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# RESOURCE GUIDE

to U.N. Consensus Language  
on Family Issues

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FAMILY WATCH  
INTERNATIONAL

*Promoting Family-Based Solutions to World Problems*

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## LOOKING FORWARD: THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2014

The Secretary General's 2011 Family Report (A/66/62-E/2011/4) provides background on international family issues and focuses on preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014. The following paragraphs provide good information and suggestions on how to integrate policies supportive of the family in UN negotiations:

7. The recent Millennium Development Summit outcome document (General Assembly resolution 65/1) does not mention the family, except in the context of family planning. Yet, the majority of the Millennium Development targets, especially those relating to the reduction of poverty, education of children and reduction in maternal mortality, are **difficult to attain unless the strategies to achieve them focus on the family**.

8. Although there is no explicit family framework at the international level, **many Governments recognize families as agents of development and actively pursue family-oriented social policies at the national level**. In fact, over the years specific family-friendly policies have gained ground. Among them, noncontributory social transfer programmes, including conditional cash transfers, targeting mostly poor families, have become a core element of poverty reduction strategies in many developing countries. Such interventions have been credited with a reduction in the inter-generational transmission of poverty and better educational and health outcomes for children. These positive outcomes led to the growing popularity of similar programmes and demonstrated the value of focusing on family-centred policies to achieve development goals.

9. Notwithstanding national efforts, at the international level the family is appreciated but not prioritized in development efforts. The very contribution of families to the achievement of development goals continues to be largely overlooked, while there seems to be a consensus on the fact that, so far, **the stability and cohesiveness of communities and societies largely rest on the strength of the family**.

10. **In effect, the very achievement of development goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the achievement of those goals**. Thus, policies focusing on improving the wellbeing of families are certain to benefit development. Such policies should not only help families to cope with their numerous responsibilities and shelter them from vulnerability; they should aim at supporting a variety of family functions rather than replacing them and treating families as collections of individuals, who independently need support.

11. **The upcoming anniversary of the International Year of the Family offers an opportunity to add a family focus** to development efforts with the objective of strengthening them as agents of development for the benefit of the society at large.

Report of the Secretary-General  
on the Follow-up to the tenth anniversary  
of the International Year of the Family and beyond  
(A/66/62-E/2011/4) – 2011

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## NEGOTIATING TO PROTECT THE FAMILY

By Sharon Slater

President of Family Watch International

In order to effectively negotiate a UN document that is supportive of the institution of the family, it is very important for a negotiator to be familiar with positive consensus language from past UN documents related to the topic they are negotiating. To support UN delegates in this effort, we have created this Guide containing excerpts from UN consensus documents on issues related to the family. These references are alphabetized according to the topic so they can be found quickly.

By familiarizing yourself with past positive consensus language relating to family issues, a delegate will be better prepared to propose existing good language to positively impact current documents under negotiation.

Preserving and promoting the family is best achieved by repeating and building upon, whenever possible, family-supportive language in binding UN documents or documents that are given great importance by the international community such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For this reason, the Guide contains only the most relevant references in such documents. (The full text of binding and nonbinding UN documents such as UN Commission outcome documents, resolutions, UN committee recommendations or decisions, expert reports, etc. can be found on our searchable online database at <http://fwi.undatabase.org/>.)

In an ideal world UN delegates would be able to proactively develop, without any opposition, strong policies that promote and preserve the family as the fundamental unit of society. However, negotiating documents at the United Nations is a give and take process. Many times a UN Member State or voting bloc will propose a provision. Then to counteract it, another country which disagrees with the provision might propose something quite the opposite within the same paragraph. In the end, the two opposing sides may compromise by agreeing to either keep both contradictory proposals in the final negotiated document or by inserting ambiguous language instead. This is why many UN documents are internally inconsistent, and frankly, sometimes incoherent.

You will notice that many of the paragraphs in this Guide contain contradictory provisions. Often, within the same paragraph, you will find some phrases supportive of life and the family and other phrases contradicting such positions. We felt it was important to include these contradictory paragraphs in the Guide (we have bolded the family supportive portions in them), thereby enabling delegates to counteract anti-family language proposed from a paragraph of a past consensus document by submitting in response the pro-family language connected to it so that the proposal remains balanced.

In summary, the family-supportive phrases in this Guide can be used creatively by delegates in UN negotiations to affirm and strengthen the traditional family. This Guide is a powerful tool to aid the efforts of delegates in preserving the family as “the natural and fundamental group unit of society,” which is “entitled to protection by society and the State.” – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 16 (3).

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## NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUES

The following are some standard techniques used to negotiate a more family friendly outcome document.

### 1. Propose family-supportive language to modify the meaning of a potentially harmful provision under negotiation.

#### Examples:

- If a provision is proposed about sex education, a pro-family negotiator might respond by proposing language from the bolded words in the Guide's section on *"Education and Parents,"* such as:

**"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."** – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 26 (3).

OR

**"... with proper regard for parental guidance and responsibilities."** – ICPD (1994), 7.47.

- If a provision is calling for "reproductive health services" (a term often misinterpreted to include abortion), a pro-family negotiator might define and/or modify this phrase by proposing the following phrase from the "Healthy Infant" section of the Guide: **"to enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy baby."** ICPD (1994), 7.2.

### 2. Propose positive language that gives Member States more flexibility in implementing problematic provisions in a way that refers to the entire document under negotiation.

This objective can be accomplished by inserting language from the Guide's sections on *"Sovereignty"* and *"Religious and Ethical Values."*

#### Examples:

- **"... is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities."** – Social Summit (1995), 3.
- **"... respect for sovereignty as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations."** – Beijing (1995), 131.
- **"The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities..."** – ICPD (1994), Chapter II, Principles.
- **"... with full respect for the various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people."** – ICPD (1994), 1.11.

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- “. . . take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors.” – HIV/AIDS (2001), 63.
  - “. . . consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people.” – Children’s Summit (2002), 37.

### 3. Identify and request to delete inflexible language when it mandates negative actions.

#### Examples:

“must,” “ensure,” “shall,” “require,” “establish,” “guarantee,” and “imperative”

And propose replacing those mandatory terms with more flexible ones:

#### Examples:

“promote,” “encourage,” “help,” “assist,” “increase efforts,” “work toward,” “facilitate,” “suggest,” “request,” “support,” “recommend,” and “set a goal to”

As an alternative, delegates can also insert modifying phrases to increase flexibility:

#### Examples:

“as appropriate,” “where appropriate,” “where needed,” “when merited,” “where feasible,” “where relevant” and “according to the needs of the member state”

### 4. Add language that will minimize the negative outcomes of UN agencies or treaty bodies that may overstep their mandates.

#### Example:

“Support the Commission on the Status of Women, **within its mandate**, in assessing and advancing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action . . .” – Beijing +5 (2000), 85(e).

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## Acronyms used for United Nations Treaties and Outcome Documents:

**UN Charter:** The Charter of the United Nations (1945)  
**Universal Decl.:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)  
**ICESCR:** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976)  
**ICCPR:** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976)  
**CEDAW:** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
Against Women ( 1981)  
**CRC:** Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)  
**Children's Summit:** World Summit for Children (1990)  
**Agenda 21:** Conference on Environment and Development (1992)  
**Vienna:** World Conference on Human Rights (1993)  
**ICPD:** International Conference on Population and Development (1994)  
**Social Summit:** World Summit for Social Development (1995)  
**Beijing:** Fourth World Conference on Women (1995)  
**Habitat:** Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (1996 )  
**Earth Summit +5:** (1997)  
**ICC:** Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)  
**ICPD +5:** (1999)  
**Social Summit +5:** (2000)  
**Beijing +5:** (2000)  
**Millenium:** Millennium Declaration (2000)  
**Habitat +5:** (2001)  
**HIV/AIDS:** Declaration of Commitment on HIV/ AIDS (2001)  
**Racism:** World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and  
Related Intolerance (2001)  
**Ageing:** Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002)  
**Children's Summit +10:** A World Fit for Children (2002)  
**WSIS:** World Summit on the Information Society (2003)  
**World Summit 2005 HIV/AIDS 2006:** Political Declaration on HIV/ AIDS (2006) **Disabil-**  
**ities:** Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)  
**HIV/AIDS 2011:** Political Declaration on HIV/ AIDS (2011)

*The information from the above treaties and conference documents was obtained through the website of the United Nations ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)), which allows the use and distribution of these documents if the source is acknowledged.*

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## ABORTION

(See also "Healthy Infant," "Pre-natal Care" and "Right to Life")

■ **In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning.** All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the *need* for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. **Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.** In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions. – ICPD (1994), 8.25.

*"In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning."*  
ICPD (1994), 8.25

■ All countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015. **Reproductive health care in the context of primary health care** should, inter alia, include: family-planning counselling, information, education, communication and services; education and services for prenatal care, safe delivery and post-natal care, especially breast-feeding and infant and women's health care; prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility; **abortion as specified in paragraph 8.25, including prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion**; treatment of reproductive tract infections; sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health conditions; and information, education and counselling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood. Referral for family-planning services and further diagnosis and treatment for complications of pregnancy, delivery *and abortion*, infertility, reproductive tract infections, breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive system, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS should always be available, as required. Active discouragement of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, should also be an integral component of primary health care, including reproductive health-care programmes. – ICPD (1994), 7.6.

### Comment on Abortion:

Most abortions in the world are performed for family planning or population control purposes. One study found that only 21% of the women interviewed who chose to have an abortion did so due to rape or reasons related to the health of the mother or fetus. The other **79% were performed for family planning purposes** (See "Why do Women Have Abortions?"). An earlier study had similar findings (See "Reasons Women Have Abortions"). Many UN agencies and treaty bodies (e.g., UNDP, WHO, and the CEDAW Commission) are promoting abortion for population control purposes, which goes against the policies developed by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action. Both the ICPD +5 and the Beijing +5 outcome documents made it clear that abortion should not be promoted as a method of family planning (see above).

– A. Torres & J. Forrest, "Why do Women Have Abortions?," *Family Planning Perspectives*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Jul.-Aug. 1988), 169-176.

– L. Finer, et al., "Reasons Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives," *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2005, 37(3):110-118.

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■ Governments should take appropriate steps to **help women avoid abortion, which in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning**, and in all cases provide for the humane treatment and counselling of women who have had recourse to abortion. – ICPD (1994), 7.24.

■ In the light of paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states: "**In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning**. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of

*"...changes related to abortion...can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process..."*

ICPD +5 (1999), 63(i)

Beijing (1995), 106(k)

ICPD (1994), 8.25

*unsafe abortion as a major public health concern* and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the *need* for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. **Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.** In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases,

women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions", consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions; – Beijing (1995), 106(k).

■ **In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning.** All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public-health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. **Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.** In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to **avoid repeat abortions.**

(ii) Governments should take appropriate steps to **help women avoid abortion, which in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning**, and in all cases provide for the humane treatment and counselling of women who have had recourse to abortion.

(iii) In recognizing and implementing the above, and in circumstances where abortion is not against the law, health systems should train and equip health-service providers and should take other measures to ensure that such abortion is safe and accessible. Additional measures should be taken to

#### **Comment on Abortion:**

Every woman considering abortion should be informed that **approximately 1 out of every 10 women who have a legal abortion will experience physical complications**, 20 percent of which will be life threatening.

– Frank, P. I. et al., (1985). "Induced abortion operations and their early sequelae." *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 35(73), 175-180.

– Grimes, D. A. & Cates, W. "Abortion: Methods and complications." In Hafez, E. S. E. (ed) *Human Reproduction, Conception and Contraception*. Hagerstown: Harper & Row.

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safeguard women's health. – ICPD +5 (1999), 63 (i, ii, iii).

## ABSTINENCE

■ Express grave concern that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years account for more than one third of all new HIV infections, with some 3,000 young people becoming infected with HIV each day, and note that most young people still have limited access to good quality education, decent employment and recreational facilities, as well as limited access to sexual and reproductive health programmes that provide the information, skills, services and commodities they need to protect themselves that only 34 per cent of young people possess accurate knowledge of HIV, and that laws and policies in some instances exclude young people from accessing sexual health-care and HIV-related services, such as voluntary and confidential HIV-testing, counselling and age-appropriate sex and HIV prevention education, while also recognizing the importance of reducing risk taking behaviour and **encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence, fidelity** and correct and consistent use of condoms; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 25.

*“...encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity...”*

HIV/AIDS (2011), 25

HIV/AIDS (2001), 52

■ Reducing risk-taking behaviour and **encouraging responsible sexual behaviour including abstinence, fidelity** and consistent and correct use of condoms; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 59(c).

■ By 2005, ensure: that a wide range of prevention programmes which take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values, is available in all countries, particularly the most affected countries, including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviour and **encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity**; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmittable infections; – HIV/AIDS (2001), 52.

■ The objectives are:

(a) To address adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues, including unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, through the promotion of responsible and healthy reproductive and sexual behaviour, **including voluntary abstinence**, and the provision of appropriate services and counselling specifically suitable for that age group;

(b) To substantially reduce all adolescent pregnancies. – ICPD (1994), 7.44.

■ Reaffirm that the prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, and therefore commit ourselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes that take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values is available in all countries, particularly the most affected countries, including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour,

### Comment on Abstinence:

Abstinence and fidelity are effective 100% of the time in preventing the transmission of the HIV virus through sexual contact. A good condom used correctly and consistently is effective most of the time, but a failure can result in death from AIDS. One study indicates condoms for males, when used both consistently and correctly, are the only contraceptive that provides any meaningful protection against STDs, including HIV/AIDS, but their failure rate is about 15% for typical uses.

– *Consumer Reports*, “Condoms and Contraception,” February 2005.

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**including abstinence and fidelity**; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections; – HIV/AIDS (2006), 22.

■ Programmes to reduce the spread of HIV infection should give high priority to information, education and communication campaigns to raise awareness and emphasize behavioural change. Sex education and information should be provided to both those infected and those not infected, and especially

*“Responsible sexual behaviour, including voluntary sexual abstinence, for the prevention of HIV infection should be promoted and included in education and information programmes.”*  
ICPD (1994), 8.35

to adolescents. Health providers, including family-planning providers, need training in counseling on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection, including the assessment and identification of high-risk behaviours needing special attention and services; training in the promotion of safe and responsible sexual behaviour, **including voluntary abstinence**, and condom use; training in the avoidance of contaminated equipment and blood products; and in the avoidance of shar-

ing needles among injecting drug users. Governments should develop guidelines and counselling services on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases within the primary health-care services. Wherever possible, reproductive health programmes, including family-planning programmes, should include facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of common sexually transmitted diseases, including reproductive tract infection, recognizing that many sexually transmitted diseases increase the risk of HIV transmission. The links between the prevention of HIV infection and the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis should be assured. – ICPD (1994), 8.31.

■ Responsible sexual behaviour, **including voluntary sexual abstinence**, for the prevention of HIV infection should be promoted and included in education and information programmes. Condoms and drugs for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases should be made widely available and affordable and should be included in all essential drug lists. Effective action should be taken to further control the quality of blood products and equipment decontamination. – ICPD (1994), 8.35.

■ Basic reproductive health, including family-planning services, involving support for necessary training, supplies, infrastructure and management systems, especially at the primary health-care level, would include the following major components, which should be integrated into basic national programmes for population and reproductive health:

(c) In the sexually transmitted diseases/HIV/AIDS prevention programme component - mass media and in-school education programmes, **promotion of voluntary abstinence** and responsible sexual behavior and expanded distribution of condoms; – ICPD (1994), 13.14(c).

■ By Governments, international bodies including relevant United Nations organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations:

(l) Design specific programmes for men of all ages and male adolescents, recognizing the parental roles referred to in paragraph 107 (e) above, aimed at providing complete and accurate information on safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, including voluntary, appropriate and effective male methods for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases **through, inter alia, abstinence** and condom use; – Beijing (1995), 108(l).

■ As a matter of priority, especially in those countries most affected, and in partnership with NGOs, wherever possible, intensify education, services and community based mobilization strategies to protect women of all ages from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including through the development of safe, affordable, effective and easily accessible female-controlled methods, including methods such as microbicides and female condoms that protect against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling, and the promotion of responsible sexual behaviour, **including abstinence** and condom use; development of vaccines, simple low-

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cost diagnosis and single dose treatments for sexually transmitted infections; – Beijing +5 (2000), 103(b).

## ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

■ 1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child.

3. **Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.** – CRC (1990), Article 20-1, 2, 3.

*“...all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other caregivers to nurture and care for children in a family environment...”*  
Children’s Summit (1990), 18

■ The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, **children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.** Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment. – Children’s Summit (1990), 18.

■ States Parties that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration and they shall:

(a) **Ensure that the adoption of a child is authorized only by competent authorities who determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child's status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their informed consent to the adoption on the basis of such counselling as may be necessary;**

(b) Recognize that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner be cared for in the child's country of origin;

(c) Ensure that the child concerned by inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption;

(d) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it;

(e) Promote, where appropriate, the objectives of the present article by concluding bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements, and endeavour, within this framework, to ensure that the placement of the child in another country is carried out by competent authorities or organs. – CRC (1990), Article 21-a, b, c, d, e.

### Comment on Adoption:

When the institutions of society are trying to place a child without parents – adoption is always preferable – when compared to placing a child in foster care or an orphanage. As stated above in paragraph 18 of the Children’s Summit, **children need to grow up in a family environment.** Children need to feel the permanence and stability of a long term family arrangement. Sometimes the economic situation of a country, the effects of war, or natural disasters, may make international adoptions a viable option. With appropriate legal safeguards and oversight, in both the sending and receiving countries, this can provide a way for a child to be raised in a loving family.

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■ States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

(f) **The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children**, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount; – CEDAW (1981), Article 16-1(f).

■ Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin should adopt effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international traffic in women, youth and children. Governments of countries of origin, where the activities of agents or other intermediaries in the migration process are legal, should regulate such activities in order to **prevent abuses, especially exploitation, prostitution and coercive adoption**. – ICPD

*“All births should be assisted by trained persons, preferably nurses and midwives, but at least by trained birth attendants.”*

ICPD (1994), 8.22

(1994), 10.18.

■ States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, **adoption of children** or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; **in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount**. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. – Disabilities (2006), article 23(2).

## BIRTH ATTENDANT TRAINING

■ All countries, with the support of all sections of the international community, must expand the provision of maternal health services in the context of primary health care. These services, based on the concept of informed choice, should include education on safe motherhood, **prenatal care** that is focused and effective, maternal nutrition programmes, adequate delivery assistance that avoids excessive recourse to caesarean sections and provides for obstetric emergencies; referral services for pregnancy, childbirth and abortion complications; post-natal care and family planning. **All births should be assisted by trained persons, preferably nurses and midwives, but at least by trained birth attendants**. The underlying causes of maternal morbidity and mortality should be identified, and attention should be given to the development of strategies to overcome them and for adequate evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to assess the progress being made in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity and to enhance the effectiveness of ongoing programmes. Programmes and education to engage men's support for maternal health and safe motherhood should be developed. ICPD (1994), 8.22.

## CHILD CARE

■ **Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers have the primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children**, and must be supported in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. All our policies and programmes should promote the shared responsibility of parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers, and society as a whole in this regard. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 32(2).

■ **The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence**. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture

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and care for children in a family environment. – Children’s Summit (1990), 18.

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family.** All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and **render appropriate assistance to parents, families,** legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children’s Summit (1990), 15.

*“Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers have the primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children.”*  
Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 32(2)

■ **Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.** – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 26(3).

■ **We recognize and support parents and families or, as the case may be, legal guardians as the primary caretakers of children,** and we will strengthen their capacity to provide the optimum care, nurturing and protection. – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 6.

■ We will work for respect for the role of the family in providing for children and **will support the efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to nurture and care for children,** from the earliest stages of childhood through adolescence. We also recognize the special needs of children who are separated from their families. – Children’s Summit (1990), 20(5).

■ States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care **within the wider family,** and failing that, within the community **in a family setting.** Disabilities (2006), Article 23(5).

■ States Parties shall ensure that **a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will,** except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. **In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.** – Disabilities (2006), Article 23(4).

■ Governments should give priority to developing programmes and policies that foster norms and attitudes of zero tolerance for harmful and discriminatory attitudes, including son preference, which can result in harmful and unethical practices such as prenatal sex selection, discrimination and violence against the girl child and all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation, rape, incest, trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation. This entails developing an integrated approach that addresses the need for widespread social, cultural and economic change, in addition to legal reforms. The girl child's access to health, nutrition, education and life opportunities should be protected and promoted. **The role of family members, especially parents and other legal guardi-**

#### **Comment on Child Care:**

“Early, extensive and continuous nonmaternal care of the kind available in most communities poses some **developmental risks for young children** and perhaps the larger society as well. Nor would it seem any longer tenable to argue that disconcerting evidence highlighting risks associated with high dosages of child care are simply a function of low-quality care. ... Quantity counts when it comes to understanding the effects of early child care on socioemotional development.”

– Belsky, J. (2002). “Quantity counts: amount of child care and children’s socioemotional development.” *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics*, 23(3), 167-170.



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ans, in strengthening the self-image, self-esteem and status and in protecting the health and well-being of girls should be enhanced and supported. – ICPD +5 (1999), 48.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women make a great contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not recognized or considered in its full importance.

*“The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents.”*

ICPD (1994), II, Principle 11

The social significance of maternity, motherhood and **the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children should be acknowledged.** The upbringing of children requires shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole. Maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation must not be a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society. Recognition should also be given to the

important role often played by women in many countries in caring for other members of their family. – Beijing (1995), 29.

## CHILD’S RIGHT TO PARENTAL CARE

(See also “Parental Guidance”)

■ The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.** – CRC (1990), Article 7-1.

■ Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by their parents.** – Disabilities (2006), Article 18-2.

■ All States and families should give the highest possible priority to children. The child has the right to standards of living adequate for its well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health, and the right to education. **The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents,** families and society and to be protected by appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sale, trafficking, sexual abuse, and trafficking in its organs. – ICPD (1994), II, Principle 11.

■ Consistent with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, take measures to ensure that a child is registered immediately after birth and has the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents;** – Beijing (1995), 274(b).

### Comment on Child’s Right to Know and be Cared for by their Parents:

A growing trend among lesbians and unmarried women is the use of "sperm fathers" to gain children. The *Sydney Morning News* (21 Dec. 2002), in an article titled "Children of the Lesser Dad" said, "Yet there is now a strong current of thought that **it is irresponsible to aid in the begetting not only of fatherless children but also of children who can never know who their fathers were.** David Blankenhorn, author of the best-selling book *Fatherless America*, is strongly critical of what he calls 'sperm fathers.'"

[http://members.optushome.com.au/dcsg/resources/recent\\_articles/children\\_of\\_a\\_lesser\\_dad.html](http://members.optushome.com.au/dcsg/resources/recent_articles/children_of_a_lesser_dad.html)

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## CULTURAL VALUES

(See also “Religious and Ethical Values” and “Cultural Backgrounds”)

■ Reaffirm the commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>5</sup> and other instruments relating to human rights and international law; and **emphasize the importance of cultural, ethical and religious values**, the vital role of the family and the community and in particular people living with and affected by HIV, including their families, and the need to take into account the particularities of each country in sustaining national HIV and AIDS responses, reaching all people living with HIV, delivering HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 38.

*“The Programme of Action will require the establishment of common ground, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds.”*

ICPD (1994), 1.15

■ Commit to redouble HIV prevention efforts by taking all measures to implement comprehensive, evidence-based prevention approaches, **taking into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values**, including through, but not limited to: – HIV/AIDS (2011), 59.

■ Commit to redouble HIV prevention efforts by taking all measures to implement comprehensive, evidence-based prevention approaches, taking into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values, including through, but not limited to: – HIV/AIDS (2011), 59.

■ Reaffirm that the prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, and therefore commit ourselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes that **take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values** is available in all countries, particularly the most affected countries, including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and **respectful of cultures**, aimed at reducing risk taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections; – HIV/AIDS (2006), 22.

■ While the International Conference on Population and Development does not create any new international human rights, it affirms the application of universally recognized human rights standards to all aspects of population programmes. It also represents the last opportunity in the twentieth century for the international community to collectively address the critical challenges and interrelationships between population and development. **The Programme of Action will require the establishment of common ground, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds.** The impact of this Conference will be measured by the strength of the specific commitments made here and the consequent actions to fulfil them, as part of a new global partnership among all the world's countries and peoples, based on a sense of shared but differentiated responsibility for each other and for our planetary home. – ICPD (1994), 1.15.

■ Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including implementation through national laws and development priorities, programmes and policies, is the sovereign right and responsibility of each State in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and taking into account the significance of and **with full respect for various religious and ethical values**, cultural backgrounds, and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities, contributing to the full enjoyment by all of their human rights in order to achieve the objectives of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. – Habitat (1996), 24.

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■ The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action and those contained in the present document is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, **with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people**, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights. – ICPD +5 (1999), Preamble 5.

■ Governments, while designing and implementing their development policies, should ensure that people are placed at the centre of development. Therefore, people must have the right and the ability to

*“...ethical and spiritual  
vision for social development  
of older persons based on  
human dignity...”*  
Ageing (2002), 115

participate fully in the social, economic and political life of their societies. Our global drive for social development and the recommendations for action contained in the present document are made in a spirit of consensus and international cooperation, in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, recognizing that the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and actions for social development are the responsibility of each country and should take into account the diverse

economic, social and environmental conditions in each country, **with full respect for the various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people**, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, international cooperation is essential for the full implementation of social development programmes and actions. – Social Summit +5 (2000), III, Commitment 1-2.

■ The objective of the Platform for Action, which is in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, is the empowerment of all women. The full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women is essential for the empowerment of women. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The implementation of the Platform, as well as further actions and initiatives contained in this document, including through national laws and the formulation of strategies, policies, programmes and development priorities, is the sovereign responsibility of each State, in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the significance of and **full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities** should contribute to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights in order to achieve equality, development and peace. – Beijing +5 (2000), 3.

■ The implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 also requires, inter alia, a political, economic, ethical and **spiritual vision** for social development of older persons based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation and **full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people**. – Ageing (2002), 115.

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, **taking into account ethical and cultural considerations**. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes

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should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

## DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. **The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family.** All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 15.

*“The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family.”*  
Children's Summit +10 (2002), 15.

## DIGNITY

■ The implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 also **requires, inter alia, a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development of older persons based on human dignity**, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and co-operation and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people. – Ageing (2002), 115.

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right **in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations.** Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values**, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values** and taking into

### Comment on Development of Children:

The Study of Early Child Care by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), which collected data on more than 1,000 children from 10 different American communities, Belsky stated: “This study showed clearly that high levels of nonmaternal care—regardless of its observed quality—predicted the emergence of ‘insecure attachments’ between children and their mothers and the development of various kinds of ‘problem behavior.’”

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account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

*“...the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 also requires, inter alia, a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development of older persons based on human dignity...”*

Ageing (2002), 115

■ Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values**. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide the opportunity for all women to fully breastfeed at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive

and reproductive roles and well-being and should pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 24.3(e).

## DISABILITIES

■ Convinced that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that **persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities**, – Disabilities (2006), Preamble (x).

■ Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by their parents**. – Disabilities (2006), Article 18-2.

■ States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

(a) **The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized**; – Disabilities (2006), 23-1(a).

■ States Parties shall ensure that **a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will**, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. **In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents**. – Disabilities (2006), Article 23-4.

■ States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care **within the wider family**, and failing that, within the community **in a family setting**. Disabilities (2006), Article 23-5.

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## ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND PARENTS

■ **The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.** – CRC (1990), Article 27-2.

■ When formulating socio-economic development policies, special consideration should be given to increasing the earning power of all adult members of economically deprived families, including the elderly and women who work in the home, and to enabling children to be educated rather than compelled to work. Particular attention should be paid to needy single parents, especially those who are responsible wholly or in part for the support of children and other dependants, through ensuring payment of at least minimum wages and allowances, credit, education, funding for women's self help groups and **stronger legal enforcement of male parental financial responsibilities.** – ICPD (1994), 5.4.

*“Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”*

Universal Declaration (1948), Article 26(3)

## EDUCATION AND PARENTS

■ **Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.** – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 26(3).

■ Everyone has the right to education, which shall be directed to the full development of human resources, and human dignity and potential, with particular attention to women and the girl child. Education should be designed to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those relating to population and development. **The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with the parents.** – ICPD (1994), II, Principle 10.

■ Special efforts should be made to emphasize men's shared responsibility and promote their active involvement in responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive behaviour, including family planning; prenatal, maternal and child health; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV; prevention of unwanted and high-risk pregnancies; shared control and contribution to family income, children's education, health and nutrition; and recognition and promotion of the equal value of children of both sexes. **Male responsibilities in family life must be included in the education of children from the earliest ages.** Special emphasis should be placed on the prevention of violence against women and children. – ICPD (1994), 4.27.

## ELDERLY AND FAMILY

■ Commit ourselves also to addressing as a priority the vulnerabilities faced by children affected by and living with HIV; providing support and rehabilitation to these children and their families, women and **the elderly, particularly in their role as caregivers;** promoting child oriented HIV/AIDS policies and programmes and increased protection for children orphaned and affected by HIV/AIDS; ensuring access to treatment and intensifying efforts to develop new treatments for children; and building, where needed, and supporting the social security systems that protect them; HIV/AIDS (2006), 32.

■ **Families are sensitive to strains induced by social and economic changes. It is essential to grant particular assistance to families in difficult life situations.** Conditions have worsened for many families in recent years, owing to lack of gainful employment and measures taken by Governments seeking to balance their budget by reducing social expenditures. There are increasing numbers of vulnerable families, including single-parent families headed by women, **poor families with elderly**

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**members** or those with disabilities, refugee and displaced families, and families with members affected by AIDS or other terminal diseases, substance dependence, child abuse and domestic violence. Increased labour migrations and refugee movements are an additional source of family tension and disintegration and are contributing to increased responsibilities for women. In many urban environments, millions of children and youths are left to their own devices as family ties break down, and hence are increasingly exposed to risks such as dropping out of school, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. – ICPD (1994), 5.4.

*“...in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations...”*

Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j)

## ETHICAL AND CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, **taking into account ethical and cultural considerations**. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, **taking into account ethical and cultural considerations**. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values** and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

■ Reaffirm that the prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, and therefore commit ourselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes that **take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values is available in all countries**, particularly the most affected countries, including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk taking behaviours and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections; – HIV/AIDS (2006), 22.

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## EXTENDED FAMILY

■ States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care **within the wider family**, and failing that, within the community **in a family setting**. Disabilities (2006), Article 23-5.

### FAMILY – BASIC UNIT OF SOCIETY

(See also “Natural Unit” and “Fundamental Group Unit”)

■ **The family is the basic unit of society** and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, **and husband and wife should be equal partners**. – ICPD (1994), Chapter II, Principle 9.

*“Recognize that the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration.”*

Social Summit +5 (2000), III 56

■ **Recognize the family as the basic unit of society**, and acknowledge that it plays a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members. In different cultural, political and social systems various forms of family exist. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support; – Social Summit (1995), 26(h).

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened**. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, **and husband and wife should be equal partners**. – Social Summit (1995), 80.

■ There has been continued recognition that **the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration**. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. – Social Summit +5 (2000), II 25.

■ **Recognize that the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration**. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Further recognize that equality and equity between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members are essential for family well-being and for society at large, and promote appropriate actions to meet the needs of families and their individual members, particularly in the areas of economic support and provision of social services. **Greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration**, and to the adoption of measures

#### Comment on the Family Unit:

Any deviation from the traditional married family structure generally leads to such things as poverty, crime, violence, substance abuse, disease and other problems that world governments must spend millions of dollars trying to fix. From a purely economic perspective, there are enormous tangible costs to society that emanate from family breakdown. A landmark U.S. study released in 2008 revealed that the breakdown of the family costs U.S. taxpayers a staggering \$112 billion every year!

– Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator, “The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States,” Institute for American Values (2008): 5.



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to reconcile work and family life for women and men. – Social Summit +5 (2000), III 56.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women make a great contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not recognized or considered in its full importance. The social significance of maternity, motherhood and **the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children should be acknowledged.** The

*“Reaffirm the  
central role of the family...”*  
HIV/AIDS (2011), 43

upbringing of children requires shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole. Maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation must not be a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society. Recognition should also be given to the important role often played by women in many countries in caring for other members of their family. – Beijing (1995), 29.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. **The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened.** The inadequate support to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed. Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing of children and **the importance of all family members to the family's well-being** is also acknowledged and must not be a basis for discrimination. Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. Such imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education and through legislation where appropriate. In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities. – Beijing +5 (2000), 60.

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood. – Habitat (1996), 31.

■ (Exact repeat of Habitat, 31, above) – Habitat +5 (2001), 30.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. **The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family.** All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 15.

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## FAMILY - CENTRAL ROLE

■ **Reaffirm the central role of the family**, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems various forms of the family exist, in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children, and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors in reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV and AIDS in curricula for adolescents, ensuring safe and secure environments especially for young girls, expanding good-quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling services, strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes, and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 43.

*“...family disintegration...  
factors contributing to the  
rise of female-headed  
households...”*  
Beijing (1995), 22

■ Reaffirm the commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>5</sup> and other instruments relating to human rights and international law; and emphasize the importance of cultural, ethical and religious values, **the vital role of the family** and the community and in particular people living with and affected by HIV, including their families, and the need to take into account the particularities of each country in sustaining national HIV and AIDS responses, reaching all people living with HIV, delivering HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 38.

## FAMILY DISINTEGRATION

■ One fourth of all households world wide are headed by women and many other households are dependent on female income even where men are present. Female-maintained households are very often among the poorest because of wage discrimination, occupational segregation patterns in the labour market and other gender-based barriers. **Family disintegration**, population movements between urban and rural areas within countries, international migration, war and internal displacements are **factors contributing to the rise of female-headed households**. Beijing (1995), 22.

■ Recognize that the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Further recognize that equality and equity between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members are essential for family well-being and for society at large, and promote appropriate actions to meet the needs of families and their individual members, particularly in the areas of economic support and provision of social services. **Greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing**

### Comment on Family Disintegration:

Any deviation from the traditional married family structure generally leads to such things as poverty, crime, violence, substance abuse, disease and other problems that world governments must spend millions of dollars trying to fix. From a purely economic perspective, **there are enormous tangible costs to society that emanate from family breakdown**. A landmark U.S. study released in 2008 revealed that the breakdown of the family costs U.S. taxpayers a staggering \$112 billion every year!

– Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator, “The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States,” *Institute for American Values* (2008): 5.

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roles, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration, and to the adoption of measures to reconcile work and family life for women and men. – Social Summit +5 (2000), III 56.

## FAMILY PLANNING

■ **In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning.** All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services.

*“Design, implement and promote family friendly policies and services.”*

Beijing +5 (2000), 82(d)

Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances where abortion is

not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. **Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions.** – ICPD (1994), 8.25.

■ All countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015. **Reproductive health care in the context of primary health care should, inter alia, include: family-planning counselling, information, education, communication and services;** education and services for prenatal care, safe delivery and postnatal care, especially breast-feeding and infant and women's health care; prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility; **abortion as specified in paragraph 8.25, including prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion;** treatment of reproductive tract infections; sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health conditions; and information, education and counselling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood. **Referral for family-planning services** and further diagnosis and treatment for complications of pregnancy, delivery and abortion, infertility, reproductive tract infections, breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive system, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS should always be available, as required. Active discouragement of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, should also be an integral component of primary health care, including reproductive health-care programmes. – ICPD (1994), 7.6.

## FAMILY POLICIES

■ **Design, implement and promote family friendly policies and services,** including affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependents, parental and other leave schemes, campaigns to sensitize public opinion and other relevant actors on equal sharing of employment and family responsibilities between women and men; – Beijing +5 (2000), 82(d).

### Comment on Family Planning:

All told, some 59 countries, comprising roughly 44 percent of the world's total population, are currently not producing enough children to avoid population decline, and the phenomenon continues to spread. By 2045, according to the latest UN projections, the world's fertility rate as a whole will have fallen below replacement levels.

– Longman, P. (2007). *Falling human fertility and the future of the human family*. Remarks delivered at the World Congress of Families IV., Retrieved June 13, 2009, from [http:// www. world congress.org/ wcf4.spkrs/wcf4.longman.htm](http://www.worldcongress.org/wcf4.spkrs/wcf4.longman.htm).

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■ Analyse, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes - including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy - with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; **assess their impact on family well-being** and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services; – Beijing (1995), 58(b).

■ **To develop policies and laws that better support the family**, contribute to its stability and take into account its plurality of forms, particularly the growing number of single-parent households; – ICPD (1994), 5.2(a).

■ **Governments should formulate family-sensitive policies** in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education in order **to create an environment supportive of the family**, taking into account its various forms and functions, and should support educational programmes concerning parental roles, parental skills and child development. Governments should, in conjunction with other relevant parties, develop the capacity to **monitor the impact of social and economic decisions and actions on the well-being of families, on the status of women within families, and on the ability of families to meet the basic needs of their members**. – ICPD (1994), 5.9.

*“Formulate policies and programmes to help the family, ... in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles.”*  
Beijing (1995), 285(a)

■ Analysing policies and programmes, including those relating to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment programmes, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy, with respect to their impact on poverty and inequality, **assessing their impact on family well-being** and conditions, as well as their gender implications, and adjusting them, as appropriate, to promote a more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services; – Social Summit (1995), 81(a).

■ Promote or improve information programmes and measures including treatment for the elimination of the increasing substance abuse among women and adolescent girls, including information campaigns about the risks to health and other consequences **and its impact on families**; – Beijing +5 (2000), 72 (q).

■ **Formulate policies and programmes to help the family**, as defined in paragraph 29 above, in its **supporting, educating and nurturing roles**, with particular emphasis on the elimination of intrafamily discrimination against the girl child; – Beijing (1995), 285(a).

## FAMILY REUNIFICATION

■ Governments of receiving countries are urged to consider giving to documented migrants having the right to long-term residence, civil and political rights and responsibilities, as appropriate, and facilitating their naturalization. Special efforts should be made to enhance the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with educational and training opportunities equal to those of nationals, allowing them to exercise an economic activity and facilitating the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country. Consistent with article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 27/ and all relevant universally recognized human rights instruments, **all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants**. Governments of receiving countries must ensure the protection of migrants and their families, giving priority to programmes and strategies that combat religious intolerance, – Social Summit (1995), 77 (b).

■ Documented migrants are those who satisfy all the legal requirements to enter, stay and, if applicable, hold employment in the country of destination. In some countries, many documented migrants

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have, over time, acquired the right to long-term residence. In such cases, the integration of documented migrants into the host society is generally desirable, and for that purpose it is important to extend to them the same social, economic and legal rights as those enjoyed by citizens, in accordance with national legislation. **The family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration.** It is also important to protect documented migrants and their families from racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia, and to respect their physical integrity, dignity, religious beliefs and cultural values. – ICPD (1994), 10.9.

*“...promote the shared responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children...”*

Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 24

## FATHER

■ We also recognize the need to address the changing role of men in society, as boys, adolescents and fathers, and the challenges faced by boys growing up in today's world. We will further promote the **shared responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children, and will make every effort to ensure that fathers have opportunities to participate in their children's lives.** – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 24.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened. The inadequate support to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed. **Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing of children and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being is also acknowledged and must not be a basis for discrimination.** Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. Such imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education and through legislation where appropriate. In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities. – Beijing +5 (2000), 60.

■ **Special efforts should be made to emphasize men's shared responsibility** and promote their active involvement in responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive behaviour, including family planning; prenatal, maternal and child health; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV; prevention of unwanted and high-risk pregnancies; shared control and contribution to family income, children's education, health and nutrition; and recognition and promotion of the equal value of

### Comment on Father:

**A father's love is just as important to a child's development as a mother's, and sometimes more so, suggests a new review of about 100 studies published between 1949 and 2001.**

Researchers found that, overall, the love – or rejection – of mothers and fathers equally affects kids' behavior, self-esteem, emotional stability, and mental health. "But in some cases, the withdrawal of a father's love seems to play a bigger role in kids' problems with personality and psychological adjustment, delinquency, and substance abuse," says study coauthor Ronald P. Rohner, Ph.D., director of the Center for the Study of Parental Acceptance and Rejection at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. And for others, the presence of a father's love may do more to boost children's sense of wellbeing and improve their emotional and physical health.

<http://www.parents.com/parenting/dads/issues-trends/importance-of-fathers-involvement/>

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children of both sexes. **Male responsibilities in family life must be included in the education of children from the earliest ages.** Special emphasis should be placed on the prevention of violence against women and children. – ICPD (1994), 4.27.

■ Governments should take steps to ensure that children receive appropriate financial support from their parents by, among other measures, enforcing child- support laws. **Governments should consider changes in law and policy to ensure men's responsibility to and financial support for their children and families.** Such laws and policies should also encourage maintenance or reconstitution of the family unit. The safety of women in abusive relationships should be protected. – ICPD (1994), 4.28.

■ When formulating socio-economic development policies, special consideration should be given to increasing the earning power of all adult members of economically deprived families, including the elderly and women who work in the home, and to enabling children to be educated rather than compelled to work. Particular attention should be paid to needy single parents, especially those who are responsible wholly or in part for the support of children and other dependants, through ensuring payment of at least minimum wages and allowances, credit, education, funding for women's self-help groups and **stronger legal enforcement of male parental financial responsibilities.** – ICPD (1994), 5.4.

*“...female-headed households, including divorced, separated and unmarried women and widows, are at particular risk of poverty...”*  
Ageing (2002), 46

## FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

■ For women, institutional biases in social protection systems, in particular those based on uninterrupted work histories, contribute further to the feminization of poverty. Gender inequalities and disparities in economic power-sharing, unequal distribution of unremunerated work between women and men, lack of technological and financial support for women's entrepreneurship, unequal access to, and control over, capital, in particular land and credit and access to labour markets, as well as all harmful traditional and customary practices, have constrained women's economic empowerment and exacerbated the feminization of poverty. In many societies, **female-headed households, including divorced, separated and unmarried women and widows, are at particular risk of poverty.** Special social protection measures are required to address feminization of poverty, in particular among older women. – Ageing (2002), 46.

■ One fourth of all households world wide are headed by women and many other households are dependent on female income even where men are present. Female-maintained households are very often among the poorest because of wage discrimination, occupational segregation patterns in the labour market and other gender-based barriers. **Family disintegration**, population movements between urban and rural areas within countries, international migration, war and internal displacements are **factors contributing to the rise of female- headed households.** Beijing (1995), 22.

## FIDELITY

■ Express grave concern that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years account for more than one third of all new HIV infections, with some 3,000 young people becoming infected with HIV each day, and note that most young people still have limited access to good quality education, decent employment and recreational facilities, as well as limited access to sexual and reproductive health programmes that provide the information, skills, services and commodities they need to protect themselves that only 34 per cent of young people possess accurate knowledge of HIV, and that laws and policies in some instances exclude young people from accessing sexual health-care and HIV-related services, such as voluntary and confidential HIV-testing, counselling and age-appropriate sex and HIV prevention education, while also recognizing the importance of reducing risk taking behaviour and

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**encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence, fidelity** and correct and consistent use of condoms; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 25.

■ Reducing risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour **including abstinence, fidelity** and consistent and correct use of condoms; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 59(c).

■ By 2005, ensure: that a wide range of prevention programmes which take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values, is available in all countries, particularly the most affected countries,

*“...recognizing the importance  
of reducing risk taking  
behavior and encouraging  
responsible sexual behaviour,  
including abstinence, fidelity...”*  
HIV/AIDS (2011), 25

including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, **including abstinence and fidelity**; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmittable infections; – HIV/AIDS (2001), 52.

■ Reaffirm that the prevention of HIV infection must be the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, and therefore commit ourselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes that take account of local circumstances, ethics and cultural values is available in all countries, particularly the most affected countries, including information, education and communication, in languages most understood by communities and respectful of cultures, aimed at reducing risk taking behaviours and **encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity**; expanded access to essential commodities, including male and female condoms and sterile injecting equipment; harm reduction efforts related to drug use; expanded access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing; safe blood supplies; and early and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections; – HIV/AIDS (2006), 22.

## FORCED ABORTION

■ The end of the cold war has resulted in international changes and diminished competition between the super-Powers. The threat of a global armed conflict has diminished, while international relations have improved and prospects for peace among nations have increased. Although the threat of global conflict has been reduced, wars of aggression, armed conflicts, colonial or other forms of alien domination and foreign occupation, civil wars, and terrorism continue to plague many parts of the world. Grave violations of the human rights of women occur, particularly in times of armed conflict, and include murder, torture, systematic rape, forced pregnancy and **forced abortion**, in particular under policies of ethnic cleansing. – Beijing (1995), 11.

## FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND PERSONALLY HELD VALUES

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right **in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values**, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values**, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity

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for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values** and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

*“...enable women and men to fulfil their personal aspirations in terms of family size, in a way in keeping with their freedom and dignity and personally held values...”*

Agenda 21 (1992), 5.49

■ Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values**. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide the opportunity for all women to fully breastfeed at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being and should pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 24.3(e).

■ Reproductive health programmes and services, should, as appropriate, be developed and enhanced to reduce maternal and infant mortality from all causes and enable women and men to fulfil their personal aspirations in terms of family size, in a way **in keeping with their freedom and dignity and personally held values**. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.49.

## FUNDAMENTAL GROUP UNIT – FAMILY

■ Convinced that **the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children**, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, – CRC (1990), Preamble, paragraph 5.

■ The family is the natural and **fundamental group unit of society** and is entitled to protection by society and the State. – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 16 (3)

■ Half a million mothers die each year from causes related to childbirth. Safe motherhood must be promoted in all possible ways. Emphasis must be placed on responsible planning of family size and on child spacing. **The family, as a fundamental group and natural environment for the growth and well-being of children, should be given all necessary protection and assistance.** – Children's Summit (1990), 14.

■ The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is **the natural and fundamental group unit of society**, particularly for its establishment and while it is respon-



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sible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses. – ICESCR (1976), Article 10-1.

■ **The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society** and is entitled to protection by society and the State. – ICCPR (1976), Article 23-1.

■ Convinced that **the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society** and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, – Disabilities (2006), Preamble (x).

*“For the purposes of this Statute, it is understood that the term “gender” refers to the two sexes, male and female.”*  
Rome ICC, Article 7(3)

## GENDER – MALE AND FEMALE

■ For the purposes of this Statute, it is understood that **the term “gender” refers to the two sexes, male and female**, within the context of society. The term ‘gender’ does not indicate any meaning different from the above. – Rome ICC, Article 7(3)

■ For the purpose of this Declaration and Programme of Action, it was understood that **the term “gender” refers to the two sexes, male and female**, within the context of society. The term ‘gender’ does not indicate any meaning different from the above. – Racism: Notes-1

■ The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels. It will also require adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women; financial resources to strengthen the capacity of national, subregional, regional and international institutions; a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women.

**For the commonly understood meaning of the term “gender”, see annex IV to the present report.** – Beijing (1995): 5.

■ 1. During the 19th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an issue arose concerning the meaning of the word “gender” in the context of the Platform for Action of the Conference. In order to examine the matter, the Commission decided to form a contact group in New York, with the Commission's Rapporteur, Ms. Selma Ashipala (Namibia), as Chairperson. The Commission mandated the informal contact group to seek agreement on the commonly understood meaning of “gender” in the context of the Plat-

### Comment on Gender:

One goal of the sexual rights movement is to make “gender” mean, in laws and policies, something that one feels or chooses rather than what someone is (i.e., male or female). Traditionally, “gender” has been understood to mean “male” and “female,” however, there is an international movement for the term “gender” to encompass more than just male and female. The new definition would also include homosexual male, homosexual female, transgender male, transgender female and bisexual. When negotiating, it is helpful to include language that provides clarification to the word “gender” by framing it in the context of “women and men.” For example: “Gender inequalities and disparities in economic power-sharing, unequal distribution of unremunerated work **between women and men.** . . .” – Ageing (2002), 46.

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form for Action and to report directly to the Conference in Beijing.

2. Having considered the issue thoroughly, the contact group noted that: (1) the word "gender" had been commonly used and understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage in numerous other United Nations forums and conferences; (2) **there was no indication that any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage**, was intended in the Platform for Action.

3. Accordingly, the contact group reaffirmed that **the word "gender" as used in the Platform for Action was** intended to be interpreted and understood as it was in **ordinary, generally accepted usage**. The contact group also agreed that the present report should be read by the President of the Conference as a president's statement and that the statement should be part of the final report of the Conference. – Statement by the President on the Commonly Understood Meaning of the Term "Gender." Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Annex IV.

*"Reinforce the positive role  
of grandparents in raising  
grandchildren."*

Ageing, 106(c)

■ (Exact repeat from Annex IV of Beijing Report) – Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Annex V.

## GENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

■ Support research and develop comprehensive strategies at the national, regional and local levels to meet, where appropriate, the challenges of population ageing. Invest more resources in gender-sensitive research as well as in training and capacity-building in social policies and health care of older persons, especially the elderly poor, **paying special attention to the economic and social security of older persons**, in particular older women; affordable, accessible and appropriate health-care services; the human rights and dignity of older persons and the productive and useful roles that they can play in society; support systems to enhance the ability of families and communities to care for older family members; **the ability of the elderly to care for family members and community victims of HIV/AIDS; and generational solidarity** with the goal of maintaining and improving social cohesion. – ICPD +5 (1999), 21-c.

■ Coordinate multi-sectoral efforts to **support the continued integration of older persons with their families** and communities; – Ageing (2002), 98(b).

## GRANDPARENTS

■ **Providing assistance to grandparents** who have been required to assume responsibility for children, particularly of parents who are affected by serious diseases, including AIDS or leprosy, or others who are unable to care for their dependants; – Social Summit (1995), 40(d).

■ Reinforce the **positive role of grandparents in raising grandchildren**; Ageing, 106(c).

## HAPPINESS

■ Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, **should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding**, – CRC (1990), Preamble.

■ The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, **children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding**. Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment. – Children's Summit (1990), 18.

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■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and **in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding**, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 15.

*"Particular attention should be given to the provision of pre-natal care to ensure healthy babies."*  
Agenda 21 (1992), 6.21

## HEALTHY INFANT (See also "Pre-natal Care")

■ In developing countries, the health status of women remains relatively low, and during the 1980s poverty, malnutrition and general ill-health in women were even rising. Most women in developing countries still do not have adequate basic educational opportunities and they lack the means of promoting their health, responsibly controlling their reproductive life and improving their socio-economic status. **Particular attention should be given to the provision of pre-natal care to ensure healthy babies.** – Agenda 21 (1992), 6.21.

■ Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will **enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant**. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases. – ICPD (1994), 7.2.

■ Ensuring that women of child-bearing age have access to HIV prevention-related services and that pregnant women have access to antenatal care, information, counselling and other HIV services, and increasing the availability of and access to effective treatment for women living with HIV **and infants**; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 59(1).

■ Commit to supporting all national, regional and global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to improve comprehensive and integrated HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, as well as tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, malaria and maternal and child health care; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 99.

■ Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through preg-

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nancy and childbirth and **provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant**. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases. – Beijing (1995), 94.

■ Further, women are subject to particular health risks due to inadequate responsiveness and lack of services to meet health needs related to sexuality and reproduction. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity of women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing world. Similar problems exist to a certain degree in some countries with economies in transition. Unsafe abortions threaten the lives of a large number of women, representing a grave public health problem as it is primarily the poorest and youngest who take the highest risk. Most of these deaths, health problems and injuries are preventable through improved access to adequate health-care services, including safe and effective family planning methods and emergency obstetric care, recognizing the right of women and men to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and **the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant**. These problems and means should be addressed on the basis of the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, with particular reference to relevant paragraphs of the Programme of Action of the Conference. 14/ In most countries, the neglect of women's reproductive rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including opportunities for education and economic and political empowerment. The ability of women to control their own fertility forms an important basis for the enjoyment of other rights. Shared responsibility between women and men in matters related to sexual and reproductive behaviour is also essential to improving women's health. – Beijing (1995), 97.

*“...the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant...”*  
Beijing +5 (2000), 72(i)

■ Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and **the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant**. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases. – Beijing +5 (2000), 72(i).

■ In the basic reproductive health services component - **information and routine services for pre-natal, normal and safe delivery and post-natal care**; abortion (as specified in paragraph 8.25); information, education and communication about reproductive health, including sexually transmitted diseases, human sexuality and responsible parenthood, and against harmful practices; adequate counselling; diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive tract infections, as feasible; prevention of infertility and appropriate treatment, where feasible; and referrals, ed-

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ucation and counselling services for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and for pregnancy and delivery complications; – ICPD (1994), 13.14 (b).

- The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for: (a) The provision for the **reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child**; – ICESCR, Article 12-2(a).

## HIV/AIDS and FAMILY

*“Reaffirm the central role of the family, ... in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children.”*  
HIV/AIDS (2011), 43

- **Reaffirm the central role of the family**, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems various forms of the family exist, **in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children**, and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors in reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV and AIDS in curricula for adolescents, ensuring safe and

secure environments especially for young girls, expanding good-quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling services, strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes, and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 43.

- Commit ourselves also to addressing as a priority the vulnerabilities faced by children affected by and living with HIV; **providing support and rehabilitation to these children and their families**, women and the elderly, particularly in their role as caregivers; promoting child oriented HIV/AIDS policies and programmes and increased protection for children orphaned and affected by HIV/AIDS; ensuring access to treatment and intensifying efforts to develop new treatments for children; and building, where needed, and supporting the social security systems that protect them; HIV/AIDS (2006), 32.

- Note with alarm the rise in the incidence of HIV among people who inject drugs and that, despite continuing increased efforts by all relevant stakeholders, the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to, among other things, public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and **young people and their families**, and recognize that much more needs to be done to effectively combat the world drug problem; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 26.

- Welcome the leadership and commitment shown in every aspect of the HIV and AIDS response by Governments, people living with HIV, political and community leaders, parliaments, regional and subregional organizations, communities, **families**, faith-based organizations, scientists, health professionals, donors, the philanthropic community, workforces, the business sector, civil society and the media; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 11.

### Comment on HIV/AIDS and Abstinence:

Any effort to reduce adolescent pregnancies, or to prevent HIV transmission, should include the teaching of abstinence and fidelity – a critical component in the potential effectiveness of the program. The Stay Alive program, which United Families International manages, has been credited by independent evaluators with reducing significantly teen pregnancy in Kenya. See LifeSite Daily News (2006-07-07); available:

<http://newwoman.org/noticias/articulo.phtml?id=5983>. For an evaluation of the effectiveness of various other abstinence only programs, see *Abstinence Until Marriage: The Best Message for Teens*, Family Research Council, April 24, 2007.

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■ Recognize that agrarian economies are heavily affected by HIV and AIDS, which debilitate their communities **and families** with negative consequences for poverty eradication, that people die prematurely from AIDS because, inter alia, poor nutrition exacerbates the impact of HIV on the immune system and compromises its ability to respond to opportunistic infections and diseases, and that HIV treatment, including antiretroviral treatment, should be complemented with adequate food and nutrition; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 20.

■ Reaffirm that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in the global response to the HIV epidemic, including in the areas of prevention, treatment, care and support, recognize that addressing stigma and discrimination against people living with, presumed to be living with or affected by HIV, including their families, is also a critical element in combating the global HIV epidemic, and recognize also the need, as appropriate, to strengthen national policies and legislation to address such stigma and discrimination; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 39.

*“Commit ourselves also to  
addressing as a priority  
the vulnerabilities  
faced by children affected by  
and living with HIV;  
providing support and  
rehabilitation to these children  
and their families...”*  
HIV/AIDS (2006), 32

■ Recognize that close cooperation with people living with HIV and populations at higher risk of HIV infection will facilitate the achievement of a more effective HIV and AIDS response, and emphasize that people living with and affected by HIV, including their families, should enjoy equal participation in social, economic and cultural activities, without prejudice and discrimination, and that they should have equal access to health care and community support as all members of the community; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 40.

■ Recognize that access to sexual and reproductive health has been and continues to be essential for HIV and AIDS responses, and that Governments have the responsibility to provide for public health, with special attention to families, women and children; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 41.

■ Commit to develop and implement strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point-of-care, significantly increase and improve access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, as well as increased support to children and adolescents through increased financial, social and moral support for their parents, families and legal guardians, and promote a smooth transition from paediatric to young adult treatment and related support and services; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 68.

■ Commit to national HIV and AIDS strategies that promote and protect human rights, including programmes aimed at eliminating stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV, including their families, including through sensitizing the police and judges, training health-care workers in non-discrimination, confidentiality and informed consent, supporting national human rights learning campaigns, legal literacy and legal services, as well as monitoring the impact of the legal environment on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 80.

■ Commit to encouraging and supporting the active involvement and leadership of young people, ... including in communities, families, schools, tertiary institutions, recreation centres and workplaces; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 56.

■ Commit to strengthen national social and child protection systems and care and support programmes for children, in particular for the girl child, and adolescents affected by and vulnerable to HIV, as well as their families and caregivers, including through the provision of equal opportunities to support the development to full potential of orphans and other children affected by and living with HIV, especially through equal access to education, the creation of safe and non-discriminatory learning environments, supportive legal systems and protections, including civil registration systems, and provision of comprehensive information and support to children and their families and caregivers, es-

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pecially age-appropriate HIV information to assist children living with HIV as they transition through adolescence, consistent with their evolving capacities; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 82.

## HUSBAND

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** – Social Summit (1995), 80.

*“Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners.”*  
Social Summit (1995), 80

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** – ICPD (1994), Principle 9.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood. – Habitat (1996), 31.

■ Reaffirm that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood; – Habitat +5 (2001), 30.

## IMPACT ON FAMILIES

■ Promote or improve information programmes and measures including treatment for the elimination of the increasing substance abuse among women and adolescent girls, including information campaigns about the risks to health and other consequences and its **impact on families**; – Beijing +5 (2000), 72(q).

## LOVE

■ Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, **should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.** – CRC (1990), Preamble.

■ The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the

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family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, **children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.** Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment. – Children’s Summit (1990), 18.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children’s rights and secure their wellbeing and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and **in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,** bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 15.

*“...children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding...”*  
Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 15

## MARRIAGE

■ (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the **right to marry and to found a family.** They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 16 1, 2.

■ (2) The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized. (3) No marriage shall be entered into without the free and full consent of the intending spouses. (4) States Parties to the present Covenant shall take appropriate steps to **ensure equality of rights and responsibilities of spouses as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.** In the case of dissolution, provision shall be made for the necessary protection of any children. – ICCPR, Article 23 – 2, 3, 4.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** – Social Summit (1995), 80.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** – ICPD (1994), Principle 9.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and

### Comment on Marriage:

Some of the fiercest criticism regarding the continuing social utility of marriage comes from gay rights activists who seek to “deconstruct” the very concept of marriage. Both supporters and opponents of same-sex marriage agree “that it could dramatically alter the core social institutions of marriage and the family, as well as gender relations, sexual practices, and general social stability.”

– Norval D. Glenn, “Closed Hearts, Closed Minds: The Textbook Story of Marriage,” SOC’Y, Mar. - Apr. 1998, at 69.



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**husband and wife should be equal partners.** The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood. – Habitat Agenda (1996), 31.

■ Reaffirm that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different

*“When mothers are better educated, their children's survival rate tends to increase.”*

ICPD 11.3

cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners.** The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate,

all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood; – Habitat +5 (2001), 30.

■ States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that: (a) **The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;** – Disabilities (2006), 23-1(a).

## MATERNAL HEALTH

(See also “Healthy Infant,” “Pre-natal Care” and “Reproductive Health Care”)

■ Commit by 2015 to working with partners to direct resources to and strengthen the advocacy, policy and programmatic links between HIV and tuberculosis responses, primary health-care services, sexual and reproductive health, **maternal and child health**, hepatitis B and C, drug dependence, non-communicable diseases and overall health systems, leverage health-care services to **prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV**, strengthen the interface between HIV services, related sexual and reproductive health care and services and other health services, **including maternal and child health**, eliminate parallel systems for HIV-related services and information where feasible, and strengthen linkages among national and global efforts concerned with human and national development, including poverty eradication, preventative health care, enhanced nutrition, access to safe and clean drinking water, sanitation, education and the improvement of livelihoods; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 98.

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. **Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special at-**

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**tention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness;** – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. **Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness.** –Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

*“...enable mothers to breast-feed their infants by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support...”*  
ICPD 8.18

■ Commit to working towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015 and **substantially reducing AIDS-related maternal deaths;** – HIV/AIDS (2011), 64.

■ Commit to supporting all national, regional and global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, to improve comprehensive and integrated HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, as well as tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, malaria and **maternal and child health care;** – HIV/AIDS (2011), 99.

## MEN

■ Equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, **equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, and a harmonious partnership between them are critical to their well-being and that of their families** as well as to the consolidation of democracy; Beijing, (1995), Declaration, 15.

■ Special efforts should be made to **emphasize men's shared responsibility** and promote their active involvement in responsible parenthood, sexual and reproductive behaviour, including family planning; prenatal, maternal and child health; prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV; prevention of unwanted and high-risk pregnancies; shared control and contribution to family income, children's education, health and nutrition; and recognition and promotion of the equal value of children of both sexes. **Male responsibilities in family life must be included in the education of children from the earliest ages.** Special emphasis should be placed on the prevention of violence against women and children. – ICPD (1994), 4.27.

■ States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

(b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the **common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children**, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases. CEDAW Article 5(b).

■ Bearing in mind the **great contribution of women to the welfare of the family** and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a **sharing of responsibility between men and women** and society as a whole, CEDAW (1981), Preamble.

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## MIGRANTS

■ Documented migrants are those who satisfy all the legal requirements to enter, stay and, if applicable, hold employment in the country of destination. In some countries, many documented migrants have, over time, acquired the right to long-term residence. In such cases, the integration of documented migrants into the host society is generally desirable, and for that purpose it is important to extend to them the same social, economic and legal rights as those enjoyed by citizens, in accordance with national legislation. **The family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration.** It is also important to protect documented migrants and their families from racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia, **and to respect their physical integrity, dignity, religious beliefs and cultural values.** – ICPD (1994), 10.9.

*“...recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants.”*

ICPD (1994), 10.12

■ In order to promote the integration of documented migrants having the right to long-term residence, Governments of receiving countries are urged to consider giving them civil and political rights and responsibilities, as appropriate, and facilitating their naturalization. Special efforts should be made to enhance the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with educational and training opportunities equal to those of nationals, allowing them to exercise an economic activity, and facilitating the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country. Consistent with article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other relevant universally recognized human rights instruments, all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, **must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants.** Governments of receiving countries must ensure the protection of migrants and their families, giving priority to programmes and strategies that combat religious intolerance, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and gender discrimination and that generate the necessary public sensitivity in that regard. – ICPD (1994), 10.12.

## MORALITY

■ In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the **just requirements of morality**, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. Universal Declaration, 29-2, repeated in WSIS (2003), 5.

■ Recent developments in information and communications technology, in conjunction with the liberalization of trade and the free flow of capital on a global scale, will change the roles and functions of cities and their decision-making and resource allocation processes. Societies that make the necessary investments in information technology and infrastructure and enable and empower their citizens to make effective use of such technology can expect to foster significant productivity gains in industry, trade and commerce. This improved information technology should be appropriately and **optimally utilized to preserve and share cultural and moral values** and enhance and improve education, training and public awareness of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the quality of life, and to enable all interested parties and communities to exchange information on habitat practices, including those that uphold the rights of children, women and disadvantaged groups in the context of growing urbanization. Habitat (1996), 190.

■ In conformity with article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>11</sup> protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, **or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;** Beijing (1995), 282(a)

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## MOTHER

■ **Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.** All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection. – Universal Declaration, Article 25-2.

■ The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that: **Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth.** During such period working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits. – ICESCR, Article 10-2.

■ To ensure appropriate **pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers** – CRC (1990), Article 24-2(d).

■ National and regional training institutions should promote broad intersectoral approaches to prevention and control of communicable diseases, including training in epidemiology and community prevention and control, immunology, molecular biology and the application of new vaccines. Health education materials should be developed for use by community workers and for the **education of mothers for the prevention and treatment of diarrhoeal diseases in the home.** – Agenda 21, 6.16.

■ The development of human resources for the health of children, youth and women should include reinforcement of educational institutions, promotion of interactive methods of education for health and increased use of mass media in disseminating information to the target groups. This requires the training of more community health workers, nurses, midwives, physicians, social scientists and educators, **the education of mothers, families** and communities and the strengthening of ministries of education, health, population etc. – Agenda 21, 6.30.

■ Countries are strongly urged to enact laws and to implement programmes and policies which will enable employees of both sexes to organize their family and work responsibilities through flexible work-hours, parental leave, day-care facilities, maternity leave, policies that **enable working mothers to breast-feed their children**, health insurance and other such measures. Similar rights should be ensured to those working in the informal sector. – ICPD (1994), 4.13.

■ Governments, in cooperation with employers, should provide and promote means to facilitate compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities, especially for single-parent households with young children. Such means could include health insurance and social security, daycare centres and **facilities for breast-feeding mothers** within the work premises, kindergartens, part-time jobs, paid parental leave, paid maternity leave, flexible work schedules, and reproductive and child health services. – ICPD (1994), 5.3.

*“...respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.”*  
Universal Declaration, 29-2

### Comment on Mothers:

“The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.” So declared William Ross Wallace in 1865 in his poem, “What Rules the World.”

“True empowerment of women comes not when women deny their nature and try to become like men, but when they embrace their nature and do that which a man can never do—to create life and nurture that life. . . . Let us honor the mothers of the world for the noble work they do, and the sacrifices they make, but more importantly for the love they give to the world’s children, thereby building the future of nations.”

– Sharon Slater, President of Family Watch International

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■ For infants and children to receive the best nutrition and for specific protection against a range of diseases, breast-feeding should be protected, promoted and supported. By means of legal, economic, practical and emotional support, **mothers should be enabled to breast-feed their infants** exclusively for four to six months without food or drink supplementation and to continue breast-feeding infants with appropriate and adequate complementary food up to the age of two years or beyond. To achieve these goals, Governments should promote public information on the benefits of breast-feeding; health personnel should receive training on the management of breast-feeding; and countries should examine ways and means to implement fully the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. – ICPD (1994), 8.18.

*“...enable mothers to breast-feed their infants by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support.”*  
ICPD 8.18

■ The relationship between education and demographic and social changes is one of interdependence. There is a close and complex relationship among education, marriage age, fertility, mortality, mobility and activity. The increase in the education of women and girls contributes to greater empowerment of women, to a postponement of the age of marriage and to a reduction in the size of families. **When mothers are better educated, their children's survival rate tends to increase.** Broader access to education is also a factor in internal

migration and the composition of the working population. – ICPD (1994), 11.3.

■ Safe motherhood aims at attaining optimal maternal and newborn health. It implies reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity and enhancement of the health of newborn infants through equitable access to primary health care, including family planning, prenatal, **delivery and post-natal care for the mother and infant, and access to essential obstetric and neonatal care** (World Health Organization, Health Population and Development, WHO Position Paper, Geneva, 1994 - WHO/FHE/ 94.1). – ICPD (1994), endnote.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women make a great contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, **which is still not recognized or considered in its full importance. The social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children should be acknowledged.** The upbringing of children requires shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole. Maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation must not be a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society. Recognition should also be given to the important role often played by women in many countries in caring for other members of their family. – Beijing (1995), 29.

■ By Governments, educational institutions and communities:

(a) Ensure the availability of a broad range of educational and training programmes that lead to ongoing acquisition by women and girls of the knowledge and skills required for living in, contributing to and benefiting from their communities and nations;

(b) Provide support for child care and other services to **enable mothers to continue their schooling**; – Beijing (1995), 38.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened. The inadequate support to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed. **Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing**

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**of children and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being is also acknowledged** and must not be a basis for discrimination. Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. Such imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education and through legislation where appropriate. In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities. – Beijing +5 (2000), 60.

■ HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, the transmission of which is sometimes a consequence of sexual violence, are having a devastating effect on women's health, particularly the health of adolescent girls and young women. They often do not have the power to insist on safe and responsible sex practices and have little access to information and services for prevention and treatment. Women, who represent half of all adults newly infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, have emphasized that social vulnerability and the unequal power relationships between women and men are obstacles to safe sex, in their efforts to control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. **The consequences of HIV/AIDS reach**

*“The consequences of HIV/AIDS reach beyond women’s health to their roles as mothers and caregivers and their contribution to the economic support of their families.”*

Beijing (1995), 98

**beyond women's health to their role as mothers and caregivers and their contribution to the economic support of their families.** The social, developmental and health consequences of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases need to be seen from a gender perspective. – Beijing (1995), 98.

■ Promote public information on the benefits of breast-feeding; examine ways and means of implementing fully the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, and **enable mothers to breast-feed their infants** by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support; – Beijing (1995), 106(r).

■ Recognize, support and promote the fundamental role of intermediate institutions, such as primary health-care centres, family-planning centres, existing school health services, **mother and baby protection services**, centres for migrant families and so forth in the field of information and education related to abuse; Beijing (1995), 125(f).

■ Ensure, through legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, opportunities for women and men to take job-protected parental leave and to have parental benefits; promote the **equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women**, including through appropriate legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, and also promote the facilitation of breast-feeding for working mothers; – Beijing (1995), 179(c).

■ Strengthen vital statistical systems and incorporate gender analysis into publications and research; give priority to gender differences in research design and in data collection and analysis in order to improve data on morbidity; and improve data collection on access to health services, including access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, maternal care and family planning, with **special priority for adolescent mothers and for elder care**; – Beijing (1995), 206(i).

## MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

■ Note with grave concern that despite the near elimination of **mother-to-child transmission of HIV** in high-income countries and the availability of low-cost interventions to prevent transmission, approximately 370,000 infants were estimated to have been infected with HIV in 2009; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 30.

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■ **Commit to working towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV** by 2015 and substantially reducing AIDS-related maternal deaths; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 64.

■ Commit by 2015 to working with partners to direct resources to and strengthen the advocacy, policy and programmatic links between HIV and tuberculosis responses, primary health-care services, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, hepatitis B and C, drug dependence, non-communicable diseases and overall health systems, **leverage health-care services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV**, strengthen the interface between HIV services, related sexual and reproductive health care and services and other health services,

*“Commit to working towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015.”*  
HIV/AIDS (2011), 64

including maternal and child health, eliminate parallel systems for HIV-related services and information where feasible, and strengthen linkages among national and global efforts concerned with human and national development, including poverty eradication, preventative health care, enhanced nutrition, access to safe and clean drinking water, sanitation, education and the improvement of livelihoods; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 98.

## MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES

■ Governments should maintain and further develop mechanisms to document changes and undertake studies on family composition and structure, especially on the prevalence of one-person households, and **single-parent and multigenerational families**. – ICPD (1994), 5.6.

■ Governments should support and develop the appropriate mechanisms to assist families caring for children, the dependent elderly and family members with disabilities, including those resulting from HIV/AIDS, encourage the sharing of those responsibilities by men and women, and **support the viability of multigenerational families**. – ICPD (1994), 5.11.

■ All levels of government in medium- and long-term socio-economic planning should take into account the increasing numbers and proportions of elderly people in the population. Governments should develop social security systems that ensure greater intergenerational and intragenerational equity and solidarity and that provide support to elderly people through the encouragement of **multigenerational families**, and the provision of long-term support and services for growing numbers of frail older people. – ICPD (1994), 6.18.

■ **Recognition of the crucial importance of families, intergenerational interdependence**, solidarity and reciprocity for social development; – Ageing (2002), 12(g).

■ **At the family and community level, intergenerational ties** can be valuable for everyone. Despite geographic mobility and other pressures of contemporary life that can keep people apart, the great majority of people in all cultures **maintain close relations with their families** throughout their lives. These relationships work in both directions, with older persons often providing significant contributions both financially and, crucially, in the education and care of grandchildren and other kin. All sectors of society, including Governments, should aim to strengthen those ties. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that living with younger generations is not always the preferred or best option for older persons. – Ageing (2002), 43.

## NATIONAL LAWS

■ Reaffirm the sovereign rights of Member States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and the need for all countries to implement the commitments and pledges in the present Declaration **consistent with national laws, national development priorities** and international human rights; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 2.

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■ The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, **consistent with national laws and development priorities**, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights. – ICPD (1994), Principles.

■ To achieve these goals and targets, taking into account the best interests of the child, **consistent with national laws**, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, we will carry out the following strategies and actions: – Children’s Summit 2002, 37.

■ Strengthen the capacity of health-care systems to deliver basic health services to all in an efficient, accessible and affordable manner aimed at preventing, controlling and treating diseases, and to reduce environmental health threats, in conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms and **consistent with national laws** and cultural and religious values, and taking into account the reports of relevant United Nations conferences and summits and of special sessions of the General Assembly. This would include actions at all levels to: Earth Summit +10, 54.

*“Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.”*  
ICPD (1994), 8.25

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

■ In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the *need* for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. **Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.** In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions. – ICPD (1994), 8.25.

■ In the light of paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which states: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family-planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. **Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.** In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to avoid repeat abortions", consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions; – Beijing (1995), 106(k).



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*“The family, as a fundamental group and natural environment for the growth and well-being of children, should be given all necessary protection and assistance.”*

Children’s Summit (1990), 14.

**local level according to the national legislative process.** In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases, women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Postabortion counselling, education and family planning services should be offered promptly, which will also help to **avoid repeat abortions.** – ICPD +5 (1999), 63(i).

### NATURAL GROUP UNIT – FAMILY

■ The family is the **natural and fundamental group unit of society** and is entitled to protection by society and the State. – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 16(3)

■ The family is the **natural and fundamental group unit of society** and is entitled to protection by society and the State. – ICCPR, Article 23-1.

■ Convinced that **the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society** and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, – Disabilities (2006), Preamble (x).

■ Convinced that **the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children**, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, – CRC (1990), Preamble, paragraph 5.

■ Half a million mothers die each year from causes related to childbirth. Safe motherhood must be promoted in all possible ways. Emphasis must be placed on responsible planning of family size and on child spacing. **The family, as a fundamental group and natural environment for the growth and well-being of children, should be given all necessary protection and assistance.** – Children’s Summit (1990), 14.

■ The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is **the natural and fundamental group unit of society**, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and education of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses. – ICESCR (1976), Article 10-1.

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN

■ Half a million mothers die each year from causes related to childbirth. Safe motherhood must be promoted in all possible ways. Emphasis must be placed on responsible planning of family size and on child spacing. **The family, as a fundamental group and natural environment for the growth and well-being of children**, should be given all necessary protection and assistance. – Children’s Summit (1990), 14.

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## NURTURING ROLE OF FAMILY

■ **The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence.** Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment. – Children’s Summit (1990), 18.

■ **Helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles** in contributing to social integration should involve: (a) Encouraging social and economic policies that are designed to meet the needs of families and their individual members, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members, with particular attention to the care of children; (b) Ensuring **opportunities for family members** to understand and meet their social responsibilities; (c) **Promoting mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation within the family** and within society; (d) **Promoting equal partnership between women and men in the family.** – Social Summit (1995), 81.

*“Greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration.”*  
Social Summit +5 (2000), III 56

■ Recognize that the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Further recognize that equality and equity between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members are essential for family well-being and for society at large, and promote appropriate actions to meet the needs of families and their individual members, particularly in the areas of economic support and provision of social services. **Greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration,** and to the adoption of measures to reconcile work and family life for women and men. – Social Summit +5 (2000), III 56.

■ Recognize that **stable, supportive and nurturing family relationships, supported by communities and, where available, professional services, can provide a vital shield against substance abuse,** particularly among minors. Schools and the media, inter alia, through the use of information technologies, including the Internet, should be encouraged to provide young people with information on the dangers of substance abuse and addiction and on how to seek help. – Social Summit +5 (2000), III, 72.

## ORPHANS

■ Note with deep concern that despite substantial progress over the three decades since AIDS was first reported, the HIV epidemic remains an unprecedented human catastrophe inflicting immense suffering on countries, communities and families throughout the world, that more than 30 million people have died from AIDS, with another estimated 33 million people living with HIV, that **more than 16 million children have been orphaned** because of AIDS, that over 7,000 new HIV infections occur every day, mostly among people in low- and middle-income countries, and that less than half of the people living with HIV are believed to be aware of their infection; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 8.

■ Commit to ensure that financial resources for prevention are targeted to evidence-based prevention measures that reflect the specific nature of each country’s epidemic by focusing on geographic locations, social networks and populations vulnerable to HIV infection, according to the extent to which they account for new infections in each setting, in order to ensure that resources for HIV prevention are spent as cost-effectively as possible, and to ensuring that **particular attention is paid to women and girls, young people, orphans and vulnerable children,** migrants and people affected by

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humanitarian emergencies, prisoners, indigenous people and people with disabilities, depending on local circumstances; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 60.

■ Commit to strengthen national social and child protection systems and care and support programmes for children, in particular for the girl child, and adolescents affected by and vulnerable to HIV, as well as their families and caregivers, including through the provision of equal opportunities to **support the development to full potential of orphans** and other children affected by and living with HIV, especially through equal access to education, the creation of safe and non-discriminatory learning environments, supportive legal systems and protections, including civil registration systems, and provision of comprehensive information and support to children and their families and caregivers, especially age-appropriate HIV information to assist children living with HIV as they transition through adolescence, consistent with their evolving capacities; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 82.

*“...support the development to full potential of orphans and other children affected by and living with HIV, especially through equal access to education...”*  
HIV/AIDS (2011), 82

■ We will work to ameliorate the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances - as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation; **orphans and street children** and children of migrant workers; the displaced children and victims of natural and man-made disasters; the disabled and the abused, the socially disadvantaged and the exploited. Refugee children must be helped to find new roots in life. We will work for special protection of the working child and for the abolition of illegal child labour. We will do our best to ensure that children are not drawn into becoming victims of the scourge of illicit drugs. – Children’s Summit (1990), Declaration 20(7).

■ Governments should assist single-parent families, and **pay special attention to the needs of widows and orphans**. All efforts should be made to assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances, for example, those involving street children. – ICPD (1994), 5.13

■ In many parts of the world, especially Africa, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has forced older women, already living in difficult circumstances, to take on the added burden of caring for children and grandchildren with HIV/AIDS and **for grandchildren orphaned by AIDS**. At a time when it is more normal for adult children to look after their ageing parents, many older persons find themselves with the unexpected **responsibility of caring for frail children or with the task of becoming sole parents to grandchildren**. – Ageing (2002), 103.

■ By 2003, develop and by 2005 implement national policies and strategies to: build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to **provide a supportive environment for orphans** and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS including by providing appropriate counseling and psycho-social support; ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition, health and social services on an equal basis with other children; **to protect orphans** and vulnerable

#### **Comment on Orphans:**

In all cases, the “best interest of the child” standard should be the guiding principle in decisions regarding orphan interventions. And since children fare best in a family in an atmosphere of love and understanding, orphan policies and programs should seek wherever possible, to place children into stable families. Adoption is not about the rights and needs of adults but is about restoring to a child what he or she has lost; a mother and a father. Wherever possible, children should be placed in a family with both a mother and a father.

[http://www.familiessavingorphans.org/fso/guiding\\_principles.cfm](http://www.familiessavingorphans.org/fso/guiding_principles.cfm)

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children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance. – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 46(c).

■ By 2003, develop and by 2005 implement national policies and strategies to: build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to **provide a supportive environment for orphans** and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS including by providing appropriate counselling and psycho-social support; ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition, health and social services on an equal basis with other children; **to protect orphans and vulnerable children** from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance; – HIV/AIDS (2001), 65.

■ **To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.** – Millennium Declaration (2000), 19.

■ Providing social and educational support to communities, households, **orphans** and children affected by HIV/AIDS. – Social Summit +5 (2000), 97 (f).

*“...pay special attention to the needs of widows and orphans... assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances...”*  
ICPD (1994), 5.13

## PARENTS

■ Commit to develop and implement strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point-of-care, significantly increase and improve access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, as well as increased support to children and adolescents through increased financial, **social and moral support for their parents, families and legal guardians**, and promote a smooth transition from paediatric to young adult treatment and related support and services; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 68.

■ The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, **the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.** – CRC (1990), Article 7-1.

■ States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. **Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child.** The best interests of the child will be their basic concern. – CRC (1990), Article 18-1.

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

*(See also “Parental Rights, Duties and Responsibilities”)*

■ Everyone has the right to education, which shall be directed to the full development of human resources, and human dignity and potential, with particular attention to women and the girl child. Education should be designed to strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including those relating to population and development. **The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his or her education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with the parents.** – ICPD (1994), II, Principle 10.

■ Youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives. This is especially important with respect to information, education and communication activities and services concerning reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, sex education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, **these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents** and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. – ICPD (1994), 6.15.

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■ Develop at national and other levels, as appropriate, action plans for adolescents and youth, based on gender equity and equality, that cover education, professional and vocational training and income-generating opportunities. Such programmes should include support mechanisms for the education and counselling of adolescents in the areas of gender relations and equality, violence against adolescents, responsible sexual behaviour, responsible family planning practices, family life, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and AIDS prevention (Programme of Action, para. 7.47). Adolescents and youth themselves should be fully involved in the design and implementation of such information and services, **with proper regard for parental guidance and responsibilities**. Special attention should be devoted to vulnerable and disadvantaged youth; – ICPD +5 (1999), 73(c).

*“...these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents...”*  
ICPD (1994), 6.15

■ States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide,

in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, **appropriate direction and guidance** in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention. – CRC (1990), Article 5.

## PARENTAL RIGHTS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

■ **States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention. – CRC (1990), Article 5.

■ Establish or strengthen both school-based and community-based health education programmes for children, adolescents and adults, with special attention to girls and women, on a whole range of health issues, as one of the prerequisites **for social development, recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for children consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, Commitment 6(l).

■ Ensure that children, particularly girls, enjoy their rights and promote the exercise of those rights by making education, adequate nutrition and health care accessible to them, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 13/ and **recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for children; – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, Commitment 6(c).

■ States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures. – CRC (1990), Article 3-2.

■ **States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents** and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child. – CRC (1990), Article 14-2.

■ **Recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance in sexual and reproductive matters, countries must ensure that the programmes and attitudes of health-care providers do not restrict the access of adolescents to appropriate services and the information they need, including on sexually transmitted diseases and sexual abuse. In doing so, and in order to, inter alia, address sexual abuse, these services must safeguard the

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rights of adolescents to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, respecting cultural values and religious beliefs. In this context, countries should, where appropriate, remove legal, regulatory and social barriers to reproductive health information and care for adolescents. – ICPD (1994), 7.45

■ To be most effective, education about population issues must begin in primary school and continue through all levels of formal and non-formal education, **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents** and the needs of children and adolescents. Where such programmes already exist, curricula should be reviewed, updated and broadened with a view to ensuring adequate coverage of such important concerns as gender sensitivity, reproductive choices and responsibilities, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. To ensure acceptance of population education programmes by the community, population education projects should emphasize **consultation with parents** and community leaders.– ICPD (1994), 11.9.

*“...taking into account the rights  
and responsibilities of parents  
and the needs of children  
and adolescents.”*

ICPD (1994), 11.9

■ Age-appropriate education, especially for adolescents, about the issues considered in the present Programme of Action should begin in the home and community and continue through all levels and channels of formal and non-formal education, **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents** and the needs of adolescents. Where such education already exists, curricula and educational materials should be reviewed, updated and broadened with a view to ensuring adequate coverage of important population-related issues and to counteract myths and misconceptions about them. Where no such education exists, appropriate curricula and materials should be developed. To ensure acceptance, effectiveness and usefulness by the community, education projects should be based on the findings of socio-cultural studies and should involve the active participation of parents and families, women, youth, the elderly and community leaders. – ICPD (1994), 11.24.

■ Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and local communities, assisted upon request by the international community, should strive to mobilize and effectively utilize the resources for population and development programmes that expand and improve the quality of reproductive health care, including family-planning and sexually transmitted diseases/HIV/AIDS prevention efforts. In line with the goal of the present Programme of Action to ensure universal availability of and access to high- quality reproductive health and family-planning services, particular emphasis must be put on meeting the needs of underserved population groups, including adolescents, **taking into account the rights and responsibilities of parents** and the needs of adolescents and the rural and the urban poor, and on ensuring the safety of services and their responsiveness to women, men and adolescents. In mobilizing resources for these purposes, countries should examine new modalities such as increased involvement of the private sector, the selective use of user fees, social marketing, cost-sharing and other forms of cost recovery. However, these modalities must not impede access to services and should be accompanied with adequate "safety net" measures. – ICPD (1994), 13.2.

■ Ensuring full and equal access to social services, especially education, legal services and healthcare services for women of all ages and children, **recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and other persons legally responsible for children, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; – Social Summit (1995), 35(c).

■ Prepare and disseminate accessible information, through public health campaigns, the media, reliable counselling and the education system, designed to ensure that women and men, particularly young people, can acquire knowledge about their health, especially information on sexuality and reproduction, taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, **as well as the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Dis-

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crimination against Women; ensure that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child are a primary consideration; – Beijing (1995), 107(e).

■ Recognize the specific needs of adolescents and implement specific appropriate programmes, such as education and information on sexual and reproductive health issues and on sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, taking into account the rights of the child and the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** as stated in paragraph 107 (e) above; – Beijing (1995), 107(g).

*“Parents and other persons  
legally responsible for children  
have responsibilities,  
rights and duties...”*

Habitat (1996), 13

■ Girls and adolescents may receive a variety of conflicting and confusing messages on their gender roles from their parents, teachers, peers and the media. Women and men need to work together with children and youth to break down persistent gender stereotypes, taking into account the rights of the child and the **responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** as stated in paragraph 267 below. – Beijing (1995), 262.

■ The International Conference on Population and Development recognized, in paragraph 7.3 of the Programme of Action, 14/ that "full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality", taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, **as well as the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents** and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. Support should be given to integral sexual education for young people **with parental support and guidance** that stresses the responsibility of males for their own sexuality and fertility and that help them exercise their responsibilities. – Beijing (1995), 267.

■ The needs of children and youth, particularly with regard to their living environment, have to be taken fully into account. Special attention needs to be paid to the participatory processes dealing with the shaping of cities, towns and neighbourhoods; this is in order to secure the living conditions of children and of youth and to make use of their insight, creativity and thoughts on the environment. Special attention must be paid to the shelter needs of vulnerable children, such as street children, refugee children and children who are victims of sexual exploitation. **Parents and other persons legally responsible for children have responsibilities, rights and duties**, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to address these needs. – Habitat (1996), 13.

■ **With due respect for the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents** and in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, and their right to reproductive health education, information and care, and respecting their cultural values and religious beliefs, ensure that adolescents, both in and out of school, receive the necessary information, including information on prevention, education, counselling and health services to enable them to make responsible and informed choices and decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health needs, in order to, inter alia, reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies. Sexually active adolescents will require special family planning information, counselling and health services, as well as sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Those adolescents who become pregnant are at particular risk and will require special support from their families, health-care providers and the community during pregnancy, delivery and early childcare. This support should enable these adolescents to continue their education. Programmes should involve and train all who are in a position to provide guidance to adolescents concerning responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, particularly parents and families, and also communities, religious institutions, schools, the mass media and peer groups. These policies and programmes must be implemented on the basis of commitments made at the International Conference on

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Population and Development and in conformity with relevant existing international agreements and conventions; – ICPD +5 (1999), 73(e).

■ Design and implement programmes with the full involvement of adolescents as appropriate, to provide them with education, information and appropriate, specific, user-friendly and accessible services without discrimination to address effectively their reproductive and sexual health needs taking into account their right to privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent and **the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to provide in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child appropriate direction and guidance** in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in conformity with CEDAW and ensuring that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child are a primary consideration. These programmes should, inter alia, build adolescent girls' self esteem and help them take responsibility for their own lives; promote gender equality and responsible sexual behaviour; raise awareness about, prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS and sexual violence and abuse; counsel adolescents on avoiding unwanted and early pregnancies; – Beijing +5 (2000), 79(f).

*“...taking into account... the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to provide in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child appropriate direction and guidance...”*  
Beijing +5 (2000), 79(f)

■ **Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers have the primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children**, and must be supported in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. All our policies and programmes should promote the shared **responsibility of parents, families**, legal guardians and other caregivers, and society as a whole in this regard. – Children Summit +10 (1990), 32(2).

## PORNOGRAPHY

■ Encouraging education systems and, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, communication media to raise people's understanding and awareness of all aspects of social integration, including gender sensitivity, non-violence, tolerance and solidarity and respect for the diversity of cultures and interests, and to **discourage the exhibition of pornography** and the gratuitous depiction of explicit violence and cruelty in the media; – Social Summit (1995), 16(d).

■ **Governments are urged to take the necessary measures to prevent** infanticide, prenatal sex selection, trafficking in girl children and use of girls in prostitution and **pornography**. – ICPD (1994), 4.23.

■ Countries should take effective steps to address the neglect, as well as **all types of exploitation and abuse, of children, adolescents and youth**, such as abduction, rape and incest, pornography, trafficking, abandonment and prostitution. In particular, countries should take appropriate action to eliminate sexual abuse of children both within and outside their borders. – ICPD (1994), 5.9.

■ Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement. Violence against women throughout the life cycle derives essentially from cultural patterns, in particular the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and all acts of extremism linked to race, sex, language or religion that perpetuate the lower status accorded to women in the family, the workplace, the community and society. Violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures, notably the shame of denouncing certain acts that have been perpetrated against women; women's lack of access to legal information, aid or protection; the lack of laws that effectively prohibit violence against women; failure to reform existing laws; inadequate efforts on the part of public authorities to promote awareness of and enforce existing laws; and



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the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of violence. **Images in the media of violence against women, in particular those that depict rape or sexual slavery as well as the use of women and girls as sex objects, including pornography,** are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence, adversely influencing the community at large, in particular children and young people. – Beijing (1995), 118.

■ Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Taking into account the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence

*“...take the necessary measures to prevent infanticide, prenatal sex selection, trafficking in girl children and use of girls in prostitution and pornography”*

ICPD (1994), 4.23

against Women and the work of Special Rapporteurs, gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as **violence against women, resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography,** ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism are incompatible with the dignity and the worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. Any harmful

aspect of certain traditional, customary or modern practices that violates the rights of women should be prohibited and eliminated. Governments should take urgent action to combat and **eliminate all forms of violence against women in private and public life,** whether perpetrated or tolerated by the State or private persons. – Beijing (1995), 224.

■ Strengthen the implementation of all relevant human rights instruments in order to **combat and eliminate, including through international cooperation, organized and other forms of trafficking in women and children, including trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and sex tourism,** and provide legal and social services to the victims; this should include provisions for international cooperation to prosecute and punish those responsible for organized exploitation of women and children; – Beijing (1995), 230(n).

■ Take effective measures or institute such measures, including **appropriate legislation against pornography** and the projection of violence against women and children in the media. – Beijing (1995), 243(f).

#### **Comment on Pornography:**

Dr. Victor Cline, a clinical psychologist at the University of Utah, is nationally regarded as an expert on the influence of Pornography on society. Dr. Cline has discovered that a consumer of Pornography often follows a four-phase pattern.

Dr. Cline says “The first is addiction . . . there's a very powerful addicting effect with pornography. They get into it and they go back again, and again, and again. The second thing that happens to them is that after a while they get desensitized to the material they see. And what was initially inappropriate, taboo-breaking, perverted, disgusting, after a while becomes acceptable. The third thing is they find a need to escalate and . . . get into rougher, more vicious, meaner kinds of material to get their turn-ons . . . and the final thing that happens is they begin to act out these sexual fantasies they've seen, either in film, or video or in magazines. Because by now they've been desensitized . . . There's no conscience left. There's nothing right or wrong anymore.” Much of the concern about pornography is that it is now being combined with violence. Many contend that this leads to violent crimes against women.

– The Philippines Alliance Against Pornography

<http://mentalhealthlibrary.info/library/porn/pornlds/pornldsauthor/links/philippine/pornx.htm>

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■ Obstacles: Negative, violent and/or **degrading images of women, including pornography**, stereotyped portrayals, have increased in different forms using new communication technologies in some instances, and bias against women remains in the media. Poverty, the lack of access and opportunities, illiteracy, lack of computer literacy and language barriers, prevent some women from using the information and communication technologies, including the Internet. Development of and access to Internet infrastructure is limited especially in developing countries and particularly for women. – Beijing +5, 29.

*“Images in the media of violence against women, in particular those that depict rape or sexual slavery as well as the use of women and girls as sex objects, including pornography, are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence.”*

Beijing (1995), 118

■ Violence against women and girls is a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gender based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women, resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, **pornography**, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism are incompatible with the **dignity and worth of the human person** and must be combated and eliminated. – Beijing

+5, 59.

■ To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its **optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**. – Millenium Declaration, 26.

■ Take concerted national and international actions as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, **sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and paedophilia**, and to combat existing markets. – Children’s Summit 2002, 40.

■ All actors in the Information Society should take appropriate actions and preventive measures, as determined by law, against abusive uses of ICTs, such as illegal and other acts motivated by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, hatred, violence, **all forms of child abuse, including paedophilia and child pornography, and trafficking in, and exploitation of, human beings**. – Information Summit, 59.

## PRE-NATAL CARE

(See also “Healthy Infant”)

■ In the basic reproductive health services component - **information and routine services for pre-natal, normal and safe delivery and post-natal care**; abortion (as specified in paragraph 8.25); information, education and communication about reproductive health, including sexually transmitted diseases, human sexuality and responsible parenthood, and against harmful practices; adequate counselling; diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive tract infections, as feasible; prevention of infertility and appropriate treatment, where feasible; and referrals, education and counselling services for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and for pregnancy and delivery complications; – ICPD (1994), 13.14(b).

■ In developing countries, the health status of women remains relatively low, and during the 1980s poverty, malnutrition and general ill-health in women were even rising. Most women in developing countries still do not have adequate basic educational opportunities and they lack the means of promoting their health, responsibly controlling their reproductive life and improving their socio-economic

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status. Particular attention should be given to the **provision of pre-natal care to ensure healthy babies**. – Agenda 21 (1992), 6.21.

■ We will work for a solid effort of national and international action to enhance children's health, to **promote pre-natal care** and to lower infant and child mortality in all countries and among all peoples. We will promote the provision of clean water in all communities for all their children, as well as universal access to sanitation. – Children's Summit Declaration (1990), 20(2).

*“Particular attention should be given to the provision of pre-natal care to ensure healthy babies.”*  
Agenda 21 (1992), 6.21

■ All couples should have access to information on the importance of responsible planning of family size and the many advantages of child spacing to avoid pregnancies that are too early, too late, too many or too frequent. **Pre-natal care**, clean delivery, access to referral facilities in complicated cases, tetanus toxoid vaccination and prevention of anaemia and other nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy are other important interventions to ensure safe motherhood and a healthy start in life for the newborn. There is

an added benefit of promoting maternal and child health programmes and family planning together in that, acting synergistically, these activities help accelerate the reduction of both mortality and fertility rates, and contribute more to lowering rates of population growth than either type of activity alone. – Children's Summit (1990), 17.

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, **including pre-natal care**, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, **including pre-natal care**, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

■ Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, **including prenatal care**, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should

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provide the opportunity for all women to fully breastfeed at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being and should pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 24.3(e).

## PRE-NATAL SEX SELECTION

■ Since in all societies **discrimination on the basis of sex often starts at the earliest stages of life**, greater equality for the girl child is a necessary first step in ensuring that women realize their full potential and become equal partners in development. In a number of countries, **the practice of prenatal sex selection**, higher rates of mortality among very young girls, and lower rates of school enrolment for girls as compared with boys, suggest that "son preference" is curtailing the access of girl children to food, education and health care. This is often compounded by the increasing use of technologies to determine foetal sex, resulting in abortion of female foetuses. Investments made in the girl child's health, nutrition and education, from infancy through adolescence, are critical. – ICPD (1994), 4.15.

*"Pre-natal care, clean delivery, access to referral facilities in complicated cases, tetanus toxoid vaccination and prevention of anaemia and other nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy are other important interventions to ensure safe motherhood and a healthy start in life for the newborn."*

Children's Summit (1990), 17

■ Governments are urged to take the necessary measures to prevent infanticide, **prenatal sex selection**, trafficking in girl children and use of girls in prostitution and pornography. – ICPD (1994), 4.23.

■ Governments should give priority to developing programmes and policies that foster norms and attitudes of zero tolerance for harmful and discriminatory attitudes, including son preference, which can result in **harmful and unethical practices such as prenatal sex selection**, discrimination and violence against the girl child and all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation, rape, incest, trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation. This entails developing an integrated approach that addresses the need for widespread social, cultural and economic change, in addition to legal reforms. The girl child's access to health, nutrition, education and life opportunities should be protected and promoted. The role of family members, especially parents and other legal guardians, in strengthening the self-image, self-esteem and status and in protecting the health and well-being of girls should be enhanced and supported. – ICPD +5 (1999), 48.

## PROSTITUTION

■ Governments are urged to take the necessary measures to prevent infanticide, prenatal sex selection, **trafficking in girl children and use of girls in prostitution and pornography**. – ICPD (1994), 4.23.

■ Countries should take effective steps to address the neglect, as well as **all types of exploitation and abuse, of children, adolescents and youth, such as abduction, rape and incest, pornography,**

**trafficking, abandonment and prostitution**. In particular, countries should take appropriate action to eliminate sexual abuse of children both within and outside their borders. – ICPD (1994), 5.9.

■ To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its **optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**. – Millenium Declaration, 26.

■ Take concerted national and international actions as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, **sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography,**

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**prostitution and paedophilia**, and to combat existing markets. – Children’s Summit 2002, 40.

■ Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Taking into account the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the work of Special Rapporteurs, gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, and international trafficking in women and children, **forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women, resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography,**

*“...countries should take appropriate action to eliminate sexual abuse of children both within and outside their borders...”*  
ICPD (1994), 5.9

**ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism are incompatible with the dignity and the worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. Any harmful aspect of certain traditional, customary or modern practices that violates the rights of women should be prohibited and eliminated. Governments should take urgent action to combat and eliminate all forms of violence against women in private and public life,** whether perpetrated or tolerated by the State or private persons.

–Beijing (1995), 224.

■ Remain deeply concerned that globally women and girls are still the most affected by the epidemic and that they bear a disproportionate share of the caregiving burden, and that the ability of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV continues to be compromised by physiological factors, gender inequalities, including unequal legal, economic and social status, insufficient access to health care and services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and all forms of discrimination and violence, including **sexual violence and exploitation against them;** – HIV/AIDS (2011), 21.

■ Commit to ensuring that national responses to HIV and AIDS meet the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV, across their lifespan, through strengthening

#### **Comment on Prostitution:**

Most of the consensus language in UN documents – related to prostitution – focuses on the use of children or “forced prostitution.” It should be noted that all prostitution or pornography is a danger to the moral fiber of society, and can lead to degradation that tears at the fabric which holds society together.

Prostitution has significantly contributed to the spread of the HIV virus – in countries with a high prevalence rate. Some countries report an 89% HIV prevalence among prostitutes.

The UN has established committees to monitor the compliance of UN member states with UN treaties they have signed. These UN compliance committees sometimes interpret treaty language in ways that go far beyond what the original treaty actually says and far beyond what it was understood to mean when it was negotiated by the state parties. They then tell countries they are out of compliance if their laws do not protect such things as homosexuality, abortion, or prostitution – even though the treaties they are monitoring are silent on such issue.

The UN CEDAW Committee alone has pressured seven countries to legalize prostitution; Republic of Korea (2007), Kenya (2007), Netherlands (2007), Fiji (2002), Hungary (2002), Uganda (2002), and Saint Kitts and Nevis (2002); Six countries to decriminalize homosexuality and protect “sexual orientation;” Brazil (2007), Honduras (2007), Republic of Korea (2007), Sweden (2001), Kyrgyzstan (1999), México (1998); and 66 nations to legalize, remove penalties for, or increase access to abortion. Included are countries in Africa (17), Latin America (20), the Caribbean (4), Asian (13), Europe (4), the Middle East (4), and the Pacific (4).

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legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the promotion and protection of women's full enjoyment of all human rights and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, as well as all types of **sexual exploitation of women, girls and boys, including for commercial reasons**, and all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 81.

■ Strengthen the implementation of all relevant human rights instruments in order to **combat and eliminate, including through international cooperation, organized and other forms of trafficking in women and children, including trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and sex tourism**, and provide legal and social services to the victims; this should include provisions for international cooperation to prosecute and punish those responsible for organized exploitation of women and children; – Beijing (1995), 230(n).

*“...combat and eliminate, including through international cooperation, organized and other forms of trafficking in women and children, including trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and sex tourism...”*

Beijing (1995), 230(n)

## RAPE

■ Violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. Massive violations of human rights, especially in the form of genocide, ethnic cleansing as a strategy of war and its consequences, and rape, **including systematic rape of women** in war situations, creating a mass exodus of refugees and displaced persons, are abhorrent practices that are strongly condemned and must be stopped immediately, while perpetrators of such crimes must be punished. Some of these situations of armed conflict have their origin in the conquest or colonialization of a country by another State and the perpetuation of that colonization through state and military repression. – Beijing (1995), 131.

■ Commit to ensuring that national responses to HIV and AIDS meet the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV, across their lifespan, through strengthening legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the promotion and protection of women's full enjoyment of all human rights and the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, as well as all types of sexual exploitation of women, girls and boys, **including for commercial reasons, and all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls**; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 81.

## RELIGION

*(See also “Religious Beliefs of Parents” and “Religious and Ethical Values”)*

■ Religion, spirituality and belief play a central role in the lives of millions of women and men, in the way they live and in the aspirations they have for the future. **The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is inalienable and must be universally enjoyed. This right includes the freedom to have or to adopt the religion or belief of their choice either individually or in community with others, in public or in private, and to manifest their religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.** In order to realize equality, development and peace, there is a need to respect these rights and freedoms fully. **Religion, thought, conscience and belief may, and can, contribute to fulfilling women's and men's moral, ethical and spiritual needs and to realizing their full potential in society.** However, it is acknowledged that any form of extremism may have a negative impact on women and can lead to violence and discrimination. – Beijing (1995), 24.

■ **Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion**; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in

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public or private, to **manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance**. – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 18.

■ We recognize that religion, spirituality and belief play a central role in the lives of millions of women and men, and in the way they live and treat other persons. Religion, spirituality and belief may and can contribute to the promotion of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person and to the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; – Racism (2001), 8.

*“This right includes the freedom to have or to adopt the religion or belief of their choice...”*  
Beijing (1995), 24

■ Everyone shall have the right to **freedom of thought, conscience and religion**. This right shall include **freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice**, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to **manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching**. – ICCPR (1976), Article 18-1.

■ No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his **freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice**. ICCPR, Article 18-2.

■ States Parties shall **respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion**. – CRC (1990), Article 14-1.

■ In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, **to profess and practise their own religion**, or to use their own language. – ICCPR (1976), Article 27.

■ The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to **counter intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief**, including practices of discrimination against women and including the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that **every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion**. The Conference also invites all States to put into practice the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. – Vienna (1993), 22.

■ To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all **without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion**; – U.N. Charter (1945), Article 1-3, Article 13, 1(b), Article 76(c).

■ Recognizing the importance of building human solidarity, we urge the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among the world’s civilizations and peoples, **irrespective of race, disabilities, religion, language, culture or tradition**. Earth Summit +10, 17.

#### **Comment on Religion:**

Religious practice promotes the well-being of individuals, families, and the community and is linked to healthy, stable family life, strong marriages, and well-behaved children. The practice of religion also leads to a reduction in the incidence of domestic abuse, crime, substance abuse, and addiction.

– Fagan, P. (2006, December 18). “Why religion matters even more: The impact of religious practice on social stability.” *The Heritage Foundation*, Backgrounder #1992.

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■ Adopt special measures to eliminate discrimination against children on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, **religion**, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, and ensure their equal access to education, health and basic social services.” Children Summit +10: 44-3.

■ Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, **religion**, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Universal Declaration, Article 2.

■ The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, **religion**, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. ICESCR, Article 2-2.

*“...every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion.”*  
Vienna (1993), 22

■ Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, **religion**, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. ICCPR, Article 2-1.

## RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL VALUES

(See also “Religion” and “Religious Beliefs of Parents”)

■ We note that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society. –World Summit 2005, 130.

■ Reaffirm the commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>5</sup> and other instruments relating to human rights and international law; and **emphasize the importance of cultural, ethical and religious values, the vital role of the family** and the community and in particular people living with and affected by HIV, including their families, and the need to take into account the particularities of each country in sustaining national HIV and AIDS responses, reaching all people living with HIV, delivering HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 38.

■ Intensified efforts are needed in the coming 5, 10 and 20 years, in a range of population and development activities, bearing in mind the crucial contribution that early stabilization of the world population would make towards the achievement of sustainable development. The present Programme of Action addresses all those issues, and more, in a comprehensive and integrated framework designed to improve the quality of life of the current world population and its future generations. The recommendations for action are made in a spirit of consensus and international cooperation, recognizing that the formulation and implementation of population-related policies is the responsibility of each country and should take into account the economic, social and environmental diversity of conditions in each country, **with full respect for the various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people**, as well as the shared but differentiated responsibilities of all the world's people for a common future. – ICPD (1994), 1.11.

■ The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with **full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people**, and in con-



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formity with universally recognized international human rights. – ICPD (1994), Principles, 1st paragraph.

■ While the International Conference on Population and Development does not create any new international human rights, it affirms the application of universally recognized human rights standards to all aspects of population programmes. It also represents the last opportunity in the twentieth century for the international community to collectively address the critical challenges and interrelationships between population and development. The Programme of Action will require the establishment of common ground, **with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural back-**

*“...with full respect for the  
various religious and ethical  
values, cultural backgrounds and  
philosophical convictions  
of its people.”*  
ICPD (1994), 1.11

**grounds.** The impact of this Conference will be measured by the strength of the specific commitments made here and the consequent actions to fulfil them, as part of a new global partnership among all the world's countries and peoples, based on a sense of shared but differentiated responsibility for each other and for our planetary home. – ICPD (1994), 1.15.

■ By 2003, develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programmes, which recognize the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in educating and guiding chil-

dren and **take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors**, to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people by: ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including on HIV/AIDS in curricula for adolescents; ensuring safe and secure environments, especially for young girls; expanding good quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling service; strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes; and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2001), 63.

■ The implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 also requires, inter alia, a political, economic, ethical and **spiritual vision** for social development of older persons based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation and **full respect for the various religious and ethical values** and cultural backgrounds of people. – Ageing (2002), 115.

■ To achieve these goals and targets, taking into account the best interests of the child, **consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people**, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, we will carry out the following strategies and actions: – Childrens Summit 2002, 37.

■ To facilitate the implementation of actions committed to in this document, we will develop or strengthen as a matter of urgency, if possible by the end of 2003 national and, where appropriate, regional action plans with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets based on this Plan of Action, taking into account the best interests of the child, **consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds** of its people and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 59.

■ Health ultimately depends on the ability to manage successfully the interaction between the physical, spiritual, biological and economic/social environment. Sound development is not possible without a healthy population; yet most developmental activities affect the environment to some degree, which in turn causes or exacerbates many health problems. Conversely, it is the very lack of development that adversely affects the health condition of many people, which can be alleviated only through development. The health sector cannot meet basic needs and objectives on its own; it is dependent on social, economic and spiritual development, while directly contributing to such development. It is also dependent on a healthy environment, including the provision of a safe water supply and sanitation and the promotion of a safe food supply and proper nutrition. Particular attention should be directed towards food safety, with priority placed on the elimination of food contamination; comprehensive and

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sustainable water policies to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation to preclude both microbial and chemical contamination; and promotion of health education, immunization and provision of essential drugs. Education and appropriate services regarding responsible planning of family size, with **respect for cultural, religious and social aspects, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations**, also contribute to these intersectoral activities. Agenda 21 (1992), 6.3.

## RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF PARENTS

(See also “Religion” and “Religious and Ethical Values”)

■ The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to choose for their children schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to **ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions**. – ICESCR (1976), Article 13-3.

*“...respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.”*

ICCPR (1976), Article 18-4

■ The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have **respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions**. – ICCPR (1976), Article 18-4.

■ 1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to **freedom of thought, conscience and religion**. 2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child. – CRC (1990), Article 14-1 and 2.

■ With due respect for the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents and in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, and their right to reproductive health education, information and care, **and respecting their cultural values and religious beliefs**, ensure that adolescents, both in and out of school, receive the necessary information, including information on prevention, education, counselling and health services to enable them to make responsible and informed choices and decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health needs, in order to, inter alia, reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies. Sexually active adolescents will require special family planning information, counselling and health services, as well as sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Those adolescents who become pregnant are at particular risk and will require special support from their families, health-care providers and the community during pregnancy, delivery and early childcare. This support should enable these adolescents to continue their education. Programmes should involve and train all who are in a position to provide guidance to adolescents concerning responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour, **particularly parents and families**, and also communities, religious institutions, schools, the mass media and peer groups. These policies and programmes must be implemented on the basis of commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development and in conformity with relevant existing international agreements and conventions; – ICPD +5 (1999), 73(e).

■ By 2003, develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programmes, **which recognize the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in educating and guiding children and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors**, to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people by: ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including on HIV/AIDS in curricula for adolescents; ensuring safe and secure environments, especially for young girls; expanding good quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling service; strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes; and involving families

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and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2001), 63.

■ Documented migrants are those who satisfy all the legal requirements to enter, stay and, if applicable, hold employment in the country of destination. In some countries, many documented migrants have, over time, acquired the right to long-term residence. In such cases, the integration of documented migrants into the host society is generally desirable, and for that purpose it is important to extend to them the same social, economic and legal rights as those enjoyed by citizens, in accordance with national legislation.

*“...recognize the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in educating and guiding children and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors...”*

HIV/AIDS (2001), 63

The family reunification of documented migrants is an important factor in international migration. It is also important to protect documented migrants and their families from racism, ethnocentrism and xenophobia, **and to respect their physical integrity, dignity, religious beliefs and cultural values.** – ICPD (1994), 10.9.

## RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

■ The World Conference on Human Rights also expresses its dismay and condemnation that gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, **religious intolerance**, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law. – Vienna Declaration (1993), 30.

■ The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon all Governments to take all appropriate measures in compliance with their international obligations and with due regard to their respective legal systems to counter **intolerance and related violence based on religion or belief**, including practices of discrimination against women and including the desecration of religious sites, recognizing that **every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion.** The Conference also invites all States to put into practice the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. – Vienna (1993), II-22.

■ In order to promote the integration of documented migrants having the right to long-term residence, Governments of receiving countries are urged to consider giving them civil and political rights and responsibilities, as appropriate, and facilitating their naturalization. Special efforts should be made to enhance the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with educational and training opportunities equal to those of nationals, allowing them to exercise an economic activity,

and facilitating the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country. Consistent with article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other relevant universally recognized human rights instruments, all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants. Governments of receiving countries must ensure the protection of migrants and their families, **giving priority to programmes and strategies that combat religious intolerance**, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and gender discrimination and that generate the necessary public sensitivity in that regard. – ICPD (1994), 10.12.

■ The goals and objectives of social development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress and instability for the family and for society. We pledge to place par-

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ticular focus on and give priority attention to the fight against the world-wide conditions that pose severe threats to the health, safety, peace, security and well-being of our people. Among these conditions are chronic hunger; malnutrition; illicit drug problems; organized crime; corruption; foreign occupation; armed conflicts; illicit arms trafficking, terrorism, **intolerance** and incitement to racial, ethnic, **religious and other hatreds**; xenophobia; and endemic, communicable and chronic diseases. To this end, coordination and cooperation at the national level and especially at the regional and international levels should be further strengthened. – Social Summit (1995), 20.

■ Eliminating discrimination and promoting tolerance and mutual respect for and the value of diversity at the national and international levels requires: (a) Enacting and implementing appropriate laws and other regulations to combat racism, racial discrimination, **religious intolerance in all its various forms**, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination in all walks of life in societies; – Social Summit (1995), 73(a).

*“...giving priority to  
programmes and strategies that  
combat religious intolerance...”*

Social Summit (1995), 77 (b)

■ Governments of receiving countries are urged to consider giving to documented migrants having the right to long-term residence, civil and political rights and responsibilities, as appropriate, and facilitating their naturalization. Special efforts should be made to enhance the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with educational and training opportunities equal to those of nationals, allowing them to exercise an economic activity and facilitating the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country. Consistent with article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 27/ and all relevant universally recognized human rights instruments, all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants. **Governments of receiving countries must ensure the protection of migrants and their families, giving priority to programmes and strategies that combat religious intolerance**, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and gender discrimination, and that generate the necessary public sensitivity in that regard; – Social Summit (1995), 77(b).

■ An environment that maintains world peace and promotes and protects human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the principles of non-threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence and of respect for sovereignty as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, is an important factor for the advancement of women. Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development. Armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world. Aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, **religious intolerance**, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law. International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, as such, is at times systematically ignored and human rights are often violated in connection with situations of armed conflict, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. – Beijing (1995), 131.

■ The Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 1949, and the Additional Protocols of 1977 24/ provide that women shall especially be protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution or any form of indecent assault. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, states that “violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict are violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and

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humanitarian law.” All violations of this kind, including in particular murder, rape, including systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy require a particularly effective response. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or summary and arbitrary detention, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, denial of economic, social and cultural rights **and religious intolerance**. – Beijing (1995), 132.

*“... take measures to counter the increasing dissemination of child pornography and other obscene materials, intolerance, including religious intolerance...through the media and information technology, including the Internet.”*  
Social Summit +5 (2000), 58

■ While recognizing the positive role of the media and information technology, including the Internet, identify and take measures to counter the increasing dissemination of child pornography and other obscene materials, intolerance, **including religious intolerance**, hatred, racism, discrimination based on sex and age and the incitement to violence through the media and information technology, including the Internet. – Social Summit +5 (2000), 58.

■ We recognize with deep concern **religious intolerance against certain religious communities**, as well as the emergence of hostile acts and violence against such communities because of their religious beliefs and their racial or ethnic origin in

various parts of the world which in particular limit their right to freely practise their belief; – Racism (2001), 59.

■ We also recognize with deep concern the existence in various parts of the world of **religious intolerance against religious communities and their members**, in particular limitation of their right to practise their beliefs freely, as well as the emergence of increased negative stereotyping, hostile acts and violence against such communities because of their religious beliefs and their ethnic or so-called racial origin; – Racism (2001), 60.

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

*(See also “Healthy Infant,” “Pre-natal Care” and “Maternal Health”)*

■ **In the basic reproductive health services component - information and routine services for prenatal, normal and safe delivery and post-natal care;** abortion (as specified in paragraph 8.25); information, education and communication about reproductive health, including sexually transmitted diseases, human sexuality and responsible parenthood, and against harmful practices; adequate counselling; diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive tract infections, as feasible; prevention of infertility and appropriate treatment, where feasible; and referrals, education and counselling services for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and for pregnancy and delivery complications; – ICPD (1994), 13.14(b).

■ In developing countries, the health status of women remains relatively low, and during the 1980s poverty, malnutrition and general ill-health in women were even rising. Most women in developing countries still do not have adequate basic educational opportunities and they lack the means of promoting their health, **responsibly controlling their reproductive life** and improving their socio-economic status. Particular attention should be given to the **provision of pre-natal care to ensure healthy babies**. – Agenda 21 (1992), 6.21.

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active

steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, **safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations.** Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, **safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations.** Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, **including pre-natal care**, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. **Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being**, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

*“...safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, . . . in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations.”*  
Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j)

■ Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, **safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values.** Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide the opportunity for all women to fully breastfeed at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and

#### **Comment on Reproductive Health Services:**

The term “reproductive health services” is sometimes **misinterpreted** to include abortion. In order to ensure any paragraphs containing the term “reproductive health” are not misinterpreted in this manner, you can propose additional language to modify it that makes it clear that the intended meaning is to help women have healthy babies, not abortions. For language suggestions that promote the delivery of a healthy baby and that can be used to modify “reproductive health,” or “reproductive health care” see paragraphs under “Healthy Infant” and “Pre-natal Care.”

1. **Healthy Infant:** “access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant.” – ICPD (1994), 7.2.

2. **Pre-Natal Care:** “particular attention should be given to the provision of pre-natal care to ensure healthy babies.” – Agenda 21 (1992), 6.21.

3. **No Abortion:** “in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning,” – ICPD (1994), 8.25.

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well-being and should pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 24.3(e).

■ Adequately strengthening social safety nets using resources and funds and, **in the context of primary health care, ensuring the availability of and access to reproductive health services**, including family planning, particularly for people most affected by poverty, the adverse impact of structural adjustment policies and financial crises, or otherwise unable to access services. – ICPD +5 (1999), 57(d).

*“Give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification, and continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children.”*

Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 44(29)

*Note: Notice that most uses of the words “reproductive health services” are followed by the words “family planning.” Family Planning should not promote abortion (see ICPD 8.25).*

## REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILY

■ **Give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification**, and continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children. – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 44(29).

■ In order to promote the integration of documented migrants having the right to long-term residence, Governments of receiving countries are urged to consider giving them civil and political rights and responsibilities, as appropriate, and facilitating their naturalization. Special efforts should be made to enhance the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with educational and training opportunities equal to those of nationals, allowing them to exercise an economic activity, and facilitating the naturalization of those who have been raised in the receiving country. Consistent with article 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other relevant universally recognized human rights instruments, all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, **must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants**. Governments of receiving countries must ensure the protection of migrants and their families, giving priority to programmes and strategies that combat religious intolerance, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia and gender discrimination and that generate the necessary public sensitivity in that regard. – ICPD (1994), 10.12.

## RIGHT TO LIFE

■ **Everyone has the right to life**, liberty and security of person. – Universal Declaration (1948), Article 3.

■ **Every human being has the inherent right to life**. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life. – ICCPR (1976), Article 6, 1.

■ Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, **before as well as after birth**,” – CRC (1990), Preamble.

■ States Parties recognize that **every child has the inherent right to life**. 2. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child. – CRC (1990), Article 6. 1.

■ All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any

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kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. **Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.** – ICPD (1994), Chapter II, Principle 1.

■ Take account of the needs of older persons and **respect the right to live in dignity at all stages of life**; – Ageing (2002), 21(h).

## ROLE OF PARENTS

(See also “Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of Parents”)

■ States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. **Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child.** The best interests of the child will be their basic concern. – CRC (1990), Article 18-1.

*“...the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.”*  
CRC (1990), Preamble

■ **The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility** to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development. – CRC (1990), Article 27-2.

## SEX EDUCATION

(See also “Abstinence”)

■ **Reaffirm the central role of the family**, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems various forms of the family exist, in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children, and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors in reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV and AIDS in curricula for adolescents, ensuring safe and secure environments especially for young girls, expanding good-quality youth-friendly information and **sexual health education** and counselling services, strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes, **and involving families** and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 43.

■ By 2003, develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programmes, **which recognize the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in educating and guiding children and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors**, to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people by: ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including on HIV/AIDS in curricula for adolescents; ensuring safe and secure environments, especially for young girls; expanding good quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling service; **strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes; and involving families** and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2001), 63.

■ Express grave concern that young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years account for more than one third of all new HIV infections, with some 3,000 young people becoming infected with HIV each day, and note that most young people still have limited access to good quality education, decent employment and recreational facilities, as well as limited access to sexual and reproductive health programmes that provide the information, skills, services and commodities they need to protect themselves that only 34 per cent of young people possess accurate knowledge of HIV, and that laws and policies in some instances exclude young people from accessing sexual health-care and HIV related services, such as voluntary and confidential HIV-testing, counselling and **age-appropriate sex and**



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**HIV prevention education, while also recognizing the importance of reducing risk taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence, fidelity and correct and consistent use of condoms; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 25.**

■ The International Conference on Population and Development recognized, in paragraph 7.3 of the Programme of Action, that “full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality,” taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, as

*“...age-appropriate sex and HIV prevention education, ... encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence, fidelity...”*  
HIV/AIDS (2011), 25

well as the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. Support should be given to integral **sexual education for young people with parental support and guidance** that stresses the responsibility of

males for their own sexuality and fertility and that help them exercise their responsibilities. – Beijing (1995), 267.

■ Programmes to reduce the spread of HIV infection should give high priority to information, education and communication campaigns to raise awareness and **emphasize behavioural change. Sex education** and information should be provided to both those infected and those not infected, and especially to adolescents. Health providers, including family-planning providers, need training in counselling on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection, including the assessment and identification of high-risk behaviours needing special attention and services; training in the promotion of safe and **responsible sexual behaviour, including voluntary abstinence**, and condom use; training in the avoidance of contaminated equipment and blood products; and in the avoidance of sharing needles among injecting drug users. Governments should develop guidelines and counselling services on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases within the primary health-care services. Wherever possible, reproductive health programmes, including family-planning programmes, should include facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of common sexually transmitted diseases, including reproductive tract infection, recognizing that many sexually transmitted diseases increase the risk of HIV transmission. The links between the prevention of HIV infection and the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis should be assured. – ICPD (1994), 8.31.

■ Youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives. This is especially important with respect to information, education and communication activities and services concerning reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, **sex education** and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, **these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents** and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. – ICPD (1994), 6.15.

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

■ Families are sensitive to strains induced by social and economic changes. It is essential to grant particular assistance to families in difficult life situations. Conditions have worsened for many families in recent years, owing to lack of gainful employment and measures taken by Governments seeking to balance their budget by reducing social expenditures. There are increasing numbers of vulnerable families, including single-parent families headed by women, poor families with elderly members or those with disabilities, refugee and displaced families, and families with members affected by AIDS or other terminal diseases, substance dependence, child abuse and domestic violence. Increased labour migra-

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tions and refugee movements are an additional source of family tension and disintegration and are contributing to increased responsibilities for women. In many urban environments, millions of children and youths are left to their own devices as family ties break down, and hence are increasingly exposed to risks such as dropping out of school, labour exploitation, **sexual exploitation**, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. – ICPD (1994), 5.4.

■ The needs of children and youth, particularly with regard to their living environment, have to be taken fully into account. Special attention needs to be paid to the participatory processes dealing with the shaping of cities, towns and neighbourhoods; this is in order to secure the living conditions of children and of youth and to make use of their insight, creativity and thoughts on the environment. **Special attention must be paid to the shelter needs of vulnerable children, such as street children, refugee children and children who are victims of sexual exploitation.** Parents and other persons legally responsible for children have responsibilities, rights and duties, consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to address these needs. – Habitat (1996), 13.

*“Special attention must be paid to the shelter needs of vulnerable children, . . . who are victims of sexual exploitation.”*

Habitat (1996), 13

■ Strengthen the implementation of all relevant human rights instruments in order to **combat and eliminate, including through international cooperation, organized and other forms of trafficking in women and children, including trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and sex tourism**, and provide legal and social services to the victims; this should include provisions for international cooperation to prosecute and punish those responsible for organized exploitation of women and children; – Beijing (1995), 230(n).

■ Take concerted national and international actions as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, **sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and paedophilia**, and to combat existing markets. – Children’s Summit 2002, 40.

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

*Note: This term does not appear in any of the international treaties or conference documents referred to in this Guide. It has been repeatedly rejected in final negotiations of UN conference documents.*

## SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

■ Governments, in cooperation with employers, should provide and promote means to facilitate compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities, **especially for single-parent households with young children**. Such means could include health insurance and social security, daycare centres and facilities for breast-feeding mothers within the work premises, kindergartens, part-time jobs, paid parental leave, paid maternity leave, flexible work schedules, and reproductive and child health services. – ICPD (1994), 5.3.

■ When formulating socio-economic development policies, special consideration should be given to increasing the earning power of all adult members of economically deprived families, including the elderly and women who work in the home, and to enabling children to be educated rather than compelled to work. **Particular attention should be paid to needy single parents, especially those who are responsible wholly or in part for the support of children and other dependants**, through ensuring payment of at least minimum wages and allowances, credit, education, funding for women’s self-help groups and stronger legal enforcement of male parental financial responsibilities. – ICPD (1994), 5.4.

■ Assisting women and men in reconciling employment and family responsibilities, inter alia, by flexible working arrangements, including parental voluntary part-time employment and work-sharing, as well as accessible and affordable quality child-care and dependant-care facilities, **paying particular attention to the needs of single-parent households.** – Social Summit +5 (2000), 49(c).

■ Governments should maintain and further develop mechanisms to document changes and undertake studies on family composition and structure, especially on the prevalence of one-person households, and **single-parent and multigenerational families.** – ICPD (1994), 5.6.

*“Particular attention should be paid to needy single parents, especially those who are responsible wholly or in part for the support of children and other dependants.”*  
ICPD (1994), 5.4

## SOVEREIGNTY

■ We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to **uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect their territorial integrity and political independence**, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to uphold resolution of disputes by peaceful

means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, **the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States**, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter. –World Summit 2005, 5.

■ **Reaffirm the sovereign rights of Member States**, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and the need for all countries to implement the commitments and pledges in the present Declaration consistent with national laws, national development priorities and international human rights; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 2.

■ Welcome the United Nations Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners **in support of national plans and strategies**, to significantly reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths, as a matter of immediate concern, including by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 19.

### Comment on “Other Status”

In 2009 the ICESCR Committee issued a General Comment seeking to reinterpret the term “other status” in the ICESCR to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity,” thereby making these protected classes like race and religion.

While all individuals are entitled to the same fundamental human rights regardless of fixed characteristics such as race, color, sex or national origin, rights should never be granted based on sexual behavior or preferences.

To date, “sexual orientation” provisions have been specifically rejected by UN Member States every time they have been proposed in negotiations of binding UN documents. To allow a UN committee to reinterpret a UN treaty to protect “sexual orientation” when it has been specifically opposed by and rejected by member states undermines the entire UN negotiation process and is an assault on national sovereignty.

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, **in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems**, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, in **keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations**. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

*“...the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities...”*  
ICPD +5 (1999), Preamble 5

■ The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action and those contained in the present document is **the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities**, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights. – ICPD +5 (1999), Preamble 5.

■ Take measures, with the full participation of women, to create, at all levels, an enabling environment conducive to the achievement and maintenance of world peace, for democracy and peaceful settlement of disputes **with the full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of states and non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the jurisdiction of any state**, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as well as, the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development, and fundamental freedoms; – Beijing +5 (2000), 89.

■ **Nationally determined policies** for integrated and multifaceted programmes, with special attention to women, to the poorest people living in critical areas and to other vulnerable groups should be implemented, ensuring the involvement of groups with a special potential to act as agents for change and sustainable development. Special emphasis should be placed on those programmes that achieve multiple objectives, encouraging sustainable economic development, and mitigating adverse impacts of demographic trends and factors, and avoiding long-term environmental damage. Food security, access to secure tenure, basic shelter, and essential infrastructure, education, family welfare, women's reproductive health, family credit schemes, reforestation programmes, primary environmental care, women's employment should, as appropriate, be included among other factors. Agenda 21 (1992), 5.46.

■ Many of the issues mentioned in the present Programme of Action have been addressed in greater detail by previous world conferences concerned with questions closely related to the different aspects of social development. The Programme of Action was elaborated against the background of, and taking into account the commitments, principles and recommendations of, these other conferences, and is also based on the experience of many countries in promoting social objectives in the context of their particular conditions. The special importance of the Programme of Action lies in its integrated approach and its attempt to combine many different actions for poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration in coherent national and international strategies for social development. **The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities**, with full respect

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for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Each country will also take action in accordance with its evolving capacities. The outcomes of relevant international conferences should also be duly taken into account in the implementation of the present Programme of Action. – Social Summit (1995), 3.

■ An environment that maintains world peace and promotes and protects human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the principles of non-threat or

*“Recognize the central role that religion, spirituality and belief play in the lives of millions of women and men.”*

Beijing +5, 98-c

use of force against territorial integrity or political independence and of **respect for sovereignty as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations**, is an important factor for the advancement of women. Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and development. Armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world. Aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women

and men in nearly every region. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law. International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, as such, is at times systematically ignored and human rights are often violated in connection with situations of armed conflict, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. – Beijing (1995), 131.

■ The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, **consistent with national laws and development priorities**, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights. – ICPD (1994), Principles, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph.

■ Implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including implementation through national laws and development priorities, programmes and policies, is **the sovereign right and responsibility of each State** in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and taking into account the significance of and with full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds, and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities, contributing to the full enjoyment by all of their human rights in order to achieve the objectives of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. – Habitat (1996), 24.

## SPIRITUALITY

■ Promote respect for the right of women and men to the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. **Recognize the central role that religion, spirituality and belief play in the lives of millions of women and men.** – Beijing +5, 98(c).

■ We Heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, **ethical and spiritual vision** for social development based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, **and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds** of people. Accordingly, we will give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all. – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, 25.

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■ The empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the **moral, ethical, spiritual** and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations. – Beijing Declaration, 12.

■ Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and **spiritual development**. – CRC, Article 23(3).

*“Social development is inseparable from the cultural, ecological, economic, political and spiritual environment in which it takes place.”*  
Social Summit (1995), 4

■ We acknowledge that our societies must respond more effectively to the material and **spiritual needs** of individuals, their families and the communities in which they live throughout our diverse countries and regions. – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, 3.

■ Social development is inseparable from the cultural, ecological, economic, political and **spiritual** environment in which it takes place. It cannot be pursued as a sectoral initiative. Social development is also clearly linked to the development of peace, freedom, stability and security, both nationally and internationally. To promote social development requires an orientation of values, objectives and priorities towards the well-being of all and the strengthening and promotion of conducive institutions and policies. – Social Summit (1995), 4.

■ The girl child of today is the woman of tomorrow. The skills, ideas and energy of the girl child are vital for full attainment of the goals of equality, development and peace. For the girl child to develop her full potential she needs to be nurtured in an enabling environment, where her **spiritual**, intellectual and material needs for survival, protection and development are met and her equal rights safeguarded. If women are to be equal partners with men, in every aspect of life and development, now is the time to recognize the human dignity and worth of the girl child and to ensure the full enjoyment of her human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights assured by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 11/ universal ratification of which is strongly urged. Yet there exists worldwide evidence that discrimination and violence against girls begin at the earliest stages of life and continue unabated throughout their lives. They often have less access to nutrition, physical and mental health care and education and enjoy fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than do boys. They are often subjected to various forms of sexual and economic exploitation, paedophilia, forced prostitution and possibly the sale of their organs and tissues, violence and harmful practices such as female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, incest, female genital mutilation and early marriage, including child marriage. – Beijing (1995), 39.

■ Acknowledge and respect the artistic, **spiritual** and cultural activities of indigenous women. . . – Beijing (1995), 83(o).

■ We shall promote the conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of buildings, monuments, open spaces, landscapes and settlement patterns of historical, cultural, architectural, natural, **religious and spiritual value**. – Habitat (1996), Declaration, 11.

■ As to the second theme, sustainable development of human settlements combines economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and offers a means of achieving a world of greater stability and peace, built on **ethical and spiritual vision**. – Habitat (1996), 4.

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■ We, the States participating in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), are committed to a political, economic, environmental, **ethical and spiritual vision** of human settlements based on the principles of equality, solidarity, partnership, human dignity, respect and cooperation. – Habitat (1995), 25.

■ We commit ourselves to the goal of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world by developing societies that will make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and take into account the precautionary principle approach, and by providing all people, in particular

*“Religious, spiritual, cultural and indigenous leaders, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role...”*

Children’s Summit +10: 32-7

those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with nature and their **cultural heritage and spiritual and cultural values**, and which ensures economic and social development and environmental protection, thereby contributing to the achievement of national sustainable development goals. – Habitat (1996), 42.

■ Historical places, objects and manifestations of cultural, scientific, symbolic, **spiritual and religious value** are important expressions of the culture, identity and religious beliefs of societies. Their role and importance, particularly in the light of the need for cultural identity and continuity in a rapidly changing world, need to be promoted. – Habitat (1996), 152.

■ With the full voluntary participation of indigenous women, develop and implement educational and training programmes that respect their history, culture, **spirituality**, languages and aspirations and ensure their access to all levels of formal and non-formal education, including higher education; – Beijing +5 (2000), 95(e).

■ The twentieth century saw a revolution in longevity. Average life expectancy at birth has increased by 20 years since 1950 to 66 years and is expected to extend a further 10 years by 2050 . . . Such a global demographic transformation has profound consequences for every aspect of individual, community, national and international life. Every facet of humanity will evolve: social, economic, political, cultural, psychological and **spiritual**. – Ageing (2002), 2.

■ Investing in health care and rehabilitation for older persons extends their healthy and active years. . . . Effective care for older persons needs to integrate physical, mental, social, **spiritual** and environmental factors. – Ageing (2002), 69.

■ A world fit for children is one in which all children get the best possible start in life and have access to a quality basic education, including primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, and in which all children, including adolescents, have ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. We will promote the physical, psychological, **spiritual**, social, emotional, cognitive and cultural development of children as a matter of national and global priority. – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 14.

■ **Religious, spiritual, cultural and indigenous leaders, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role** as front-line actors for children to help to translate the goals and targets of the present Plan of Action into priorities for their communities and to mobilize and inspire people to take action in favour of children. – Children’s Summit +10 (2002), 32(7).

## STREET CHILDREN

■ Governments should assist single-parent families, and pay special attention to the needs of widows and orphans. **All efforts should be made to assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances, for example, those involving street children.** – ICPD (1994), 5.13.

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■ Setting specific target dates for eliminating all forms of child labour that are contrary to accepted international standards and ensuring the full enforcement of relevant existing laws, and, where appropriate, enacting the legislation necessary to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO standards, **ensuring the protection of working children, in particular of street children, through the provision of appropriate health, education and other social services;** – Social Summit (1995), 55-d.

■ **Expanding basic education by developing special measures to provide schooling** for children and youth living in sparsely populated and remote areas, for children and youth of nomadic, pastoral, migrant or indigenous parents, and **for street children**, children and youth working or looking after younger siblings and disabled or aged parents, and disabled children and youth; establishing, in partnership with indigenous people, educational systems that will meet the unique needs of their cultures; – Social Summit (1995), 74(h).

*“All efforts should be made to assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances, for example, those involving street children.”*

ICPD (1994), 5.13

■ We will work to ameliorate the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances - as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation; **orphans and street children** and children of migrant workers; the displaced children and victims of natural and man-made disasters; the disabled and the abused, the socially disadvantaged and the exploited. Refugee children must be helped to find new roots in life. We will work for special protection of the working child and for the abolition of illegal child labour. We will do our best to ensure that children are not drawn into becoming victims of the scourge of illicit drugs. – Children’s Summit (1990), Declaration 20(7).

## STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT FAMILY

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. – ICPD (1994), Chapter II, Principle 9.

■ **Recognize the family as the basic unit of society**, and acknowledge that **it plays a key role in social development and as such should be strengthened**, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members. In different cultural, political and social systems various forms of family exist. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support; – Social Summit (1995), 26(h).

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. – Social Summit (1995), 80.

■ Women play a critical role in the family. **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women make a great contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not recognized or considered in its full importance. The social significance of maternity, motherhood and the role of parents in the family and in the upbringing of children should be acknowledged. The upbringing of children requires shared responsibility of parents, women and men and society as a whole. Maternity, motherhood, parenting and the role of women in procreation must not be a basis for discrimination nor restrict the full participation of women in society. Recognition should also be given to the important role often played by women in many countries in caring for other members of their family. – Beijing (1995), 29.



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■ Women play a critical role in the family. **The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened.** The inadequate support to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed. Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing of children

*“...stable, supportive and nurturing family relationships, . . . can provide a vital shield against substance abuse...”*

Social Summit +5 (2000), III, 72

and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being is also acknowledged and must not be a basis for discrimination. Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. Such imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education and through legislation where appropriate. In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled

to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities. – Beijing +5 (2000), 60.

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood. – Habitat (1996), 31.

■ (Exact repeat of Habitat, 31, above) – Habitat +5 (2001), 30.

■ **The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened.** It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 15.

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE (and family)

■ Recognize that **stable, supportive and nurturing family relationships, supported by communities and, where available, professional services, can provide a vital shield against substance abuse**, particularly among minors. Schools and the media, inter alia, through the use of information technologies, including the Internet, should be encouraged to **provide young people with information on the dangers of substance abuse and addiction and on how to seek help.** – Social Summit +5 (2000), III, 72.

■ Note with alarm the rise in the incidence of HIV among people who inject drugs and that, despite continuing increased efforts by all relevant stakeholders, the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to, among other things, public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and **young people and their families, and recognize that much more needs to be done to effectively combat the world drug problem;** – HIV/AIDS (2011), 26.

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■ Families are sensitive to strains induced by social and economic changes. It is essential to grant particular assistance to families in difficult life situations. Conditions have worsened for many families in recent years, owing to lack of gainful employment and measures taken by Governments seeking to balance their budget by reducing social expenditures. There are increasing numbers of vulnerable families, including single-parent families headed by women, poor families with elderly members or those with disabilities, refugee and displaced families, and families with members affected by AIDS or other terminal diseases, **substance dependence**, child abuse and domestic violence. Increased labour migrations and refugee movements are an additional source of family tension and disintegration and are contributing to increased responsibilities for women. In many urban environments, millions of children and youths are left to their own devices as **family ties break down**, and hence are increasingly exposed to risks such as dropping out of school, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. – ICPD (1994), 5.7.

*“The child has the right to be  
cared for, guided and  
supported by parents, families  
and society and to be protected  
by appropriate legislative,  
administrative, social and  
educational measures...”*

ICPD (1994), Principle 11

■ States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to **protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. – CRC (1990), Article 23.

## TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

■ **States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.** – CRC (1990), Article 35.

■ States Parties that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration and they shall:

(d) **Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it;** – CRC (1990), Article 21(d).

■ All States and families should give the highest possible priority to children. The child has the right to standards of living adequate for its well-being and the right to the highest attainable standards of health, and the right to education. **The child has the right to be cared for, guided and supported by parents, families and society and to be protected** by appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sale, **trafficking**, sexual abuse, and trafficking in its organs. – ICPD (1994), Principle 11.

## UNDERSTANDING

■ Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, **should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,** – CRC (1990), Preamble.

■ The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, **children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.** Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment. – Children’s Summit (1990), 18.

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■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and **in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding**, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist. – Children's Summit +10 (2002), 15.

*"...enable them to exercise this right in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations..."*

Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j)

## VALUES

■ Implement, as a matter of urgency, in accordance with country-specific conditions and legal systems, measures to ensure that women and men have the same right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and have access to the information, education and means, as appropriate, to enable them to exercise this right **in keeping with their freedom, dignity and personally held values**, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Governments should take active steps to

implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values**, taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 3.8(j).

■ Governments should take active steps to implement programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities that include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family size, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values** and taking into account ethical and cultural considerations. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood and should provide the opportunity for all women to breast-feed fully, at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well being, with special attention to the need for providing equal and improved health care for all children and the need to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness. – Agenda 21 (1992), 5.51.

■ Programmes to establish and strengthen preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centred, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible, responsible planning of family size and services, as appropriate, **in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values**. Programmes should focus on providing comprehensive health care, including pre-natal care, education and information on health and responsible parenthood, and should provide the opportunity for all women to fully breastfeed at least during the first four months post-partum. Programmes should fully support women's productive and reproductive roles and well-being and should pay special attention to the need to provide equal and improved health care for all children and to reduce the risk of maternal and child mortality and sickness; – Agenda 21 (1992), 24.3(e).

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## VARIOUS FORMS OF THE FAMILY

### Mother/Father and Children; Single Parent; Extended; Multigenerational; Grandparents; Legal Guardians

■ Women play a critical role in the family. The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened. The inadequate support to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality. **In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist** and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed. **Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family** and in the upbringing of children and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being is also acknowledged and must not be a basis for discrimination. Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. Such imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education and through legislation where appropriate. In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities. – Beijing +5 (2000), 60.

*“...female-headed households, including divorced, separated and unmarried women and widows, are at particular risk of poverty...”*  
Ageing (2002), 46

■ **Reaffirm the central role of the family, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems various forms of the family exist**, in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children, and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors in reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV and AIDS in curricula for adolescents, ensuring safe and secure environments especially for young girls, expanding good-quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling services, strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes, and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 43.

■ Governments, in cooperation with employers, should provide and promote means to facilitate compatibility between labour force participation and parental responsibilities, **especially for single-**

#### **Comment on Various Forms of the Family:**

As you can see by the list above (and paragraphs on the next page), the UN consensus language includes several different forms of families. However, the following information should give governments reason to promote the traditional family structure of mother/father and children.

“Any deviation from the traditional married family structure generally leads to such things as poverty, crime, violence, substance abuse, disease and other problems that world governments must spend millions of dollars trying to fix. From a purely economic perspective, there are *enormous tangible costs to society that emanate from family breakdown*. A landmark U.S. study released in 2008 revealed that the breakdown of the family costs U.S. taxpayers a staggering \$112 billion every year!”

– Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator, “The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States,” Institute for American Values (2008): 5.

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**parent households with young children.** Such means could include health insurance and social security, day-care centres and facilities for breast-feeding mothers within the work premises, kindergartens, part-time jobs, paid parental leave, paid maternity leave, flexible work schedules, and reproductive and child health services. – ICPD (1994), 5.3.

■ States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care **within the wider family**, and failing that, within the community in a family setting. Disabilities (2006), Article 23(5).

*“Governments should... ensure greater intergenerational and intragenerational equity and solidarity and that provide support to elderly people through the encouragement of multigenerational families.”*

ICPD (1994), 6.18

■ States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, **the members of the extended family** or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention. – CRC (1990), Article 5.

■ Governments should support and develop the appropriate mechanisms to assist families caring for children, the dependent elderly and family members with disabilities, including those resulting from HIV/AIDS, encourage the sharing of those responsibilities by men and women, and **support the viability of multigenerational families**. – ICPD (1994), 5.11.

■ All levels of government in medium- and long-term socio-economic planning should take into account the increasing numbers and proportions of elderly people in the population. Governments should develop social security systems that ensure greater intergenerational and intragenerational equity and solidarity and that provide support to elderly people through the encouragement of **multigenerational families**, and the provision of long-term support and services for growing numbers of frail older people. – ICPD (1994), 6.18.

■ Providing assistance to **grandparents who have been required to assume responsibility for children**, particularly of parents who are affected by serious diseases, including AIDS or leprosy, or others who are unable to care for their dependants; – Social Summit (1995), 40(d).

■ Reinforce the **positive role of grandparents in raising grandchildren**; – Ageing, 106(c).

■ Prepare and disseminate accessible information, through public health campaigns, the media, reliable counselling and the education system, designed to ensure that women and men, particularly young people, can acquire knowledge about their health, especially information on sexuality and reproduction, taking into account the rights of the child to access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, as well as **the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians** to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate **direction and guidance** in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; ensure that in all actions concerning children, the best interests of the child are a primary consideration; – Beijing (1995), 107(e).

■ Acknowledge and promote the central role of families, **parents and other legal guardians** in educating their children and shaping their attitudes, and ensure that **parents and persons with legal responsibilities** are educated about and involved in providing sexual and reproductive health information, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of adolescents, so that they can fulfil their rights and responsibilities towards adolescents; – ICPD +5, 70(d).

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## VITAL ROLE OF THE FAMILY

■ Reaffirm the commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for and the observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>5</sup> and other instruments relating to human rights and international law; and emphasize the importance of cultural, ethical and religious values, **the vital role of the family** and the community and in particular people living with and affected by HIV, including their families, and the need to take into account the particularities of each country in sustaining national HIV and AIDS responses, reaching all people living with HIV, delivering HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and strengthening health systems, in particular primary health care; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 38.

*“Analysing policies and programmes,... assessing their impact on family well-being...”*  
Social Summit (1995), 27(a)

■ **Reaffirm the central role of the family**, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems various forms of the family exist, in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children, and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors in reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV and AIDS in curricula for adolescents, ensuring safe and secure environments especially for young girls, expanding good-quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling services, strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes, and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 43.

## WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES

■ We gather here to commit ourselves, our Governments and our nations to enhancing social development throughout the world so that all men and women, especially those living in poverty, may exercise the rights, utilize the resources and share the responsibilities that enable them to lead satisfying lives and to contribute to the **well-being of their families**, their communities and humankind. To support and promote these efforts must be the overriding goals of the international community, especially with respect to people suffering from poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, 9.

■ Analysing policies and programmes, including those relating to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment programmes, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy, with respect to their impact on poverty and inequality, **assessing their impact on family well-being** and conditions, as well as their gender implications, and adjusting them, as appropriate, to promote a more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services; – Social Summit (1995), 27(a).

## WIDOWS

■ Governments should assist single-parent families, and **pay special attention to the needs of widows and orphans**. All efforts should be made to assist the building of family-like ties in especially difficult circumstances, for example, those involving street children. – ICPD (1994), 5.13

■ In some countries, current demographic trends, which show that lowered fertility rates, increased life expectancy and lower mortality rates, have contributed to ageing of the population, and increase in chronic health conditions and have implications for health care systems and spending, informal care systems and research. Given the gap between male and female life expectancy, **the number of widows and older single women has increased considerably, often leading to their social isolation and other social challenges**. Societies have much to gain from the knowledge and life experience of older women. On the other hand, the current generation of young people is the largest in history. Ado-

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lescent girls and young women have particular needs which will require increasing attention. – Beijing +5 (2000), 43.

■ For women, institutional biases in social protection systems, in particular those based on uninterrupted work histories, contribute further to the feminization of poverty. Gender inequalities and disparities in economic power-sharing, unequal distribution of unremunerated work between women and men, lack of technological and financial support for women's entrepreneurship, unequal access to, and control over, capital, in particular land and credit and access to labour markets, as well as all harmful traditional and customary practices, have constrained women's economic empowerment and exacerbated the feminization of poverty. In many societies, **female-headed households, including divorced, separated and unmarried women and widows, are at particular risk of poverty**. Special social protection measures are required to address feminization of poverty, in particular among older women. –Ageing (2002), 46.

*“Marriage must be entered into  
with the free consent of the  
Intending spouses, and husband  
and wife should be  
equal partners.”*

Habitat +5 (2001), 30

Habitat (1996), 31

Social Summit (1995), 80

ICPD (1994), Principle 9

## WIFE

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners**. – Social Summit (1995), 80.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners**. – ICPD (1994), Principle 9.

■ The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners**. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood. – Habitat (1996), 31.

■ Reaffirm that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and **husband and wife should be equal partners**. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood; – Habitat +5 (2001), 30.

## WOMEN and FAMILY

■ **Women play a critical role in the family.** The family is the basic unit of society and is a strong force for social cohesion and integration and as such should be strengthened. The inadequate support

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to women and insufficient protection and support to their respective families affect society as a whole and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist and the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. **Women's social and economic contributions to the welfare of the family and the social significance of maternity and paternity continue to be inadequately addressed.** Motherhood and fatherhood and the role of parents and legal guardians in the family and in the upbringing of children and the importance of all family members to the family's well-being is also acknowledged and must not be a basis for discrimination. Women also continue to bear a disproportionate share of the household responsibilities and the care of children, the sick and the elderly. Such imbalance needs to be consistently addressed through appropriate policies and programmes, in particular those geared towards education and through legislation where appropriate. **In order to achieve full partnership, both in public and private spheres, both women and men must be enabled to reconcile and share equally work responsibilities and family responsibilities.** – Beijing +5 (2000), 60.

*“Women make a great contribution to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not recognized or considered in its full importance.”*

Beijing (1995), 29

■ States Parties shall take all appropriate measures: (b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the **recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children**, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases. CEDAW (1981), Article 5(b).

■ Promote changes in attitudes, structures, policies, laws and practices in order to **eliminate all obstacles to human dignity, equality and equity in the family and in society, and promote full and equal participation of urban and rural women** and women with disabilities in social, economic and political life, including in the formulation, implementation and follow-up of public policies and programmes; – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, Commitment 5(a).

■ The ultimate goal of social development is to improve and enhance the quality of life of all people. It requires democratic institutions, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, increased and equal economic opportunities, the rule of law, the promotion of respect for cultural diversity and the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and an active involvement of civil society. Empowerment and participation are essential for democracy, harmony and social development. All members of society should have the opportunity and be able to exercise the right and responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live. Gender equality and equity and the full participation of women in all economic, social and political activities are essential. The obstacles that have limited the access of women to decision-making, education, health-care services and productive employment must be eliminated and an **equitable partnership between men and women established, involving men's full responsibility in family life**. It is necessary to change the prevailing social paradigm of gender to usher in a new generation of women and men working together to create a more humane world order. – Social Summit (1995), 7.

■ Recognize that the family is the basic unit of society and that it plays a key role in social development and is a strong force of social cohesion and integration. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Further **recognize that equality and equity between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members are essential for family wellbeing and for society at large**, and promote appropriate actions to meet the needs of families and their individual members, particularly in the areas of economic support and provision of social services. Greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration, and to the adoption of measures to reconcile work and family life for women and men. – Social Summit +5 (2000), III 56.



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■ Bearing in mind the **great contribution of women to the welfare of the family** and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a **sharing of responsibility between men and women** and society as a whole, – CEDAW (1981), Preamble.

## WORK

*“In many urban environments, millions of children and youths are left to their own devices as family ties break down...”*  
ICPD (1994), 5.4

■ Foster policies that enable people to combine their paid work with their **family responsibilities**; – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, Commitment 3(f).

■ Formulate or strengthen measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, **migrant workers and their families**, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in sectors of many societies, and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies; – Social Summit (1995), Declaration, Commitment 4(e).

## YOUTH

(See also “Street Children”)

■ Commit to develop and implement strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point-of-care, significantly increase and improve access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, as well as increased support to children and **adolescents** through increased financial, **social and moral support for their parents, families and legal guardians**, and promote a smooth transition from paediatric to young adult treatment and related support and services; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 68.

■ Reaffirm the central role of the family, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems various forms of the family exist, in reducing vulnerability to HIV, inter alia in educating and guiding children, and take account of cultural, religious and ethical factors in reducing the vulnerability of children and young people by ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including HIV and AIDS in curricula for adolescents, ensuring safe and secure environments especially for young girls, **expanding good-quality youth-friendly information** and sexual health education and counselling services, strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes, and **involving families and young people** in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV and AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible; – HIV/AIDS (2011), 43.

■ Youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives. This is especially important with respect to information, education and communication activities and services concerning reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, sex education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, **these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents** and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. – ICPD (1994), 6.15.

■ Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin should adopt effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international traffic in women, **youth** and children. Governments of countries of origin, where the activities of agents or other intermediaries in the migration process are legal, should regulate such activities in order to **prevent abuses, especially exploitation, prostitution and coercive adoption**. – ICPD (1994), 10.18.

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■ **Families are sensitive to strains induced by social and economic changes. It is essential to grant particular assistance to families in difficult life situations.** Conditions have worsened for many families in recent years, owing to lack of gainful employment and measures taken by Governments seeking to balance their budget by reducing social expenditures. There are increasing numbers of vulnerable families, including single-parent families headed by women, **poor families with elderly members** or those with disabilities, refugee and displaced families, and families with members affected by AIDS or other terminal diseases, substance dependence, child abuse and domestic violence. Increased labour migrations and refugee movements are an additional source of family tension and disintegration and are contributing to increased responsibilities for women. In many urban environments, millions of children and **youths are left to their own devices as family ties break down**, and hence are increasingly exposed to risks such as dropping out of school, labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. – ICPD (1994), 5.4.

*“Access to, as well as Confidentiality and privacy of, these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents...”*  
ICPD (1994), 6.15

■ Develop at national and other levels, as appropriate, action plans for **adolescents and youth**, based on gender equity and equality, that cover education, professional and vocational training and income-generating opportunities. Such programmes should include support mechanisms for the education and counselling of adolescents in the areas of gender relations and equality, violence against adolescents, responsible sexual behaviour, responsible family planning practices, family life, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and AIDS prevention (Programme of Action, para. 7.47). Adolescents and youth themselves should be fully involved in the design and implementation of such information and services, **with proper regard for parental guidance and responsibilities**. Special attention should be devoted to vulnerable and disadvantaged youth; – ICPD +5 (1999), 73(c).