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Executive Secretary Espinosa,

We write to urge you to consider universal family planning reform as the **most fundamental and long-run effective solution to the climate crisis**. [Previous conferences](#) have focused on industrial emissions. But demand for production starts with the people on this planet, and people start with family planning. Let's go to the source, and avoid the mistakes in past family planning modeling that - at the most fundamental level - created the ecological and social crises of today.

Having Kids is human rights organization dedicated to replacing patriarchal and parent-centric family planning models with the human rights-based, child-centric and socially and ecologically regenerative [Fair Start family planning model](#). It's designed to ensure every child a fair start in life and a sustainable planet.

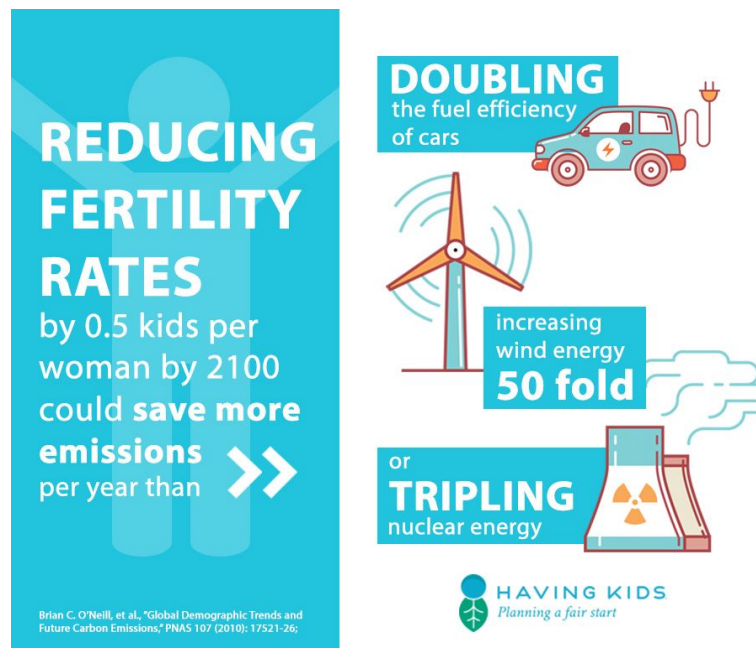
The model is simple: Fair Start family planning means smaller families sharing resources to invest more in every child. The model is described in detail in [a recent peer-reviewed article in the journal Social Change](#).

Fair Start family planning is the best construction of the fundamental, but complex, human right to have children. [It is designed to replace shortsighted, outdated and isolationist family planning models](#) that have ignored child welfare, equity, and our world's ecology. Those models helped to create the climate crisis and threatens to exacerbate it in ways that will harm all life on our planet. Those models ignored collective obligations to future children, have caused untold harm,

and are fundamentally immoral. We simply cannot use the same pre-climate change crisis modeling, which doesn't account for the needs of future children.

The Facts

[As 11,000 climate scientists recently noted](#), promoting smaller families is crucial to the sustainability of the planet. Families choosing to have one child fewer will have [twenty times the impact of alternative approaches](#), and world population in the [decades to come will vary by billions](#) depending on whether the average person reduces their family size.



But Fair Start family planning goes beyond mitigating climate change. And this is not just about population growth. This is qualitative. This is about accounting for the welfare and development of every child who enters this world, and ensuring those children levels of welfare and opportunity **comparable to what the children of the people attending this conference enjoy**. 387 million children live in extreme poverty worldwide. They will be among those most affected by the climate crisis, and the least able to protect themselves. We need a family planning model that invests more in each child to [ensure a fair start from birth](#) and address the [massive, rising inequality that also threatens democracy](#).

Family planning is not just about one other policy lever from which we might choose. [Family planning is the first, human right](#). It's the right that puts the *humans* in human rights, and most determines human agency and our shared future. [It must be prioritized](#), and ensuring the resources necessary to give every child a fair start in life must be seen as preceding, [and therefore overriding](#), competing property claims.

Specific Avenues for Reform

There are many avenues through which we can make advancements in family planning to improve lives and the future of our planet. Here are just a few.

- Bringing global attention to the need for child-centered policies [with informal statements from United Nations representatives addressing the key issues raised above](#).
- Using [expressive and non-coercive approaches to prioritize child welfare and to accelerate a change in family planning culture](#), using current child welfare crises to show the urgent need for reform.
- Ending [the patriarchal and unsustainable culture of pushing women to have children as a means of creating consumers, as well as future labor and taxpayers to grow state economies](#). A human rights approach to family planning means never treating children as economic inputs. This reform [would include UN agencies](#).
- Tax policies that encourage large families can be reformed to encourage delaying parenthood, planning smaller families, and the transfer of resources to ensure every child gets a fair start in life. [This would include guaranteed minimum incomes for all children, pegged to better family planning policies](#).
- [Fully funding the development and availability of new male long-acting contraceptives](#).
- Urging public figures to speak out, given the massive impact that role modeling better and more sustainable family planning can have. What [Meghan Markle and Prince Harry recently did](#) is exemplary.

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to plan for a child. Please consider promoting a universal ethic of cooperative Fair Start family planning, and smaller and more equitable families, as the most effective and comprehensive way to achieve a socially and ecologically regenerative society, and address the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

Erika Mathews
Executive Director
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