing function, including breast-feeding, from having a negative effect on her employment possibilities, job security, career prospects or pension entitlements;</p> <p>8. Design policies to strengthen family enterprises, allowing them to contribute to the productivity of the family unit and enable it to support its members. At the same time discourage those family enterprises that exploit women's and children's unpaid labour;</p> <p>9. Develop partnerships between Governments and individuals, families, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local communities and religious groups, when setting labour policies and development strategies.</p>
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Families facing personal crises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families have the greatest need for community resources in times of personal crisis and distress. Assistance may be needed during a child's teen years or during marital or partnership strain and conflict, separation and divorce. Major illness, bereavement, loss of a job or natural disaster can also strain a family's resources, financial and emotional. 	<p>a) The objective is to strengthen and build on the skills and resources of families through high-quality, accessible family counseling services.</p>	<p>1. Expand counseling services to meet the needs of different types of families at different stages of the life cycle, especially families in crisis and facing specific stresses. Expand divorce mediation services. Involve families and family members as counselors and consider peer counseling;</p>

	<p>Unemployment, marital problems and conflicts over parenting are considered to be among the most stressful life experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased investment in family education, counseling and mediation services would support parents and partners in their familial obligations and relationships. Such services are particularly important for the children of couples experiencing dislocation, tension and conflict. 		<p>2. Ensure that parenting, relationship and marriage services, including information, education, counseling and mediation, are available, easily accessible and culturally appropriate. Publicize such services through the media and other means, such as workplaces, medical practitioners and community organizations;</p> <p>3. Promote the concept that seeking help for marital and family problems is not a sign of failure but a positive action, an opportunity to improve family well-being or survive painful transitions with external support;</p> <p>4. Train family and marriage therapists and provide high-quality services to families.</p>
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Single-parent families</p>	<p>The number of single-parent families has been steadily increasing in many parts of the world. An overwhelming majority of them are headed by women. The reasons for the increase in female-headed households are of two types: <i>de jure</i> reasons, the result of the never having been married or of being divorced or widowed, and <i>de facto</i> reasons, including long-term migration, economic crisis, refugee</p>	<p>To minimize the economic and other disadvantages of single parents;</p>	<p>Give special support to single-parent families living in poverty, by transfer payments and priority access to low-cost day care for children and other dependants;</p>

	status or abandonment.		
	Single-parent families have the highest incidence of poverty, in both developing and developed countries. Combining work and family responsibilities, notably the care of young children, is particularly difficult for single-parent families.	To improve the conditions of the single parent in society and ensure that single-parent families receive the social support they need, including adequate housing and child care;	Adopt public housing policies that make available affordable housing in areas where there are jobs;
	Policies do not always address the problems of single- parent families nor do they provide for their support.	To assure that, if the parents separate, both contribute in all ways to the upbringing of their children;	Give single parents access to education and training, including the opportunity to complete their secondary education and assistance in finding a job;
		To reduce the prevalence of single parenthood due to unwanted pregnancy, divorce, separation and abandonment.	Undertake research on single-parent families to understand their strengths, problems and needs;
			Improve the quality of decision-making on marriage and procreation by providing premarital counseling and family-life education as well as other services that support healthy relationships between parents.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Families and young persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is generally agreed that what families invest in their young members largely determines their future opportunities and development. Families play a central role in the socialization of young people, who in turn play a central role in the democratization of both society and the family. In families, youth are often the catalyst for positive change and are carriers of emerging trends and information from the greater society, including new ideas about gender equality in the family. 	a) To promote the development of youth as responsible members of a family, society and country, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth	1) Ensure that youth policies and programmes have a family perspective; that they consider youth as important members of families and deal with youth rights, minimum age at marriage, adolescent health, housing employment, poverty etc.; and that they address issues relating to young women as well as young men;

<p>By virtue of their exposure to schools, peers and the media, young people are frequently the most informed members of families. Their aspirations and opinions are often an important source of strength in families, and their sensitivity to the changing environment adds immeasurably to the adaptability of families. Youth often contribute financially or by their help with household work to their families.</p>	<p>to the Year 2000 and Beyond.</p>	
	<p>b) To help parents, especially those in difficult circumstances, to meet the needs of their adolescent children and to raise and socialize them;</p>	<p>2) Introduce family-life education and family studies in schools. Such courses would investigate the history of family structures; examine gender roles in families; explore the relationship between family structures and the participation of men and women in economic, political, social and community life; study issues related to family life and investigate the role of government in relation to these issues;</p>
	<p>c) To recognize the contributions of youth to family well-being.</p>	<p>3) Assist young offenders and their families, paying particular attention to migrants, refugees and people belonging to ethnic minorities and indigenous groups;</p>
		<p>4) Encourage the provision of sex education and services that would prevent irresponsible sexual behavior, teenage pregnancy and the spread of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as promote informed choices and responsibility in sexual relations. Develop policies to address teenage pregnancy and parenthood; teach family skills to very young parents; and identify barriers to education and employment faced by very young mothers, particularly single mothers;</p>
		<p>5) Improve housing options for independent young people on low incomes, with special attention to single parents;</p>
		<p>6) Develop family therapy programmes that would mediate disputes between parents or care givers and adolescents who are at risk of becoming homeless or who have recently left home.</p>

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Families and their elderly members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everywhere, older persons constitute a significant and growing proportion of the population, placing pressure on the families who care for them and increasing the demand for home and community services. An important aspect of the ageing of populations is the increase of the “old-old” (those who are 80 years old or more), whose care can greatly strain the resources of their families. As women’s participation in the workforce grows, as family relationships change and as the mobility of family members increases, families will find it difficult to fulfill this responsibility without outside support. 	a) To respect the contributions of older family members to families and to society at large;	1. Meet, to the extend possible, the needs of the elderly, in either a family or a community setting, in accordance with the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (General Assembly resolution 46/91, annex) and the objectives of the International Year of the Elderly (General Assembly resolution 48/98), which took place in 1999;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73. Conversely, the financial, material, intellectual and emotional contributions of the elderly to their families and communities should be celebrated and valued. All over the world, older parents and grandparents give generous practical and emotional support and help with the care of grandchildren. Remaining close to their community and friends and relatives may improve the quality of life for older people. 	b) To enable families to meet the physical and emotional needs of older family members;	2. Allocate sufficient public resources to care for the rapidly increasing number of frail older and old-old persons, at home or in institutions;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes, however, older members of families are denied their rights and deprived of their dignity, and their many potential contributions to societal development are trivialized. 	To eliminate repressive practices, including violence against older persons and abuse and neglect of them.	3. Deliver services that would allow older persons to live at home longer; 4. Ensure that families who care for older persons have access to counseling and respite care; 5. Encourage health-care and social-service providers to develop a family-oriented practice for older persons;

			6. Train and compensate family care givers for their work and ensure that family care givers who are gainfully employed outside the home are not punished for taking family leave.
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
International and internal migration, urbanization and rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population mobility will continue to increase. There has been an expansion of labour markets within and across countries. Despite extensive migration from developing to developed countries, most international migration takes place within the developing world. The cities of developing countries have to absorb greater numbers of migrants than those of developed countries, placing a huge stress on their generally smaller productive bases. 	a) To intensify national attention to, and international cooperation on, the situation of migrant workers and their families	1) Ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (General Assembly Resolution 45/158, annex);
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global society is also becoming predominantly urban, with cities in the developing world growing dramatically. About one half of urban growth today in developing countries is due to migration from the countryside, often fuelled by rural underdevelopment. In many cities of the developing world, much of the population lives in shelters and neighborhoods that have little or no access to essential services. 	b) To enable migrant, urban and rural families to cope with their special circumstances	2) Recognize the importance of family reunification for documented migrants, in accordance with articles 9 and 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and promote its integration into national legislation;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79. Many of the traditional distinctions between urban and rural areas 	c) To improve the living conditions	3) Ensure that documented migrants and their families, especially women,

	<p>are blurring. As cities stagnate economically, they take on more and more of the qualities of the rural hinterland. By contrast, many new enterprises develop in rural areas around cities, and many rural farming families earn a considerable proportion of their income from off-farm activities.</p>	<p>of urban families</p>	<p>children and the elderly, are protected, through programmes to combat intolerance, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and gender discrimination. Protect women and children who migrate as family members from abuse or denial of their human rights;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These complex phenomena have important ramifications for migrant, urban and rural families. In an effort to survive under difficult conditions or to improve their living conditions, families have long employed particular mobility strategies. A great deal of migration in developing countries occurs as a result of decisions taken by families rather than individuals and as a result of family members becoming active in distant labour markets. Kinship and friendship networks play a significant role in facilitating migration or, alternatively, in reducing its likelihood. 	<p>d) To discourage migration by developing rural areas</p>	<p>4) Give the children of migrants (second-generation migrants) the same educational and training opportunities as nationals, allow them to participate in economic activity and facilitate the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country;</p> <p>5) Design employment, transport, housing and social policies to make the urban environment more family-friendly. Pay special attention to the water supply and waste disposal systems, implement pollution control and promote occupational health and safety standards;</p> <p>6) Extend the range of services for families in urban areas and improve their quality. This could entail support for the informal sector, removal of administrative constraints that hamper the sector's growth, and improved access to credit institutions and markets. Develop social planning models that extend services to the poor and to inhabitants of squatter settlements;</p> <p>7) Involve families in rural development strategies. Educational</p>

			<p>curricula, health services and agricultural extension services should reflect local realities and buttress the role of the family;</p> <p>8) Improve rural families' access to and control over productive resources, land, financial services, training, farm and off-farm extension services, appropriate technology, tools and other inputs that could raise the productivity of agricultural and off-farm micro-enterprises;</p> <p>9) Ensure that poor families in rural areas have access to education, health and sanitation, social security programmes and income-generating employment;</p> <p>10) Develop a network of cities, local governments and private sector partners to support families in urban and rural areas;</p> <p>11) Develop and support institutions devoted to the problems and potential of urban families and to the improvement of municipal services.</p>
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>Displaced and refugee families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are more than 20 million refugees in the world today and 20 million displaced persons within the borders of their own countries. Most refugees live in developing nations whose already fragile resources and infrastructure can barely sustain the needs of their own nationals. Separation, trauma and death are faced by most displaced and refugee families. Even refugees fortunate enough to escape with all their family members are deprived of the social support normally afforded by their own communities. Refugee families are among the most 	<p>a) The objective is to meet the immediate needs of refugee and displaced families and to encourage them to participate in finding appropriate, durable solutions to their problems.</p>	<p>1) Develop innovative programmes by which refugee families can have better access to employment, health and education services and opportunities in the host society;</p>

	<p>vulnerable of families, and an integrated approach to assistance is essential if they are to survive and prepare for a self-reliant future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For refugees, socio-economic roles have been disrupted and change constantly through the various stages of the refugee condition, i.e. departure, flight, arrival, asylum and finding durable solutions. An inability to cope with new demands can strain interpersonal relationships, give rise to new tensions and precipitate violence within the home. Cultural differences may cause conflicts with other ethnic groups or with host country residents. <p>85. Refugee children are often raised under harsh conditions, in a hostile and violent environment, and are forced to assume adult roles at an early age. Refugee families need help to provide for their children's needs and to handle the pressures arising from the new environment.</p>		<p>2) Involve refugee families in planning the programmes designed to assist them and encourage them to improve their own situation;</p> <p>3) Promote family reunification through national legislation and support for unaccompanied refugee children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines on Refugee Children (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), and ensure that refugee women have the same access to registration procedures as men and are given appropriate documentation;</p> <p>4) Strengthen the ability of refugee families to deal with their most vulnerable members, such as traumatized children, the elderly and persons with disability;</p> <p>5) Review and, when necessary, amend existing policies to ensure that they take into consideration the situation of all family members and address the</p>
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			issue of domestic violence.
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Indigenous and ethnic minority families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extended family or kinship system in indigenous societies traditionally played a pivotal role in social, economic and cultural life. It regulated the distribution of food and property; the use of land and associated rights and responsibilities; relationships between people; including marriage and responsibility for children; the education of children and the transmission of knowledge, culture and language; and relations with other kinship groups. 	a) The objective is to address the special needs of indigenous families, on the basis of equality, respect for human rights and mutual understanding between indigenous and non-indigenous people.	1) Address the needs and special circumstances of indigenous and ethnic minority families, enabling them to benefit from economic and social development programmes, with full respect for their cultures, languages and traditions;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transition from indigenous rule to colonial authority in most cases disempowered and impoverished the indigenous people. They were uprooted from their traditional lands, people within kinship groups were separated, traditional means of survival and sources of food were eliminated, men and women were relocated to other parts of the country to work within the colonial system, and children were removed from their families. Non-indigenous systems of law, welfare, education and land title interfered relentlessly with kinship obligations, the education of children by parents and extended family members, and the transmission of culture and language. National administrative systems are often based on cultural assumptions that conflict with those of indigenous people. A dynamic relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous populations requires support, cooperation, respect and a spirit of reconciliation. 		2) Involve indigenous and ethnic minority organizations in decision-making and service delivery;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnic minority families are often subjected 		3) Ensure that indigenous and ethnic

	to intolerance and discrimination and are offered services that are culturally inappropriate or discriminatory.		minority families have access to the same services as other families;
			4) Recognize the right of every individual to a religion of choice as well as the right of parents to carry out the religious and moral education of their children according to their own convictions, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
			5) Observe the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (General Assembly resolution 48/163);
			6) Intensify efforts to implement the Declaration on Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (General Assembly resolution 47/135, annex).

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Families, crime prevention and adolescent delinquency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The family's role as an important institution of social control and socialization has greatly diminished as a result of many changes within and outside the family. Nevertheless, families and the social structure with which they are intertwined can engender both pro- and anti-social individual and group behaviors. Children identify with and emulate the behavior of their parents. Efforts to address crime and related social issues must therefore account for and involve families. 	a) The objective is to give appropriate attention to the family-specific aspects of crime prevention, juvenile delinquency and criminal justice and enable families to perform the	1) Establish policies and programmes for raising children in stable, crime-free environments and helping families resolve instability or conflict;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families play a significant role in crime and delinquency prevention and in the treatment 		2) Strengthen mechanisms for helping young people of school age who

	<p>and rehabilitation of a family member who has been convicted of a crime. At the same time, however, the family is not always the safe and loving institution that it should be, as criminal acts can take place within its confines as well. Thus, families are affected by three types of crime: crimes committed by its individual members outside of the family; crimes committed within the family, including all forms of domestic violence, and crime committed against it by non-family members.</p>	<p>relevant functions, particularly the socialization of children and adolescents and the rehabilitation of offenders.</p>	<p>have problems neither the school nor the family can deal with;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95. Three international instruments in the juvenile justice field deal with the role of the family: the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) (General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex), the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) (General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex) and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (General Assembly resolution 45/113, annex). The last two instruments highlight the role of the family in relation to young persons in custodial detention. 		<p>3) Facilitate contact between prisoners and their families because it is an important component of the rehabilitative process, particularly for young offenders;</p> <p>4) Enable families to be agents of rehabilitation by giving them support and educational services;</p> <p>5) Sensitize personnel in criminal justice and crime prevention systems to both the negative and positive impacts of families and teach skills to strengthen the positive impacts;</p> <p>6) Encourage families to participate in crime prevention at the neighborhood and community levels.</p>

V. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF FAMILIES

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>National Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the fundamental social unit, families reflect the grass-roots realities of a society. Families show great diversity, reflecting individual preferences and cultural plurality. All policy and programme decisions and actions at the national level have an impact on families. The focus of efforts in support of families and responsibility for determining what is appropriate should be at the national and local levels. It is there that measures can best be identified, adapted to the needs of the society and implemented. 	<p>a) The objective is to identify, implement and monitor local and national measures to support families and to strengthen national capacities to deal with family issues, as a lasting follow-up to the International Year of the Family.</p>	<p>1) Demonstrate political commitment to families and family issues at the highest national level and give them top priority;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important prerequisites for effective national action are political commitment at the highest level, adequate resource allocations, a formal infrastructure and trained personnel. The support and participation of all segments of society, especially families themselves, is another prerequisite. 		<p>2) Elaborate a long-term national plan of action on families, using this <i>Indicative Guide</i>, experience gained by the International Year of the Family and the resources of existing national institutions devoted to family issues. The plan could identify short-, medium- and long-term goals, ways of achieving them and mechanisms for long-term monitoring and evaluation;</p>
			<p>3) Enlist all segments of society in the development and implementation of national plans, including family associations, other grass-root networks, non-governmental organizations, the media, educational and research institutions, and the private sector;</p>
			<p>4) Establish national institutional arrangements to deal with family issues, giving them enough political power to influence policy. This may involve the strengthening of existing arrangements or the creation of new ones. The coordinating mechanisms established for the International</p>

			Year of the Family could be given a new mandate to serve as permanent advisory structures on family issues;
			5) Reflect the priority assigned to family issues by allocating adequate resources, creating national voluntary funds for the purpose and soliciting support from the private sector;
			6) Give high priority to human resource development and the training of personnel. Incorporate gender and family perspectives in training programmes and make sure that there are trained, motivated personnel to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate national family policies;
			7) Raise awareness of family issues and of the need for an intersectoral approach to social issues and formulate national strategies for enhancing the well-being of families;
			8) Establish innovative mechanisms by which experience in family programmes can be shared within and among countries. Ensure effective communication with the beneficiaries of these programmes and solicit their involvement, to achieve better programme management;
			9) Use observances of the International Day of Families, on 15 May, to concentrate public attention on the pivotal role families play and on their special needs.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
The private sector	e) The private sector affects families in important ways and in nearly every aspect of life and is, conversely, affected by them. A private sector guided by free human enterprise and responsive to evolving societal needs is crucial to the well-being of families: it	a) The objective is the full participation of the private sector in local, national, regional and international efforts in	1) Intensify the cooperation of the private sector in family matters and identify areas in which it can contribute effectively;
			2) Review private sector services for families and ensure delivery of family-friendly

	provides products and services to them, and they, in turn, are an important unit of consumption. In so far as the nurture and care families give their members affects their functioning as employees and employers and the stability of the communities in which the private firms operate, the latter have a big stake in the well-being of families. By its attitudes and actions, moreover, the private sector can have a decisive impact on the quality of life of its employees and their families. Since it can mobilize invaluable resources, its involvement in efforts on behalf of families is essential.	support of families.	products and services;
			3) Encourage the development of family enterprises as a source of security for individuals and communities;
			4) Develop community-workplace partnerships for the delivery of social services and involve business in strengthening community services.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Local, national and international non-governmental organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-governmental organizations are important advocates for the disadvantaged and serve to raise awareness on specific concern. They provide a means of focusing on local and national initiatives and addressing development issues and have become the essential partners of Governments and intergovernmental organizations in all development efforts. The specialized knowledge of non-governmental organizations, their capacity for innovation, their resourcefulness, their grass-roots contacts and their effective advocacy and promotion are particularly valuable. They possess an intimate knowledge of local issues as well as the resources to deal with them. The devoted volunteers and professionals who work for them possess a wealth of skills and relevant experience. 	a) The objective is to reinforce the partnership role of non-governmental organizations and to promote their participation and contributions at all levels of action on families.	1) Develop a partnership culture and new patterns of negotiation and cooperation at the national and international levels, promoting formal and informal networks and coalitions to act in the interest of families;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contributions of local, national and international non-governmental organizations were 		2) Promote partnership between those who design, implement, coordinate, monitor

	<p>important to the success of the International Year of the Family. Those contributions were facilitated by the collaborative platforms offered by the NGO committees on the family at Vienna, New York and Paris.</p>		<p>and evaluate policies on families, paying particular attention to non-governmental organizations at the grass-roots level;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The involvement and contributions of non-governmental organizations remain crucial for efforts on behalf of families, particularly because of the need for a local or national focus. The topic of families serves as a rallying point for the diverse concerns of non-governmental organizations, and the expertise available in these organizations is vital to dealing with family issues. Their commitment to family issues was expressed in the Malta Statement of the World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family (A/48/712, annex) held from 28 November to 2 December 1993. 		<p>3) Establish channels of communication between government agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in policy on families and related international cooperation;</p> <p>4) Ensure that non-governmental organizations are represented in national mechanisms that deal with family matters, that they have enough status to influence policy and that they are given the chance to develop and implement programmes in their areas of expertise;</p> <p>5) Review and revise the programmes of non-governmental organizations regularly, involving families in the process to make the programmes responsive to their needs and expectations and to ensure that in their role as advocates and mediators non-governmental organizations accurately reflect family strengths and family concerns;</p> <p>6) Strengthen the interaction between non-governmental organizations and families. This would make their activities more transparent, mobilize public opinion and contribute to the national, regional and international dialogue on family and development issues;</p> <p>7) Without compromising their autonomy, make available to non-</p>

			governmental organizations the financial, technical and information resources they need to participate in the family-related work of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions.
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Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Research and academic institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sound knowledge of families is essential if they are to be empowered to respond to their own circumstances and meet their own needs. Tools and methodologies must be developed and skilled personnel trained to evaluate family impacts. Research and academic institutions have a central role to play here and can also provide valuable input to the policy process at all levels. 	(a) To reinforce the role of research and academic institutions in improving knowledge and information on families and in developing and training personnel;	1) Foster the training of personnel in family matters by academic institutions. Incorporate family-related elements into the curricula and encourage research on family matters;
		(b) To involve research and academic institutions more actively in the policy process and strengthen partnerships between the producers and users of family-related research.	2) Support research on the situation of the family, its dynamics and the impact of various policies on it and related training;
			3) Establish databases of national experts on family issues and of institutions, to foster the use of national expertise;
			4) Encourage official statistical and census institutions to review their methods of data collection, analysis and reportage, adapting them where needed to obtain information on multi-generational and multi-household social phenomena and unpaid work performed in families;
			5) Promote international research on the family and related issues, help to identify needs and set priorities and encourage innovative approaches to the various concerns.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
<p>The media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The media plays an increasingly powerful and pervasive role in everyday life throughout the world. It is often the principal if not the only source of information available to remote communities. As it shapes opinion, the media raises public awareness, exposes people to other cultures and keeps them abreast of current events. Communication technologies are also being increasingly used for education in many parts of the world. The media is also a powerful image-maker, both creating and reflecting social trends. 	<p>a) To raise awareness of the impact of media on family life;</p>	<p>1) Encourage informed public debate and research on the role of the media in family life, including its effects on gender and inter-generational relations and on perceptions of men, women and children;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns have been raised about how images and messages of violence or stereotypes of women, men, older persons and other social groups are projected or reinforced by media. These concerns have also fuelled a debate about who is responsible for standards and practices in an information society - the media, the State or families. Too often, the families portrayed in the media do not reflect reality. Particular concerns have arisen about the impact of media especially on children and on socialization and relationships between family members. 	<p>b) To use the media to disseminate information on supports available to families in need and to draw attention to family issues in general;</p>	<p>2) Encourage constructive and informed use of the media within families;</p>
		<p>c) To reinforce, through the media, images of families and attitudes towards them that respect the dignity and human rights of all human beings and show tolerance and understanding for people of different generations, genders and cultures.</p>	<p>3) Encourage parents to watch television with their children and discuss the programmes they have seen;</p>
	<p>4) Provide media professionals with updated, reliable information about families so they can accurately present family issues;</p>	<p>5) Encourage families to become active in local media, as both providers and consumers of information;</p>	<p>6) Ensure that Governments, non-governmental organizations and service providers use the media to disseminate information on supports available to families and</p>

			policies and legislation affecting families;
			7) Encourage, support and use the media to educate and inform families in remote areas.

Scope of work	Justification	Objectives	Action
Regional and international cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Year of the Family showed that, despite the diversity of families, many of the concerns they face and the social policy issues faced by States are the same everywhere. International consensus is evolving on many of the issues surrounding families. There is, moreover, a conviction of the value of regional and international exchange of experience in addressing family issues. This conviction was reflected at the International Conferences on Families, held in the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-ninth session, as well as at the United Nations regional preparatory meetings for the Year, held in 1993, and the United Nations Interregional Meeting of National Coordinators/Focal Points for the Year, held in 1995. In many of its resolutions, the General Assembly has asked international organizations, including those of the United Nations system, to promote cooperation on family matters. 	<p>a) The objective is to promote regional and international cooperation and exchange on family issues and, where appropriate, to support national efforts on behalf of families.</p>	<p>1) Emphasize the family perspective in development cooperation. Ensure that projects are designed, appraised and evaluated with regard for their impact on families;</p> <p>2) Encourage regional and subregional cooperation in matters relating to families, monitoring progress in the regions, identifying needs, collecting and analyzing information, sponsoring action-oriented research and development, providing training of personnel and advisory services, engaging in and facilitating technical cooperation activities, particularly by the regional commissions of the United Nations and other regional bodies;</p> <p>3) Consider the creation of subregional, regional and interregional centres on the family, in cooperation with the United Nations, its regional commissions and other bodies, and in consultation with non-governmental and other organizations;</p> <p>4) Find means within bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes to support national or regional measures on family issues, including assistance to appropriate agencies;</p> <p>5) Support developing countries that do not</p>

		<p>have adequate resources to meet the needs of the families because of competing demands, as called for by the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex);</p> <p>6) Increase the efforts of all parties involved in development assistance programmes to let Governments know what support for family issues can be sought from international agencies;</p> <p>7) Assign priority to matters related to families, in accordance with national priorities, in the programmes for economic and social development of multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, including technical cooperation among developing countries;</p> <p>8) Mobilize public opinion in support of families by observing the International Day of Families, 15 May;</p> <p>9) Continue the United Nations subprogramme on families, which serves as a catalyst and facilitator for global efforts on behalf of families;</p> <p>10) Review the role of treaty bodies in monitoring the enjoyment by families of their human rights.</p>
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