

**Opening Ceremony of the World Family Summit**  
**Speech of Najet Karaborni**  
**Senior Interregional Adviser, OUSG, UNDESA**  
**Sanya, China 6 - 9 December 2004**

Distinguished Participants, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Colleagues,

In this year of 2004, we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Family Year and I am very glad and honored to be here with all of you in this very beautiful and warm city of Sanya. I would like first to express on behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and especially Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, Mr. Guido Bertucci, Director for Public Administration and Development Management, Ms Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section and myself, our deep thanks and great appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of China and more particularly to the Minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission of China, His Excellence Weiqing Zhang for all their efforts in hosting this important Summit in Sanya. I also want to thank all the Representatives of governments, parliamentarians, NGOs, Academia, local authorities, business community and the United Nations who are present here today and or sent letters of support for their valuable contribution and high commitment to family development and MDGs' implementation.

I would like also to thank very much the World Family Organization, one of our leading NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC since 1948, and particularly its President, Dr. Deisi for this outstanding initiative. As you know, WFO regroups members representing 189 countries and 127 governments besides CSOs and NGOs and constitutes the best platform for an effective and result-oriented partnership around the world for Family participation and enhanced contribution to the United Nations work.

I am honored to read the Message of the Secretary- General of the United Nations and convey his wishes for a successful Summit

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

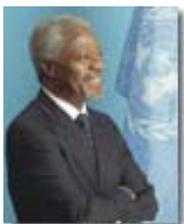
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**MESSAGE TO THE WORLD FAMILY SUMMIT**

**Sanya, 6-9 December 2004**

This World Family Summit, coinciding with the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, is a welcome effort to promote the role of the family in the work for peace, security, justice, solidarity and prosperity worldwide. It underlines the role of the family as the most fundamental and sustainable unit of society. It reminds us that the family is among the most important arenas in socializing and educating younger generations, and in providing care and support for older generations. As such, the family plays a crucial role in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, adopted by all countries as a blueprint for building a better world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

By bringing together Governments and Civil Society from so many countries, this summit offers an important platform for forging effective partnerships and achieving exceptionally broad consensus on the specific needs of families and on ways to meet them. I thank the Government of China as well as all summit participants for their commitment to that mission, and wish you a most successful meeting.



**Kofi Annan**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Annan".

Kofi A. Annan