



2014 - TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Statement to the closure meeting of the Catalan Platform for family activities in
Observance of the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning to All of You,

It is both an honour and a pleasure to address you all at the closure meeting of the Catalan Platform for the family events in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the support you have given to the fulfilment of the objectives of the anniversary.

My gratitude goes to the organizers and to participants of family-oriented events you have held over the past few years.

I would like to extend my thanks especially to the president of the Catalan Platform for the Family ONU 2014, Mr. Daniel Arasa as well as the Vice-President of the Catalan Platform and the Director of the ICWF-IESE Business School professor Nuria Chinchilla, and the other two Vice-Presidents: Cecilia Bosch and Rosa Lunas, for the myriad of initiatives relating to the themes of the International Year of the Family + 20.

I am sure we can all agree that the economic situation and stability of families as well as the quality of care they provide for children is vital for the well-being of future generation. The very quality of family life in itself contributes to future responsible and just society.

In turn, the quality of family life depends on the quality of family-friendly policies enacted at national and local levels. Such policies are especially important in the areas of family poverty reduction, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity.

At the international level, we have recently focused on these themes in order to showcase the importance of family-oriented policies in these areas and their vital importance for family wellbeing.

As you know we are coming to an end of the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family we have been observing this year.

Civil society took the lead in the preparations and observance of the anniversary. Thanks to such support we were able to spread the word about the importance of family-oriented policies for the benefit of families and society at large and showcase the policies that work.

Importantly, the anniversary comes on the eve of the final year of the Millennium Development Agenda. The new and comprehensive development agenda is being discussed and elaborated now and will be finalized next year. Many of the issues in the new agenda are cross-cutting and relate to the role of families in development.

Since families often find it difficult to cope with new challenges brought about by new trends and demands of modern life, these new challenges require new approaches and solutions in support of families so that they can fully contribute to the economic and emotional wellbeing of their members.

It is my sincere hope that your work in the Catalan Platform will contribute to increased well-being of families in your region and also a greater recognition of the role of families in development in general.

I look forward to the conclusions and recommendations from this final meeting.

Thank you for you your attention.