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COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY



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

To: Representatives of Governments and
Intergovernmental Organizations

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Vienna, February 1993

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

We are pleased to present herewith the 1st Announcement for the

WORLD NGO FORUM 1993

LAUNCHING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY 1994

"Promoting Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies"

The World NGO Forum will take place in Malta, 28 November - 2 December 1993 on the eve of the International Year of the Family as a world-wide launching event for an effective and successful IYF 1994.

Background Information

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Family to the UN Office at Vienna was founded in 1985 and currently has over 70 international and national non-governmental organizations with humanitarian objectives as members. Through numerous family-related events and publications, the Committee has succeeded in becoming an international forum on family issues. It contributed decisively to the proclamation by the UN General Assembly of the International Year of the Family 1994 and is working to ensure an effective linkage between the international level and the grassroots realities for a successful implementation of the Year's objectives. The World NGO Forum is being organized as the major international event to launch IYF, in close cooperation with the UN-IYF Secretariat, the other NGO Committees on the Family in New York and Paris, and the Government of Malta.

Objectives

The theme of the World NGO Forum 1993 reflects the views of non-governmental and governmental organizations that the International Year of the Family should be led by a comprehensive, integrative and global approach to the family as the basic unit and natural environment for the healthy development and functioning of any society, giving attention to strengthening it in ways that increase equality, caring, mutual respect and

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Mrs. P. Vankataraman, All India Womens' Conf

responsibilities, while respecting the diversity of family structures. The objectives of the Forum include to give the Year greater impact through increased awareness, exchange and programme implementation for IYF and to ensure effective follow-up action.

Participants

The Forum aims at gathering the main IYF actors and multipliers from all sectors (non-governmental and governmental) in order to mobilize action and awareness in promotion of IYF at various levels for 1994 and beyond.

Programme

The Forum will offer Plenary Sessions, Panels and Working Groups on issues of concern in all societies and how these relate to and interact with family well-being. Action areas, skills and techniques which can be applied in planning and implementing activities in the context of the International Year of the Family will be presented and studied.

Anticipated Results

By launching a successful International Year of the Family the Forum should achieve effective linkage between the international and grassroots levels and stimulate greater awareness and action in promoting families worldwide. In cooperation with governments, the private and non-governmental sector and the media should mobilize their large networks in order to spark local action, to involve families in shaping their socio-economic and cultural conditions and to help lead to a more "family-friendly" society.

Urgent Request for Support

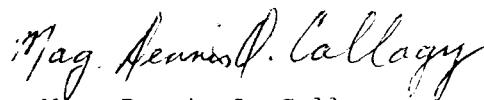
In presenting this 1st Announcement for the World NGO Forum, the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family urgently requests technical and human resources, financial and moral support from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Strong participation from governments, including mobilizing messages from heads of state and involvement of focal points and national committees, is most welcome. Contributions are needed for organizational and administrative tasks, for translation and mailing costs, for assistance to participants and the production of qualified background documentation. Resources needed within the coming months to cover these items amount to ATS 1,000.000,- .

We thank you in advance for your possible support and attendance and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Gelinek
(Executive Secretary)



Mag. Dennis O. Callagy
(Chairperson)