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## **Towards a Global/Universal Formula for Child Support Calculation**

Israel is on the verge of proposing internal legislation on the subject of child support which will revolutionize the methodology of child support calculation.

The draft of the law (hereinafter: "the draft") was written by a public committee that was appointed by the Israeli Minister of Justice for the purpose of unifying the principles that guide the courts in ordering child support.

The formula for calculating child support according to the draft is stunning in its simplicity since the variables that are needed to "plug into" the formula are readily available and easily understood. The variables include the following:

- the parents' income;
- the age of the child/ren;
- the number of children;
- the time spent by each parent for child care;
- any special needs of the child or parent;
- whether the family unit has previous or successive children from other family units to whom a child support obligation is owed.

The formula will enable the judiciary to order child support for any child, in any place in the world, given the universal nature of the variables it takes into consideration. The geographical location of the child should not have any effect on the amount owed, since the formula uses the income of both parents, one of whom is the custodial parent where the child support funds will actually be utilized.

Globalization of child support calculation formulas is a goal towards which the international child support community should work, since such a formula has within its power the ability to negate cultural and local differences that may block the child's realization of his/her right to child support pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are proposing a panel that would also include representatives from other countries/ states such as the United States, Australia and Germany who will review briefly their current process for establishing child support awards and then participate in a dialog with Israel on the new innovative proposal of a global child support formula. We also would like to leave time for audience participation in this very exciting innovative proposal.