

As president of the European Large families Confederation for the last 6 years, I have the opportunity to meet families from many countries, both European and global. I am always astonished to realize that we all share the same values and aims, independently from origin, status, wealth, religion. Parents are all concerned for their children's future and wellbeing, their health and education, the environment where they live. They would like to spend more time with them and protect them from dangers and deprivations. They are hoping for a life full of love and positive relationships, in peace and prosperity, with dignifying work that will allow them to have a family life and reach their personal life projects. You can easily recognize in this almost

Therefore I allow myself to indicate to the Secretary General as the main element where to find the true common cause that can unite us all, all over the world. Most of us come from a family (and who does not, regrets it deeply) and have a family. In its own form, according to its own culture and opportunity, this is something we all share.

How can the ? It takes a big change, but it is possible, approaching all matters with a family perspective (), taking into account how policies can impact the wellbeing (and sometimes the existence) of families, focusing on the wellbeing of families units as a priority, in particular at local level, with a

The European Network of Family Friendly Municipalities (in the report of the UN Secretary General on "Implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes" in response to Resolution 73/144 of the UN General Assembly) is an example of good practice of how institutions can work for families, but also families as active partners. The Network's aim is to develop a new "family friendly" culture, a better environment where to live and thrive, improving the quality of life for every family component: parents, children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled, the vulnerable.

I know I might sound very uthopistic, but after all the UN is the place where Utopia is trying to become reality.