

**SOLUTIONS SESSION ON “THE CIRCLE OF CARE:
FAMILIES SUPPORTING THE YOUNG, THE OLD, AND ALL IN NEED”**

**SIDE EVENT AT THE 2nd WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WSSD2)
06 NOVEMBER 2025 DOHA, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM, Qatar National Convention Centre**

To register for the event, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SESRIC-WSSD2-Family-Care>

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Background Information

The Draft Political Declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) emphasizes the urgent need to reinforce institutional frameworks that strengthen social fabric and adopt a comprehensive and people-centred approach to development. Central to this vision is the recognition of the family not merely as a beneficiary of social policy but as a dynamic agent of resilience and intergenerational solidarity. Building on this perspective, the declaration calls for the formulation of integrated policies that ensure the needs of all family members are met through responsive socio-economic systems.

Despite this recognition, additional progress can still be made in some of the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) regarding the availability of affordable and quality care services for children, older persons, and individuals with disabilities. In the absence of formal systems, families, particularly women, shoulder the majority of caregiving responsibilities, often without adequate support, training, or compensation. This situation places strain on household wellbeing, especially in low-income and rural settings.

The OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Marriage and Family Institution (2020–2025) and the OIC Strategy on the Elderly (2015) both highlight the need to institutionalize family-friendly policies, including investments in community-based care, caregiver support programs, and comprehensive social protection systems. The OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities similarly calls for strengthening family and community roles in care provision, while ensuring dignity and access to services.

The OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) further emphasizes the importance of reconciling professional and caregiving responsibilities, advocating for the development of affordable, accessible, and quality care services for children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. It also promotes socially-responsive budgeting and adoption of more effective poverty reduction strategies at both local and national levels.

The Cairo Declaration of the 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development (2023) reaffirms the commitment of OIC Member States to address social issues related to the family, child welfare, elder care, and disability inclusion. It welcomes the growing awareness of the need to explore mechanisms that support families in their caregiving roles.

In alignment with the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, which places family welfare and comprehensive development at the heart of its socio-economic agenda, this side event will explore how families can be better supported to deliver quality care. It will examine policy innovations, community-based models, and inter-sectoral partnerships that can enhance the caregiving capacity

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of families, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of social justice and sustainable development.

Key Themes to Be Covered

- **Acknowledging the Social and Economic Value of Family Care:** Valuing the contributions of family caregivers in social and economic terms.
- **Inclusive Social Protection:** Designing systems that support families caring for children, older persons, and individuals with additional support needs.
- **Women and Care:** Addressing the unequal burden of care on women and promoting shared responsibilities.
- **Intergenerational Solidarity:** Strengthening family and community ties to support care across the life course.

Expected Outcomes

- Raise awareness of the family’s role in caregiving as a pillar of social protection.
- Share good practices and policy models from OIC member states and global partners.
- Promote socially-responsive and comprehensive care policies.
- Foster collaboration among OIC institutions, UN agencies, and civil society to advance family-centred development.

Methodology

The session will begin with a keynote address highlighting the importance of family-based care in achieving inclusive social development. Panellists will include experts in social policy, women empowerment, disability rights, and elder care. A moderated discussion will follow, encouraging audience engagement and the exchange of questions and answers. The session will conclude with a summary of key takeaways.

Organiser(s)

- SESRIC and Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations

Venue and Date

- **Time:** 06 November 2025, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM (Doha Time)
- **Venue:** Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar (Room: 13)

For more information, please contact: training@sesric.org