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Letter dated 8 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Writing on behalf of the 25 member States of the Group of Friends of the Family, comprising the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Union of the Comoros, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Libya, Malaysia, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Yemen and the Republic of Zimbabwe, I have the honour to convey to you the statement of the member States of the Group of Friends of the Family on the occasion of the International Day of Families (see annex), which is observed on 15 May in accordance with General Assembly resolution [47/237](#) of 1994.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 25 (b).

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**



Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Group of Friends of the Family on the International Day of Families

New York, 15 May 2023

On International Day of Families and in anticipation of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024, we, the Member States of the Group of Friends of the Family, which includes the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Union of the Comoros, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the State of Kuwait, the Kyrgyz Republic, the State of Libya, Malaysia, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of the Sudan, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Zimbabwe,

Recognize that the process of rapid demographic and socio-economic change throughout the world has negatively impacted the family life and posed serious challenges to the institution of the family;

Reiterate in this regard our determination to provide the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, with the widest possible protection and assistance;

Reaffirm our commitment to the full and accelerated implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, given its integrated, indivisible, global and universally applicable nature, and express concern over the fact that, at the international level, the contribution of the family to the achievement of development goals continues to be largely overlooked and underestimated;

In this regard, emphasize that the stability and cohesiveness of communities and societies largely rest on the strength of the family and recognize the multidimensional benefits of including family-centred policies and programmes in the national and international development agenda;

Recognize the need to promote initiatives where families can enter for training, to acquire knowledge, to create their own enterprises, their own businesses, to strengthen productive activity, without any kind of obstacles, to pool joint efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda;

Highlight the importance of the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024 and call on the United Nations to strengthen cooperation with all partners in the development and implementation of family-oriented policies and programmes, and encourage the enhancement of research efforts and awareness-raising activities relating to the objectives of the International Year and its follow-up processes;

Recognize in this regard the crucial role of partnership among all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector, and invite all interested Member States to consider joining the Group of Friends of the Family to further develop family culture by enhancing global cooperation on family issues and undertaking concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development.