

# Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development

Richard G. Wilkins, JD  
Executive Director  
[rwilkins@qf.org.qa](mailto:rwilkins@qf.org.qa)  
+974 5554 2939

The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD) is an interdisciplinary research, policy and community outreach organization established to strengthen the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society. DIIFSD accomplishes this mission through the mutually supportive efforts of three operating divisions:

- Family Policy Division
- Family Research Division
- Implementation and Social Outreach Division

## Vision

DIIFSD sees the family - the “natural and fundamental group unit of society” (UDHR, Art 16(3)) - as providing a stable foundation for personal well-being, social development, and a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations

## Mission

To strengthen the family through a new family diplomacy developed with the assistance of an international network of scholars, policy makers, organizations and citizens who promote family-supportive scholarship, policies and programs consistent with the Doha Declaration

# The Doha Declaration

- The Declaration reaffirms Article 16 (3) of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, which states "that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to the widest possible protection and assistance by society and the State"
- In addition, the Declaration calls for action - consistent with the objectives of the International Year of the Family - to strengthen and promote respect for cultural, religious and social values; human dignity; marriage and the rights of parents and children

# DIIFSD Strategic Objectives

- Implementation and Social Outreach Division

Strengthen and promote international evidence-based family diplomacy by implementing a high quality training program for NGOs on evidence-based advocacy which urges effective implementation of the International Community's commitments to the family, including the norms and Calls for Action set out in the Doha Declaration

## DIIFSD Strategic Objectives (Continued)

- Family Research Division

Strengthen and promote international evidence-based family diplomacy by disseminating high quality research on the family and family life, including the need for effective implementation of the International Community's commitments to the family, including the norms and Calls for Action set out in the Doha Declaration

## DIIFSD Strategic Objectives (Continued)

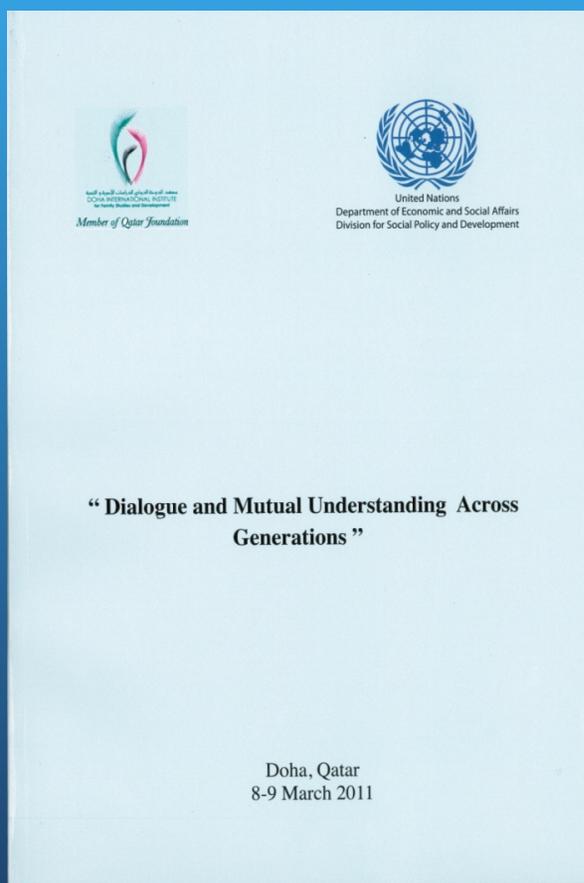
- Family Policy Division

Strengthen and promote international evidence-based family diplomacy by engaging in educational and advocacy efforts within the UN System which urge effective implementation of the International Community's commitments to the family, including the norms and Calls for Action set out in the Doha Declaration

## IYF Activities 2012-14

- DIIFSD's Board of Governors has charged the Institute to work with UNDESA, other partners and NGOs to organize a series of regional expert group meetings during the last half of 2012, in 2013 and in 2014 to examine the themes selected in UN Secretary General reports related to the objectives of the IYF
- DIIFSD's Board of Governors has also recommended that the Institute assist its partners to organize a final event that will examine the outcomes of the regional expert group meetings, which could including finalizing a report for submission to the General Assembly through the CSD and ECOSOC

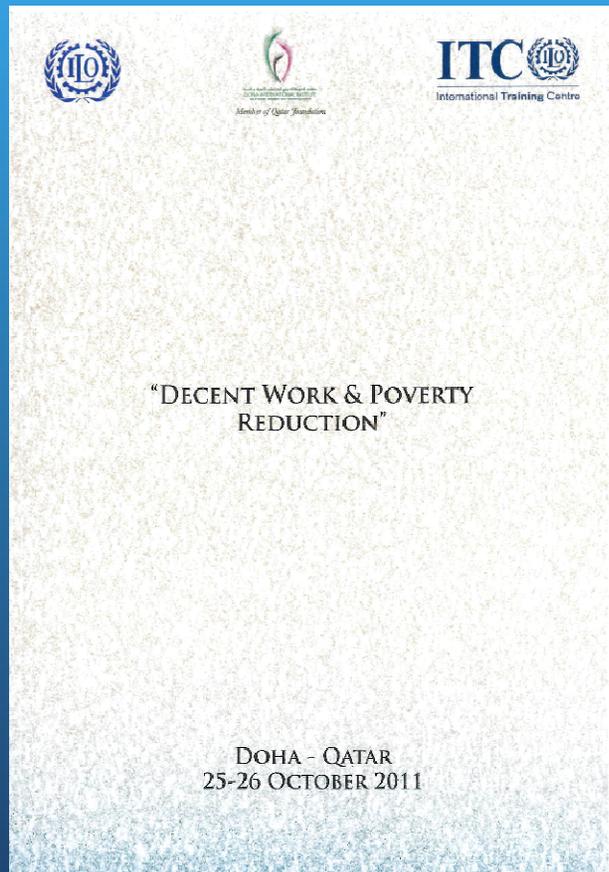
# Family Policy Division Partnership Contributions 2011



Expert group meeting on “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding across Generations,” 8-9 March 2011, Doha

- Convened in observance of the International Year of Youth 2010-2011 and as part of the preparations for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) 2014
- The report was published in June and provided to UNDESA for dissemination in the consultations on the UN Conference on Youth held in July 2011
- Recommendations from the EGM address such topics as youth participation, research, education, fostering positive intergenerational exchanges and strengthening of national, regional and international institutions

# Family Policy Division Partnership Contributions 2011



Forum on “Decent Work and Poverty Reduction,” 25-26 October 2011, Doha

- Expert Group Meeting convened in collaboration with International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International training center of ILO (ITC/ILO)
- The Forum explored how a “decent work approach” can contribute to the enhancement of the broader international development agenda reflected in the Millennium Development Goals
- The EGM recommendations examined progress in the Arab region, the urgent need to create decent jobs for all (including youth), the necessity of expanding social protection to workers in the “informal economy,” the promotion of decent work for women, and the development of effective work and family life policies

Thank you

