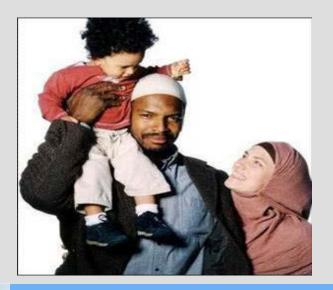
## Report on United Nations International Year of the Family 2014 Preparations

### Professor Margaret O'Brien Iceland, September 2011





## Twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014

- Since 1959 UN has designated International years in order to draw attention to major issues & to encourage international action to address concerns which have global importance and ramifications. International Years:
- International Year of Cooperatives 2012
- International Year of Youth 2010-2011
- International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1996
- International Year of Family 1994
- International Year of Youth 1985

University of East Anglia

## International Year of the Family 2014: three themes

- Confronting family poverty
- Promoting intergenerational solidarity
- Ensuring work & family balance

Source: Report to Secretary General, UN General Assembly Economic and Social Council November 2010



## Activities

- United Nations Programme on the Family Focal Point: Renata Kaczmarska
- Reports (e.g., ILO/UN 2009 Work & family: towards new forms of reconciliation with social co-responsibility; UN Men in families, 2010) expert meetings, resolutions, seminars, lobbying etc. International & regional level
- International Day of Families 2012 "Ensuring work & family balance" May 15th





## United Nations Experts Group Meeting, New York, 1 – 3 June 2011



Recommendations for relevant stakeholders to be circulated

http://social.un.org/index/Family/MeetingsEvents/EGMonAsse ssingFamilyPolicies.aspx





- 1. Men, families, gender equality and care work
- 2. Fatherhood and families
- 3. Fathers in challenging family contexts: a need for engagement
- 4. Migration, families and men in families
- 5. Men, families and HIV/AIDS



#### http://social.un.org/index/Family/Publications/MeninFamilies.aspx



## Leave network contribution

- Building in links to United Nations Programme on the Family Focal Point – linking national activities to international timetable 8-17 February 2012
  <u>50th Session of the Commission for Social</u>
  <u>Development</u>(CSocD) priority theme this year is: "Poverty Eradication".
- Work-family activity planning underway Country examples of innovative programmes and policies
- New Reports, books and papers



## Work-family briefing paper

## • Work-family pressures in families:

Working hours of parents – mothers & fathers, in dual earner, lone parents Anti-social working patterns (night work, shifts, weekend) Working away from home (transnational, intermittent absences) Patterns across the world: Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, China (using available data-EU 27, OECD, ILO). Over-work, over-load, spillover; "work-rich/ time poor"; impact on children, quality of family life and parents' health & wellbeing. Life course transition points.



# Work-Family policies and programmes for families

- Show-casing selection of policies and programmes
- E.g. Family Leave maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, leave to care for children who are ill. Time off to care for dependents. Statutory provision.
- Flexible working provisions (flexi-time, part-time, annualised hours etc) Time credits.
- Cash for care transfers/ informal care (grandparents)
- Early childhood education and care
- Breakfast and after school provision

