

DELEGACION DEL PARTIDO POPULAR
EN EL GRUPO DEL PPE

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FECHA: 28 de enero de 1993

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ENVIADO POR: Blanca Flores

Nº DE PAGINAS INCLUYENDO LA PORTADA: 21

OBSERVACIONES:

Misión Permanente de España.
Gontaga Gasse n: 15 - 2º
1010 Viena

Ha recibido el fax y
ha preparado una contesta-
ción por correo. Le
pide q se ponga en
contacto con el Sr. Petit
para que a su vez se ponga
en contacto con D. Fernando
y saber fechas concretas.

YA

Marcelino Creja Aguirre

Querido Fernando,

Mi buen amigo Luis Alberto Petit, en nombre de la Fundación Pro
Derechos de la Familia (PRODEFA)
va a asistir a las reuniones de la
Comisión de Desarrollo Local por
la Uleha en Viena, entre los días 8 y
13 de Febrero.

Es una excelente persona
con quien me me víeje amistad
y te aconsejo mucho si pudieras
atenderle durante su estancia en
Viena. Te adjunto el texto
por van a presentar ante la
Familia.

Un fuerte abrazo de
tu buen amigo

Marcelino



COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY

UNITED NATIONS - VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY - 1994



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON THE FAMILY

This outline is presented to all interested non-governmental organizations, governments and UN bodies as an instrument to facilitate further consideration of a possible declaration on the rights and responsibilities of families.

Board members	Mr. D. Callagy, ICCB (Chairperson)	Mrs. Ch. Quijano-Caballero, WLRA
	Mr. H. Schattovits, IJFO (Secretariat)	Mrs. H. Rosenmayr, WUCWO
	Mrs. I. Spritzendorfer, IFBPW (Treasurer)	Mrs. D. Schonegger, IRTAC
	Mrs. E. Baum-Breuer, IFSW	Mrs. M. Tupay, IFHE
	Mr. P. Crowley, ICAA	Mrs. P. Venkataraman, All India Womens. Conf.
	Mrs. Ch. Kasmayer, IEF	Mrs. M. Vyslouzil, IFSW
	Mrs. Ch. Leopold, Int'l. Koiping Society	Mrs. A. Weigl, ACWW
	Mrs. S. Puri, IPPF	

FOREWORD

In 1985 the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Family based at the UN in Vienna created Working Group 2: "Family Charter/Family Rights" , with the specific purpose of studying a possible declaration on the family.

This group, encouraged by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution to proclaim 1994 as the International Year of the Family, has prepared the following document entitled "Guiding Principles on the Family" (GPF).

Prior to the discussions, a survey was made of 58 United Nations documents on 26 topics, called "The Family and Human Rights". Hence, many paragraphs in the GPF recall the basic principles of the United Nations and specific provisions of certain relevant human rights treaties and covenants.

In an effort to avoid further duplications, the "Guiding Principles on the Family" does not quote the elements and sections on families as stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1990) and the Geneva Convention on Refugees (1951). The "Guiding Principles on the Family" acknowledges these documents as accepted and as already covering those elements not dealt with in the GPF.

The GPF also includes part of a previous paper discussed by the Group: "Basic Tenets for Strengthening the Family", which was adopted unanimously by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family.

In the GPF no definition of the family is given because of the great variety of types, cultures and customs existing in families throughout the world and because it is felt that, starting from this document, the different ethnic and cultural groups will develop their own image of the family prevailing in their particular society and culture.

The "Guiding Principles on the Family" drafted by NGOs reflects their ideas about the functions, responsibilities and rights of the family. Such a document might serve as the basis for a declaration to be adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations as one of the objectives of the International Year of the Family 1994.

This document was prepared by Working Group 2 and discussed in various Full Committee Meetings (in particular on June 3rd and November 18th, 1991). It was then reformulated by Working Group 2 in several meetings, the last one concerning the articles in Brussels on July 4th and 5th, 1992. The resulting draft text was then presented to the Board of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family. At its meeting on December 16th, 1992 the Board discussed the draft text, supplemented it with some amendments and decided to approve and issue the "Guiding Principles on the Family".

Several NGOs and individual persons contributed to the document.

The permanent members of Working Group 2 were:

Lily BOEYKENS, ICW

Geneviève GRANGY, A.I.C.

Canon Joseph MOERMAN, ICCB

Elena MORAIS-NEVES, PRODEFA

Sunetra PURI, IPPF

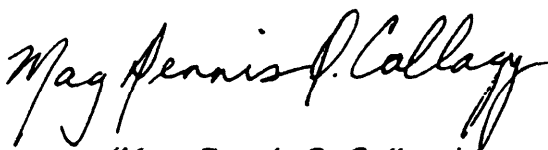
Rosina SANTA OLALLA, PRODEFA

Helmuth SCHATTOVITS, IUFO, Chairperson

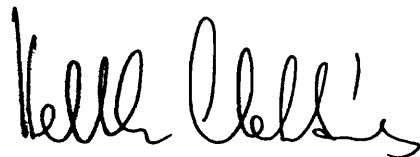
Andrée THOMANEK, A.I.C.

Rosy WEISS, IAW

The Board of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family recognizes the "Guiding Principles on the Family" as a working paper and offers it in the hope that it may serve as a useful tool especially for Member States in the elaboration of a possible United Nations declaration on family rights and responsibilities, in particular on the occasion of the International Year of the Family (IYF), 1994.



*(Mag. Dennis O. Callagy)
Chairman of the Vienna
NGO Committee on the Family*



*(Dr. Helmuth Schattovits)
Chairman of Working Group 2*

Vienna, January 1993

PREAMBLE

Society is formed by a plurality of entwined groups and entities and a multitude of individual persons, with their own specific objectives and purposes. Among these groups, families are the basic social unit and are acknowledged to be among their society's fundamental and most important characteristics.

For, in all countries, at all times and in all civilizations, the family, regardless of its form and organization, is recognized as a social reality and as an essential element for development.

The term "family" covers a wide range of structures, types, values and functions. These differ within countries and from region to region. In every society the family is continuously evolving and changes occur as its members pass through the different stages of their life cycle.

The family aims to provide a source of mutual love, respect, solidarity and affection and to act as a support system for the individual rights of its members. Families are the setting where values are transmitted from one generation to another.

Families also play a fundamental role as intermediate bodies between the individual and the state and other social agents.

The family is a powerful agent for social, political, economic and cultural change and a potential vehicle for development. However, the family can also be influenced by the nature and pace of change, which often exerts pressure on families. Such forces can make the family extremely vulnerable and in need of support from other institutions.

Therefore, the family should be granted protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities as the basic unit of society, the natural environment for its members, particularly children and youth, and in many cases, as the only support system for the ageing and the disabled.

For this purpose, policies and appropriate legislation for the promotion and strengthening of families should be a priority concern of national governments and intergovernmental organizations.

The role and contribution of the concerned non-governmental organizations in strengthening the family should also be stressed at all levels.

The proclamation of the International Year of the Family 1994 is a consequence of the particular appreciation for the family shown by the United Nations and a proof of its intention to give stronger support to families as the basis of society.

In fact, over the years various United Nations policies and strategies have been formulated which support and strengthen the family unit. One of the earliest statements about families is contained in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which states that "the family is the fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State".

Many other international legal documents repeatedly declare that the family is the basic unit of society and that, as such, it should be protected and assisted by society and the State.

It might therefore be desirable to embody all these references to the family in a coherent and detailed declaration on the functions, responsibilities and rights of the family, as one of the objectives of the International Year of the Family 1994, on the understanding that rights already established by the United Nations should in no way be restricted in such a declaration.

Family formation

Article 1

1. The best conditions should be promoted for family formation and family life.
2. The free and full consent of the partners should be secured when entering a union as a basis of a family. A minimum age for entering such a union should be fixed by law.

Respect for all types of families

Article 2

Regional, national and cultural differences in all types of families should be respected and discrimination among them avoided. This respect and non-discrimination should aim at the dignity of the family, the protection of family life and the full development of individual family members.

Article 3

Respect should be shown for the religious, philosophical and ethical values or political opinions of each family member and for his or her freedom to manifest, as a family or in community with others, their culture and religion.

Autonomy and support of family functions

Article 4

All families have the right and the responsibility to freely organize their internal functioning, taking into account the best interest of each of their members.

Article 5

1. Legislation which has a direct bearing on the welfare of families and their members should be flexible and periodically reviewed and adapted to the changing social, cultural and economic conditions, in particular with a view to the concept of equality between women and men.
2. Social welfare programmes and activities should be designed to strengthen and revitalize families in their functions.
3. All policies, at national and international levels, in developing as well as in industrialized countries, should take into account their impact on families.

Family needs

Article 6

It should be recognized that families need an adequate standard of living to meet their basic human needs and for the physical, mental, spiritual, ethical, cultural and social development of their members and as a family.

Article 7

The special needs of disadvantaged families should be addressed and help given to them to overcome their adversity. The following should receive special economic and social protection:

- Disadvantaged families in rural and poor urban areas;
- Families confronted with special problems - e.g. disabled members, inability to obtain gainful employment, low income, dependent ageing members, large families and single parent families;
- Young people taking up family responsibilities;
- Families affected by war and environmental disasters, and for political and economic reasons.

Parenthood

Article 8

1. Parents have the basic right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children as well as to have access to the knowledge and means necessary to enable them to exercise this right.
2. Family-planning programmes should direct information and services towards men and women alike, to ensure responsible parenthood, mutual respect, understanding and co-operation.
3. Reproductive, pre- and post-natal care should be strengthened within social and health systems.

Article 9

1. Parental leave regulations should address both mothers and fathers, since recent research discloses the important role fathers are playing in the socialization of their children. Therefore, special efforts should be made to enhance the role of fathers, thus ensuring at the same time equality between both parents.
2. Appropriate maternity leave, social and financial support should be made available to all mothers, employed or not.
3. Adequate child-care facilities should be provided in the interest of family life.

The child

Article 10

1. All children shall enjoy the same social protection and rights and be given equal opportunities to develop their full potential.
2. All children should have fair chances to grow up in a family environment. In case they are deprived of their family environment, they shall be entitled to special protection and assistance.

3. Whenever a legal guardian or tutor needs to be established for a family member, legal authorities should consider the eligibility of another member of the same family as a matter of priority.

Responsibilities of parents

Article 11

1. Parents share the primary responsibility for bringing up their children and providing them with an adequate standard of living.
2. The right and responsibility of parents to provide guidance appropriate to the child's evolving capacities should be respected, without infringing on the child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and expression.

Education

Article 12

1. The family shall respect and foster the right of each of its members, especially girls and women, to receive formal education and continuous education. This education shall be free and compulsory at least in the elementary and fundamental stages.
2. Young people of both sexes should receive special preparation for responsible family and sexual life and parenthood as well as adequate education for managing the resources necessary for everyday life.
3. Parents have the responsibility to continuously educate and improve themselves and to instill in their children the values of mutual respect and understanding and a sense of responsibility for the environment and sustainable development. In this they should be supported by the educational system, the media and other networks.

Intra-family relations and roles

Article 13

1. To be a member of a family implies communication and solidarity with other family members and mutual responsibility. Within the family unit, joint decision-making should be encouraged. The more-able members should endeavour to support the less-able ones, when these are impaired by age, infirmity or other forms of hardship.
2. Full development of each individual family member is necessary for the exercise of his/her rights and responsibilities within and outside the family, as well as for the family's welfare.
3. Major attention should be given to equal rights and equal responsibilities for men and women within the family, including equitable sharing of roles and tasks in the household.

Harmonizing family life and work

Article 14

1. The family members and the family as a group are entitled to free time, rest and family life.
2. Policies and programmes should be developed to enable family members to harmonize activities of professional life with family life.
3. Unpaid work inside and outside the family - e.g. household activities, food production at the family level, social and voluntary work - have generally been perceived as having low economic and social prestige. All societies should place a higher value on these activities by including them in the GNP (gross national product), in official statistical data and by providing certain corresponding forms of social security.

Violence and neglect

Article 15

1. All efforts should be made to prevent violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation within the family and to raise public awareness of such hidden crimes. Legislation and other measures should be enacted and implemented in order to eradicate this violence and protect the victims.
2. The full physical and mental integrity of young girls and boys is a prerequisite to enable them to develop into mature and responsible adults. Therefore, all kinds of mutilations should be forbidden.
3. Measures should be provided by public authorities to eliminate social conditions leading to drug and alcohol addiction and to all forms of violence, such as vandalism, delinquency, aggression and crime. Help and rehabilitation should be made available to families confronted with such problems.

Family counselling

Article 16

1. All efforts should be made to establish a well organized network of family counselling services, inter alia to provide educational, psychological and social assistance.
2. Adequate training is essential for those who may become responsible for family counselling.
3. Even though the courts of justice should be the ultimate recourse for legal aid, it is indispensable that the magistrates of these courts are also adequately trained.

Consumer protection

Article 17

All legal measures or policies should be adopted to protect the family against unsafe and unhealthy goods, mislabelling and unethical and exploitative marketing practices.

Tax liability

Article 18

Any tax system should encourage family solidarity and help to ensure the family's minimum standard of living.

Association and participation

Article 19

The Declaration of Human Rights entitles individuals to create associations. Hence, families are entitled to establish associations and enjoy freedom of public and private assembly.

Mass communications media

Article 20

Given the great potential of the mass-media as a vehicle for social change, every effort should be made to have the media exercise a positive, educative and respectful attitude regarding the family and family life.

Peace and security

Article 21

1. Peace and security are a prerequisite for a healthy environment, sustainable development and for social and economic progress for the benefit of all and particularly the family.
2. To this end, resources should be progressively channelled from military to social programmes.
3. All feasible measures shall be taken to ensure that persons below the age of 18 do not take a direct part in armed conflicts.

ANNEX

SOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly Resolution 217 A <III>)
- Declaration of the Rights of the Child (General Assembly Resolution 1386 <XVI>)
- Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly Resolution 2200 A<XXI>)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly Resolution 2200 A<XXI>)
- Optional Protocols on the International Covenants
- Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly Resolution 2263 A<XXII>)
- Proclamation of Teheran on Human Rights (General Assembly Resolution 2081 A<XX>)
- Declaration of Social Progress and Development (General Assembly Resolution 2542 A<XXIV>)
- Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, Bucarest (E/Conf. 60/19)
- Report on the International Conference on Population, Mexico City 1984 (A/Conf.76/19)
- The Proclamation of the International Year of the Child (General Assembly Resolution 31/169)
- Strengthening Developmental Social Welfare and Programmes (ECOSOC 1979/18-1981/20)
- Welfare of Migrant Workers and their Families (ECOSOC, 1979/12)
- The Proclamation of the International Youth Year (General Assembly Resolution 34/151)
- Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging (World Assembly on Aging Vienna 1981/ECOSOC)
- The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (General Assembly Resolution 37/52)
- Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition (General Assembly Resolution 3348)
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly Resolution 34/180)
- The Nairobi Forward Looking strategies for the Advancement of Women (General Assembly Resolution 40/108)
- The Role of the Family in the Development Process (1983/23, 14th Plenary Session)
- Domestic Violence (4036), General Assembly)
- World Social Situation including the elimination of all major social obstacles (1989 Report on the World Situation, Commission for Social Development, Vienna-E/CN.5/1989/2)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (Resolution 44/25 of 5th December 1989 General Assembly)

B -

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-third session
Vienna, 8-17 February 1993
item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Statement submitted by the Foundation for the Rights of the Family
-PRODEFA- a non-governmental organization in consultative status with
the Economic and Social Council, Category II

Sub-item International Year of the Family

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) paragraph 29 and 30.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family with a view to enhancing awareness of family issues and to improving national institutional capacity to carry out comprehensive programmes concerning families by generating new activities and strengthening existing ones.

This statement offers some suggestions about new possibilities or alternatives of action on behalf of the family during the IYF.

It seems obvious that the State alone cannot achieve the much needed social changes. In this it must be helped by pluralistic institutions capable of effectively developing specific functions.

Among such social groups, the family, closer to the problems affecting its members, can better assume full responsibility to solve them solidarily, while global support from the State is confined to the mere redistribution of income collected from citizens.

The family, as a social group, can be a fundamental support system for the ageing and the disabled and in the prevention and rehabilitation of drug and alcohol addiction and juvenile delinquency.

The family can be considered:

- a refuge against distress and solitude; we all need companionship, desinterested help and privacy;
- an antidote against mass pressure and constraint. Home is where you drop your social mask and where the daily work tension is dispelled. Within the family you get back a name, a face and sentiments.
- a remedy against economic stress. In the family there is no hunger for some against satiety for others.

The family is continuously evolving, and at the present time its evolution is the greatest ever experienced. Families are progressively adapting themselves to such radical changes and to the new socio-cultural trends of this era of interpenetration which is confusing other groups and institutions still strongly influenced by secular traditions.

Families, regardless of their race, culture and beliefs, have some common elements such as kinship, care and nurturing of children, - including education - and mutually supportive relationship between its members.

Such common elements involve certain basic principles or rights:

1. Privacy and dignity (which are not only individual rights); the formation of a family and the fulfilment of its objectives; the respect for the image of the family in the mass-media.
2. Independence and autonomy; the organization of the family unit, the decisions regarding the number and spacing of children, their education and support during the years of growth; the transmission of certain cultural and moral values; the respect for the family's ethical and moral convictions; the possibility to harmonize family life and work; equality of sexes.
3. The social protection of families: work, the necessary resources to meet their basic human needs; housing and sanitary services; the access to culture; the protection of migrant families in search of better living conditions; the right to form associations and to take part in the preparation of family-related national policies and programmes; the access to financial help for those assuming family responsibilities; the elimination of architectural barriers for the disabled; the recognition of the work at home; a gradual retirement.

These principles affect the family as a social group and the rights of individuals as members of a family, rights already established by the United Nations in various declarations, covenants and conventions (reviewed for the first time in a document prepared by PRODEFA).

Other issues in the field of social policy are open to sectorial approaches; the family, however, requires a global treatment.

The perception of the family as a global unit and as an essential part of the social fabric should lead to the conclusion that a specific declaration enhancing the basic role of families would fill the now existing void and would make families themselves aware of their social responsibility.

The recognition of the rights outlined in the document "GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON THE FAMILY" that has been presented to you by the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, should not make families dependent; neither should they restrict but rather complement such rights of their members as have already been established by the United Nations.

Some Governments both in this Commission and in the General Assembly have on previous occasion suggested the desirability of a declaration on the family, which would specify why the family, as "the natural and fundamental group unit of society", according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is "entitled to protection by society and the State".

In our opinion, this should be one of the main objectives of the IYF.

Such a declaration is intended to have the following effects:

- that each human being born into this world will have the advantage of being nurtured, loved and cared for within the circle of a family;
- that each person will know the importance of the family as an essential part of the social fabric and for the harmonious functioning of the social order;
- that each society will prize and value the family within its own culture and legal system;
- that all organizations will realize the importance of preserving family identity and rights in the circle of their activities.

**FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY
PRODEFA INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE**

R E P O R T

BACKGROUND

The **FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY - PRODEFA** - was founded on the 22 December 1981, as a private cultural foundation, and registered as such by the Ministry of Culture, Spain, on June 1982.

PRODEFA has an international Agency: the **INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE**, with 21 members dispersed across Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Europe. These are certified members of the Board of **PRODEFA**.

PRODEFA-INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE, as a Non-Governmental Organization, was granted **Consultative Status** with the United Nations Economic and Social Council on May 1987.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF PRODEFA-INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE

PRODEFA-INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE is involved in efforts to enhance the vital role of the family in society. To this end, the organization:

Promotes study and research groups on the family as the basic unit of society

Organizes conferences and meetings on family issues and publishes the proceedings thereof

Promotes the development of family values from social, educational, ethical, legal, religious and political standpoints

At the present time **PRODEFA** is mainly engaged in promoting a **declaration on the family** - spelling out functions, rights and responsibilities - as one of the main objectives of the International Year of the Family 1994.

ACTIVITY OF PRODEFA-INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE

1. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

"International Congress on the Family"

Madrid, March 1982

"Sociological and Legal Aspects of the Family in the World today"

Madrid, November 1985.

A meeting of jurists, sociologists and experts on family issues

"Technical and legal aspects of a Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Family"

Lisbon, May 1988.

In collaboration with the Directorate on the Family of Portugal and with the participation of jurists and experts from Austria, France, Portugal, Spain, and representatives from the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

"Basic Principles on the Family: a pluricultural approach"

Madrid, September 1991

With the participation of members from various ethnic and cultural groups (countries represented: United States, Mexico, Peru, USSR, India, Japan, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Senegal, Austria, Finland, France, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Yugoslavia). Mr. Henryk Sokalski, Co-ordinator for the International Year of the Family, and Mr. Helmut Schattovits, Secretary General of the NGO Committee on the Family, attended the meeting.

2. PUBLICATIONS AND STUDIES

"Report of the International Congress on the Family", Madrid 1982. English, French, Spanish

"Sociological and Legal Aspects of the Family in the World today", Madrid November 1985. English, Spanish

"Juridical Aspects involved in a Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Family", Lisbon 1988. Portuguese and English

"The Family and Human Rights". A review of United Nations documents compiled from 58 United Nations Conventions, Covenants, Declarations, reports and statements on 26 social topics. 212 pages. English.

In preparation: **"Basic Principles on the Family: a pluricultural approach"**, IV International meeting, Madrid September 1991. English and Spanish

3. MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATE

The Secretariate has held meetings in Madrid (1982 and 1991), Milano (1982), Zagreb (1984), Lisbon (1986) and Vienna (1983, 1985, 1987 and 1989).

4. PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Strasbourg, November 1987 - Conference on "A European Charter of the Family", organized by the Council of Europe and IUFO

Paris, December 1987 - Conference on "Families and Cultures", organized by UNESCO-IUFO

Malta, November 1989 - Conference on "Integrating Family Policies for the 90's", organized by the Government of Malta in collaboration with the United Nations and the Council of Europe. During the closing session of this Conference, PRODEFA was invited to address the audience on "A Declaration of the Rights of the Family", during a panel formed by officers from the United Nations, the European Parliament, the E.E.C., the Council of Europe, UNESCO and ILO.

Nicosia, Cyprus, September 1991 - Conference organized by the International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO) on "The Social Rights of the Family".

5. COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Commission for Social Development (Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, ECOSOC), Vienna

PRODEFA, as of 1983, has attended all the meetings of the Commission in Vienna and has maintained regular contacts with the delegates of the Commission.

During the XXXI Commission in 1989, the Chairman of PRODEFA addressed the Commission on the aims and purposes of the organization. Prior to the Thirty-second Commission in 1991, PRODEFA forwarded a statement on item 4 of the Agenda : "Monitoring of International Plans and Programmes of Action", which was distributed to the delegates during the Commission.

**Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna**

PRODEFA is in contact and collaborates with Mr. Henryk Sokalski, Co-ordinator of the International Year of the Family. PRODEFA's booklet : "The Family and Human Rights" has been distributed by Mr. Sokalski's office during inter-agencies ad hoc meetings.

Contacts with New York

The Chairman of PRODEFA met the highest officers of the NGO Unit/Diesa in New York in May 1987, October 1988 and May 1990. A new visit is scheduled for 1992.

6. COMMITTEE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE FAMILY, UNITED NATIONS, Vienna

6.1. PRODEFA is a member of the NGO Committee on the Family since 1985 and attends all its meetings, seminars and conferences.

In the 1991 International Seminar : "Family: a topic for international debate & action", PRODEFA was given responsibility for one of the working groups : "Family policies and legislation".

PRODEFA is also a member of the Taskforce for the International Year of the Family, where PRODEFA suggested that a declaration on the family should be one of the objectives of the Year.

This suggestion was reflected among the views of NGOs on the Year and under "Views and proposals of Governments" in a report of the Secretary General to the Forty-third session of the General Assembly (A/43/570, September 1988, page 6 parag. 18 and page 14 parag. 7 <g>).

PRODEFA, through its permanent representative in Vienna, participates actively in this Taskforce for the preparation for and observance of the IYF at NGO level. PRODEFA is also in touch with the Spanish Government as regards the Year and has instructed its international members to contact their respective countries with the same purpose.

6.2 Working Group n° 2 "Family Charter/Family Rights"

This group was created by the NGO Committee on the Family following the information provided by PRODEFA as regards the feasibility of a declaration on the family. Together with PRODEFA, six other NGOs are members of this Working Group and some other NGOs attend the meetings as observers.

During the preliminary meetings, the Group discussed a paper on "Basic Tenets for Strengthening the Family", presented to and approved by the full Committee.

PRODEFA, in a meeting of the Group held in Brussels, offered to prepare and contribute to the Group a draft declaration, together with a Review of United Nations instruments and documents in order to ensure that no individual rights were ignored or contradicted in an eventual declaration on the family. This Review was called "The Family and Human Rights" and compiled excerpts from 58 UN documents and statements. The discussions of PRODEFA draft started in November 1989, and one year later the Group had reached a consensus on a text called "Document on the Family".

This document was forwarded to all NGOs inviting their comments. PRODEFA has made a synopsis of these suggestions and has rearranged the text with descriptive subtitles or chapters to easily identify the topic under each heading. All this will be discussed in the Groups's new meeting at the end of May 1992.

The document was also distributed to the delegates attending the February 1991 Thirty-Second Commission for Social Development in Vienna.

Also, during PRODEFA's IV International Meeting : "Basic Principles on the Family: a pluricultural approach", September 1991, this text was analysed by the members of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups attending the encounter and very important suggestions were made.

Contacts are being established at different levels of Governments and NGOs to promote the idea of a declaration on the family on the occasion of the IYF.

7. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF PRODEFA

- Publication of the proceedings of the IV International Meeting on "Basic Principles on the Family", September 1991 - In Spanish and English
- Translation into Spanish of the book "The Family and Human Rights - A review of United Nations instruments, reports and statements"

- Participation in the full meeting of the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on the Family, United Nations Viena, 1st June 1992, and presentation of the work done on the "Document on the Family"
- Participation in the 4th International Seminar of the NGO Committee on the Family : "Family & Environment", November 30th/December 1st 1992.
- Collaboration with the Portuguese Government in a meeting on "A declaration on the Rights of the Family and the International Year of the Family", scheduled to be held in Lisbon in September/October 1992
- Meeting of Foundations on the Family, in Madrid, 3rd December 1992, organized in collaboration with the Spanish Centre of Foundations.

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April 1992

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