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UNDESA Mission Report

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NGO Section/OESC**

**China (Sanya)
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UNDESA Mission Report

**Najet Karaborni, Senior Interregional Adviser,
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NGO Section/OESC
China (Sanya), 6-9 December 2004**

I. Purpose of the Mission

At the request of the Chief of the NGO Section/OESC of DESA and the invitation of the Government of China and the World Family Organization (WFO), a leading NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC since 1948 and UN-NGO-IRENE/Latin America Coordinator, Ms. Najet Karaborni, Senior Interregional Adviser of UNDESA and Project Coordinator of the UN-NGO-IRENE / NGO Section undertook an advisory mission to Sanya, China from 1 to 12 December 2004. (See **Annex 1**)

The main purpose of the mission was to assist in coordinating and conducting the World Family Summit to contribute to the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+10).

More specifically, the UNDESA Mission aimed:

- 1.** To assist in the organization and conduct of the World Family Summit that the World Family Organization is organizing in partnership with the United Nations and especially the NGO Section of DESA and the Government of China;
- 2.** As keynote speaker, to present a PowerPoint Presentation in the Panel 1 “ Family and Poverty Eradication”
- 3.** To help draw out the Summit recommendations in form of a World Declaration for a Comprehensive Family Policy – Achieving the Millennium Declaration with and For the Family that will be presented as statement of WFO to the ECOSOC HLS of July 2005, New York.

II. Main Activities Undertaken During the Mission

a) WFS Summary Report

The World Family Summit (WFS) was an outstanding initiative of one leading NGO, the World Family Organization (WFO) and UN-NGO-IRENE Regional Coordinator for Latin America to effectively contribute to the celebration of the International Year for Family +10 in partnership with governments and the United Nations. Organized with the aim of reviewing and evaluating the goals accomplished since the 1994 International Year of the Family, in context of implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the ICPD Program of Action (ICPD-PoA), the WFS took place from 6 to 9 December 2004 in Sanya, Hainan Province, China. 300 participants representing 48 countries including Ministers, Parliamentarians, Governors, governmental high officials, international, national and grassroot NGOs and coalitions, business community, media and press and the United Nations (UNDESA, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA) attended the Summit. (See **Annex 8**).

The Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, HE, Mr. **Weiqing Zhang** chaired the Opening Ceremony of the World Family Summit and started by welcoming all participants to China. In her opening speech, HE, Ms **Xiulian Gu**, Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China and President of The All-China Women's Federation stressed the family's role as the fundamental unit of society. She underlined China's efforts to provide for and support the family through incorporation of family policies and programmes into the government's national development strategies. Ms. Gu urged the reinforcement of communication and cooperation as essential means to achieving the MDGs and responding successfully to the challenges facing families and development initiatives today.

The President of WFO, Dr. **Deisi Kusztra** made opening remarks emphasizing the role of families in implementing the MDGs and thanking UNDESA and especially the NGO Section, the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, and the Division for Public Administration and Development Management for their strong support to the preparatory work, organization and conduct of the Summit . In his opening address, Mr. **Khalid Malik**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China focused on the role of the United Nations in China in implementing the MDGs. Ms **Karaborni** presented the message of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Summit. She also thanked WFO for its outstanding initiative to hold a World Family Summit and the Peoples' Republic of China Government for co-sponsoring it and hosting it. Opening addresses were also made by HE Mrs. **Ursula Haubner**, Secretary of state for Family Affairs, Austria, HE, Mrs. **Saloua Ayachi Lebbène**, Minister of Women and Family Affairs, Tunisia, HE Mr. **Shahbaz Hussein Ch.**, Minister of Population Welfare, Pakistan and HE. Mr. **Changsong Cai**, Deputy Secretary-General, Hainan Provincial Party Committee

The first and second days of the Summit featured panels on Family and related Millennium Development Goals and Millennium Declaration major objectives. The

Plenary Panel on “**Family and Sustainable Development**”, along with panels on “**Poverty Eradication**”, “**Education**”, “**Gender Equality**”, and “**Child, Youth, and Elderly Health**”, took place on 6 December 2004. Panels focusing on “**Maternal and Reproductive Health**”, “**HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care**”, “**Partnership**”, “**Environment**”, and “**Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)**”, were held on 7 December 2004. The UNDESA representative, Ms Karaborni acted as keynote speaker for Panel 1 on Family and Poverty Eradication (See **Annex 5**)

Regional Success Stories highlighting the family role and contribution to policy decision and programmes especially at local level for more well being in the world for all families and especially the disadvantaged ones were related on 8 December 2004.

The Summit ended on 8 December 2004 with the adoption of **Sanya Declaration** that was extensively discussed with the participants at regional level and finalized by the Drafting Committee (See **Annex 6**). In his closing speech, Mr. **Lin Fanglue**, Vice-Governor of Hainan Province thanked the organizers of the World Family Summit for choosing Sanya as the venue for the Summit. He explained that the Hainan Provincial Government is highly committed to sustainable development as the means to combat poverty, improve healthcare, and protect human rights, and that the Summit provided an excellent opportunity to discuss and promote the Millennium Development Goals and the ICPD Programme of Action. (For more details see the Summit Programme in **Annex 2** and visit the Website at <http://www.worldfamilyorganization.org/Summit/index.htm>).

b) Main activities undertaken by the UNDESA Mission

Besides the guidance of Ms Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section and the advisory services and technical support provided by Ms Karaborni during the preparatory phase of the Summit since January 2003 in New York and especially:

1. Support to the conduct of the Meeting to launch the Preparatory Phase of the World Family Summit held in Curitiba, Brazil, 10-13 May 2003
2. Substantive inputs and support to the formulation of guidelines for the preparatory regional conferences and national meetings that were held in Mexico (November 2003), Canada (December 2003), Austria (March 2004), Benin (April 2004) and Dubai (May 2004)
3. Technical assistance and advice to WFO for the preparatory work related to the organization of the World Family Summit

The main activities undertaken by the UNDESA Mission in China were:

1. Advisory services and technical support for the conduct of the Summit in order to ensure all conditions of success

2. WFS Opening Ceremony speech to present and read the Message of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Summit (See **Annexes 3 and 4**)
3. As Keynote Speaker of the 6 December 2004 Panel 1: “Family and Poverty Eradication”, PowerPoint presentation entitled “Towards a Comprehensive and Integrated Strategy for Sustained Poverty Alleviation for All Families”
4. Participation in the different panel sessions and success story plenary sessions
5. Chair of the Drafting Committee of the Summit Declaration to finalize the Declaration taking into account the different regions and participants’ proposals and recommendations
6. Press Conference, 8 December 2004 in Sanya, China
7. Participation to the Inaugural Ceremony of a Monument for Family to commemorate the WFS in Sanya, China organized by the Mayor of Sanya on 9 December 2004
8. Discussions and meetings related to the Summit outcome and follow-up, and to potential cooperation related to the on-going and projected activities of the UN-NGO-Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) /NGO Section, ECOSOC of UNDESA and especially the Islamabad international conference of March 2005 and the expansion of UN-NGO-IRENE in Africa, the Arab region, Latin America, North America and western Europe with UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China; the Counsellor of the League of Arab States; the Mayor of Blainville, Quebec; the Minister of Population Welfare of Pakistan; the Minister of Social Development, Solidarity and Elderly of Mali; the Governor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Senator, Member of the Upper Parliament of Jordan; the Secretary Municipal of Social and Health Development of Brazil; the Dean of Effat College of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Tsinghua University; The Family Africa; the Mothers’ Tunisian Association (ATM); the Global Village of Beijing; and several WFO members (governments and NGOs)

III. Main Results/Conclusions

1. The World Family Summit was hosted by the World Family Organization, the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, and the All-China Women’s Federation. It was co-sponsored by the Government of China in collaboration with the following UN agencies: UNDESA, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF
2. The Summit was organized in partnership with UNDESA, NGO Section/Office for ECOSOC support and Coordination and the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)

3. A friendly and people-oriented debate and dialogue characterized the Summit focusing on common challenges facing family development, implementation of MDGs in the context of the family as well as reviewing goals and programmes initiated since the International Year for Family in 1994
4. A more comprehensive understanding of the MDGs and the role of the family in contributing to their implementation through an enhanced learning, dialogue and action process
5. An exchange of experiences (good and bad) among participants to draw out the lessons learned and the best practices to adapt to each national context
6. Consensus on the main and crucial issues and perspectives to be addressed and on how to address them
7. Adoption of the World Family Summit Declaration and a commitment of all stakeholders to implement it
8. To fulfill its leading role, WFO appreciated the help of the Mission and stressed its crucial need for a continuous substantive support of DESA to ensure an effective implementation of the Sanya Declaration
9. The outcome of the Summit, the adopted “World Declaration for a Comprehensive Family Policy,” will serve as basis for a statement that WFO will draft with the advice and technical support of the UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section and present to the ECOSOC HLS of July 2005, New York
10. It was agreed that a follow-up International Meeting bringing together all the Summit participants will take place each year in a different venue to assess the implementation of the Sanya Declaration for each MDG until 2015 starting in 2005 in Aracaju, Brazil which offered to host the next meeting.
11. All persons met expressed their goodwill to cooperate with UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO section and to play an active role to contribute to the ECOSOC work in implementing the internationally agreed Millennium goals and the major UN conferences’ outcomes and action plans

IV. Main Recommendations of the Mission

1. The outcome of the Summit should be presented as the WFO statement to the ECOSOC HLS of July 2005, New York. This will enhance WFO contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the MDGs and the recommendations of the major international conferences and Summits in this field. It also should be reported in the United Nations Secretary General Report on the MDGs’ Fifth Year Review to the General Assembly

2. Human security for all families should be taken into account, especially that of the disadvantaged, with human solidarity
3. Promotion of exchange of innovative experiences and best practices among all stakeholders including NGO and business community, governments, parliaments, local authorities, academia and other civil society organizations and coalitions
4. Learning and training including distance and online training on compressive strategies for poverty alleviation, sustained economic growth and sustainable human development for all families and generations
5. Development of learning and training material using at the fullest the UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section capacity and potential for capacity building and networking
6. Design and implementation with the support of UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section of joint pilot integrated cross-sector and multistakeholder programmes, projects, and initiatives for family in partnership with governments, local authorities, NGOs, CSOs, business communities, and the United Nations to implement the Summit Declaration
7. A concrete action plan should be developed urgently based on the Draft Plan of Action of the summit that should be finalized during the first trimester of 2005 in order to be ready to present and submit to the High Level Segment of ECOSOC, July 2005, New York
8. UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section should take benefit of the will of the persons met during the Mission in China (See list in **Annex 7**) in order to expand UN-NGO-IRENE in the remaining regions (Arab region, Latin America, North America, Western Europe), and strengthen it at national level, and to enhance UN result oriented partnership with NGOs and all other stakeholders to implement the MDGs .

V. **Appreciations**

The UN delegation would like to express its sincere thanks to:

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the Government of China, the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, the Hainan Provincial and the Sanya Municipal Governments, and especially HE, Mr. Weiqing Zhang, Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), H.E. Mr. Liucheng Wei, Governor, Hainan Provincial Government, H.E. Mr. Lin Fanglue, Vice-Governor, Hainan Province, and H.E. Mr. Bingli Zhao, Vice-Minister, National Population and Family Planning Commission, for their sponsorship and support to the excellent organization of the Summit, and for their commitment to the internationally agreed MDGs and family-focused development policies;

Mr. Khalid Malik, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China, for his support to the Summit, as well as all the UN Agencies present in the Summit and especially UNICEF and UNFPA, and all the partners involved in the Summit;

World Family Organization for the excellent organization of the Summit, for its leadership in seeking initiative to promote the Family and the MDGs in partnership with government, NGOs, CSOs and the United Nations, and for its continued efforts and contributions to ECOSOC work;

All Governments' representatives, very qualified persons, NGO coalitions and NGOs met in Sanya, especially the Counsellor of the League of Arab States; the Mayor of Blainville, Quebec; the Minister of Population welfare of Pakistan; the Minister of Social Development, Solidarity and Elderly of Mali; the Governor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Senator, Member of the Upper Parliament of Jordan; the Secretary Municipal of Social and Health Development of Brazil; All-China Women's Federation; The Family Africa; ATM; the Global Village of Beijing; all WFO members (governments and NGOs); the Dean of Effat College of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and Tsinghua University, for their highly appreciated contribution to the friendly dialogue and to the important outcome of this very successful Summit;

All those who helped the World Family Organization and the UNDESA Mission achieve more than expected results.

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