

**Oral Statement**  
**Annual Session –UNICEF Executive Board 2024**  
**Agenda item 3**

Madam President,

The International Federation for Family Development operates in 68 countries and focuses on skill-building programs for parents, as the first layer of protection of children.

I take this opportunity to commend the UNICEF Annual Report of 2023, the Report on the midterm review of the UNICEF Strategic Plan (2022–2025), and particularly the UNICEF Vision for Early Childhood Development (ECD).

Following-up on the aforementioned documents and despite ongoing crises and conflicts, we stand with UNICEF in its commitment to improving children's lives and celebrate achievements in collaboration with the Civil Society, for instance,

- UNICEF's Strategic Plan and midterm review highlight of the importance of integrating multi-sectoral expertise to improve community-based interventions, family-friendly policies, parenting support, and care agenda.
- The Fund has expanded its initiatives on building parental capacities, now reaching 11.8 million parents and benefiting 34.7 million children.
- Through the Five Million Futures framework, UNICEF supports over 50 countries in enhancing early learning, parenting support, and primary education transitions.
- Additionally, 37 countries have adopted family-friendly workplace policies, impacting over 5,000 businesses, thanks to the Global Innovation Board.
- Lastly, UNICEF's Vision for ECD now explicitly includes Early Childhood Development as a key outcome, with a strong emphasis on parenting.

These positive results align with my Federation's best efforts in preparing the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. As part of the Anniversary on May 15 2024, we presented the Civil Society Declaration to develop social policies from a family-oriented perspective. Since 2019, it has been signed by 38 Civil Society Organizations present in 132 countries, it has involved 28 awareness-raising events, expert group meetings, focus groups, and the input of 53 experts, including UNICEF technical experts in New York, Florence and various regional offices.

With our focus on family-friendly policies and parenting support, we are committed to work together with UNICEF to accelerate progress in implementing these goals. In this regard we seek clarification on,

- what are the plans to enhance the visibility of ECD and Parenting in the global agenda?,
- If there are other acceleration plans to complement parenting support,
- and how financial and human resources will be secured to keep ECD a top priority in the years ahead?

Our Federation reaffirms its support to UNICEF in achieving its goals for the well-being of children globally.

Thank you Madame President.