



GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

Statement delivered
by the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Belarus
H.E. Mr. Yuri Ambrazevich
on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family

Commission on Population and Development
Fifty-sixth session, general debate
April 10, 2023

Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of 25
Member States of the Group of Friends of the Family that

Recognizing the interdependent relationship between education and demographic and social changes, we stress **the importance of education in raising the quality of life for all people** through appropriate population and development policies and programmes aimed at achieving poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, human resource development and the guarantee of all human rights, **including the right to development.**

We reaffirm our **commitment to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all**, including early childhood education and universal access to complete, free and compulsory primary education as well as access to secondary, tertiary and vocational education and training and lifelong learning.

Considering **the importance of information, education and communication on the population issues**, the Group respects the sovereign right of each country to implement recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights.

Distinguished delegates,

It is well known that strong, supportive and well-functioning **families are primary educators for children** and are truly indispensable to their development and emotional well-being.

The family provides the natural environment in which children learn the values that will guide them for the rest of their lives, in which they form their first relationships, learn to communicate with others and interact with the world around them.

We commend **the vital role of parents in supporting the lifelong educational journey of their children** and attach great importance in this regard to the **parental education and developing parental skills**, which empower parents in their role as nurturers and educators and often have an untapped potential to contribute to the achievement of SDG4.

To this end