Commission for Social Development
Sixty-first session
5–14 February 2024
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
Priority Theme: “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”

Statement submitted by Green Mentoring and Solutions Private Limited, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.
Statement

This session is of particular significance as it coincides with the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

It is a momentous occasion that provides an opportunity to reflect upon the role of family values and their potential to accelerate India’s journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The theme of this session, “Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to Accelerate Progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to Achieve the Overarching Goal of Poverty Eradication,” underscores the critical role that social development and justice play in our pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable world.

It is a theme that resonates deeply with Green Mentors and our commitment to the principles of sustainable and green education.

Family Values as a Catalyst for Social Development

In the quest for achieving the SDGs and eradicating poverty, we often seek complex and multi-faceted solutions.

However, amid this complexity, we must recognize the fundamental role of family values in fostering social development and justice.

Families are the cornerstone of society and the primary source of our values, beliefs, and social behaviors.

It is within the family unit that individuals learn empathy, cooperation, and the importance of community. It is here that the values of compassion, responsibility, and inclusivity are instilled in the hearts and minds of future generations.

Family values are not limited to a particular region or culture; they transcend borders and are universally relevant.

These values, which include respect, love, care, and a sense of belonging, are at the core of every society. Recognizing and harnessing the power of these values is crucial to accelerating our journey towards the SDGs.

In India, the significance of family values is deeply ingrained in our culture. The joint family system, where multiple generations live under one roof, reflects our commitment to collective well-being.

It is this foundation of familial togetherness that can be a catalyst for social development and justice.

By strengthening family values and ensuring that they align with the principles of sustainable development, we can empower individuals to take active roles in social change.

Family Values as an Enabler of Education and Sustainable Development

One of the critical areas where family values can significantly impact our progress toward the SDGs is education.

Education is the cornerstone of human development, and its role in achieving the 2030 Agenda cannot be overstated.

It is within the family that children are first introduced to the concept of learning, and the values instilled in them at home greatly influence their educational journey.
Family values such as curiosity, resilience, and the pursuit of knowledge are vital in creating a learning culture. Families prioritizing education create an environment where children are motivated to excel in their studies.

These values, when translated into action, can accelerate academic achievement, and contribute to the development of responsible and informed citizens.

Furthermore, the family’s role in education extends beyond the home. Families are essential partners in the school community, and their involvement is critical for students’ success.

When families engage with schools and support their children’s educational endeavours, it enhances the overall quality of education. This engagement is closely linked to the sense of responsibility and commitment that family values instill.

In the context of sustainable development, family values can also shape children’s perspectives on environmental conservation and social responsibility.

Families that emphasize values like resourcefulness and respect for the environment contribute to developing a sustainable mindset. As future leaders, the children of today’s families will carry these values into their decision-making processes, leading to a more sustainable and equitable society.

Promoting Family Values for Sustainable and Inclusive Social Policies

As we reflect on the theme of this session, it is clear that fostering social development and social justice requires a holistic approach.

We must consider the role of family values in shaping individuals’ attitudes and behaviors toward social issues.

To accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must integrate family values into the development and execution of social policies.

1. **Education**: Governments and educational institutions can promote family values through curriculum and extracurricular activities that instill social responsibility, environmental consciousness, and empathy. By including modules that celebrate the diversity of family structures and values, we can promote inclusivity and respect for all family types.

2. **Community Engagement**: Encouraging family participation in community activities and volunteering can foster a sense of social responsibility. Initiatives that involve families in social and environmental projects can be a powerful means of creating change at the grassroots level.

3. **Parental Support**: Developing programs that empower parents with the knowledge and skills to support their children’s education is vital. Engaged parents are likelier to encourage their children’s academic success and instill values that align with sustainable development.

4. **Research and Advocacy**: Research on the impact of family values on education, social development, and environmental consciousness can provide valuable insights for policymaking. Advocacy efforts can then be tailored to highlight the benefits of family-centric social policies.

5. **Cultural Sensitivity**: It is essential to recognize and respect the diversity of family values across cultures. Policies should be culturally sensitive, ensuring they align with and celebrate various family dynamics and traditions.
Leveraging the Power of the International Year of the Family

The 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family provides a unique opportunity to harness the power of this celebration in promoting family values as a driving force for social development and justice. The activities and events planned for this year’s anniversary can serve as platforms to highlight the critical role of families in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

1. **Education and Awareness**: Use the International Year of the Family to raise awareness about the importance of family values in sustainable development. Educational campaigns, workshops, and seminars can engage communities in meaningful discussions and activities.

2. **Policy Formulation**: Collaborate with governments and organizations to develop policies that support and strengthen family values. Highlight successful initiatives worldwide that have effectively integrated family-centric approaches into their social policies.

3. **Showcasing Best Practices**: Recognize and showcase best practices that exemplify the positive impact of family values on social development. Share success stories and case studies to inspire others.

4. **Global Partnerships**: Collaborate with international organizations, including UNESCO and the United Nations, to create a global framework for promoting family values in the context of sustainable development.

Celebrating the International Year of the Family represents a unique opportunity to rekindle our commitment to family values and their potential to accelerate progress toward the SDGs.

The role of families in fostering social development and justice cannot be understated, and by recognizing and promoting family values, we can pave the way for a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive future.

Green Mentors is committed to this cause, and we look forward to collaborating with governments, organizations, and individuals who share our vision of harnessing the power of family values for a better world. Together, we can create a legacy of social development and justice that will benefit future generations.

Thank you for your attention.