Technological Change and the Family in the Arab Region
Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for
The 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family
LAS, Cairo, 2-5 June 2022

Recommendations

1. Recognize the family as the agent of sustainable development and prioritize the social development through effective family-oriented policies at the national levels.

2. Expand families' access to information technology and develop family capabilities in this regard.

3. Develop parenting education programmes to protect families, especially children and adolescents, from violence and cyberbullying, and develop related manuals

4. Consider the spatial and organizational capabilities of the house and its traditional functions to accommodate the experience of working and teaching during crises.

5. Invest in assistive technologies to provide better care for older persons and inclusion for persons with disabilities and all vulnerable members of the family.

6. Create and develop evidence-based parenting programs, and invest in the inter-relation between digital addiction and family environment and developing theory-informed and evidence-based solutions

7. Raise awareness of the digital addiction dangers and how parents can deal with it.

8. Develop monitoring and following-up mechanisms with regard to the family, fertility data and population dynamics.

9. Establish an observatory of family policies by the Doha International Family Institute in cooperation with the League of Arab States.

10. Continue cooperation between the Doha International Family Institute and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other partners in the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, including regional research in cooperation with the League of Arab States.

11. Conduct studies on the impact of Covid-19 on fertility-behavioral trends.

12. Encourage sharing of good practices and research on IYF+30 mega trends.

13. Invest in impact assessment research to evaluate family policies.

14. Evolve digital literacy and digital parenting programs to respond to technology advances and new usage patterns

15. With reference to the civil society declaration, the below recommendations were noted:

    15.1. Address the intergenerational digital gap among all family members in order to design and implement policies and programs to strengthen intergenerational solidarity, recognize interdependence, ensure equal educational access, build mentorship schemes among generations and promote positive interactions and intra-family relations.

    15.2. Promote the use of new technologies in flexible work arrangements such as teleworking, through the provision of public and private services, infrastructure and social protection policies to enable families fulfill their care responsibilities.

    15.3. Ensure accessible technology to all family members, considering it as an investment to develop educational programmes, new services, new jobs, new forms of cooperation while working towards a universal access to proper underlying infrastructure, devices, skills and protection.

    15.4. Encourage open communication between parents and children, as well as resilience and awareness about online risks while assisting parents to be informed of platforms and media choices their children interact with.