

WUCWO



UMOFC

31st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council – 29th February to 24th March 2016
ITEM 3: General Debate following the HC/OHCHR/SG thematic reports

Joint Statement
“Protection of the Family”

Mr President,

WUCWO and the co-signing NGOs take note of the Report A/HRC/31/37 of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that reaffirms that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”¹

Several internationally agreed documents and national constitutions reaffirm the central and vital role of the family in society and acknowledge the key contribution of the family in fostering social development, its strength in assuring social cohesion and integration, and its primary responsibility for the nurturing, guidance, and protection of children.

Thus, States have the obligation to provide the widest possible support and protection for all families and allow them to fully assume their role in the community and provide a conducive environment for the growth and well-being of their members.

We call upon States to consider the fundamental role of the family in society and its contribution to development in their public policies and in their implementation of SDGs.

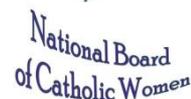
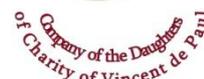
Furthermore, watching the worsening quality of life for many families worldwide, we call upon States and international organizations to:

- Protect families by designing, implementing and promoting family-sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education.
- Address the causes and mitigate the consequences of family disintegration, facilitating, as appropriate, the integration of families into society and their reunification, preservation and protection.
- Care for freedom, “freedom of conscience, religious freedom, the freedom of each person, each family, each people, which is what gives rise to rights”²

Thank you.

¹ A/HRC/29/22, 4

² Pope Francis, Philadelphia September 26, 2015



NGOs without ECOSOC consultative status that support this statement:

- Association Nationale des Femmes Catholiques du Mali
- Catholic Women's League of Tonga
- Femina Europa, France
- Fundación para los Derechos de la Mujer Latinoamericana, Venezuela
- Manos Unidas, Spain
- Misiones Rurales Argentinas
- Movimiento de Mujeres de Cuba
- Union of Catholic Mothers, United Kingdom
- Women Catholic Action of Malta