

Comments to the paper of prof. Gilbert.

Overall, it is an excellent discussion paper, and I commend the author for providing an insightful overview on the subject. The paper covers a very broad terrain and highlights important policy issues ranging from dynamic prospective on demography to some religious aspects and the institution of marriage. The questions presented on page 35 are valid questions, even though credible answers would require additional research, sometimes substantial and time-consuming.

In my view the paper would benefit if some cross-current themes are covered along the themes already covered in this study. I would mention here four issues that in my view are important in the context of the undertaken research.

- 1) The concept of **vulnerability** could be applied to analyses of family as a social institution. It could be linked to the life-course perspective. Vulnerability of social groups is closely linked to social protection.
- 2) Family is seen by the author as more than a “summation” of its individual members; the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. However, it is not clear **where does the boundary lie between social protection of individual members and social protection of family as an institution**. In my opinion that aspect needs to be addressed in more detail.
- 3) **A more systematic analysis of gender- sensitive factors in social protection** is needed as the risks and vulnerability vary for different gender groups at different stages in the life course, affecting the family life.
- 4) **Recommendation 202 of ILO** became an important international framework for addressing social protection issues. In my view it would be highly desirable to explore the nexus between social protection guarantees emphasized by this document and family policy.

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