



63rd UN Commission on Social Development

Oral Statement for General Debate

At MMM we believe in the central and unique role of Care for social cohesion and social development.

Despite calling for placing people at the center of development and recognizing families and women as key agents of social development, the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration failed to acknowledge the crucial role of care for social development. We need to recognize that role and the urgency to move from a corporate profits-centered economy to a care-oriented economy.

The Covid-19 crisis shed light on the fundamental role of (under)paid and unpaid care work for the sustainability of life and the functioning of society, and how it underpins development and all other types of economic activity. The pandemic also exposed the inequitable distribution of care work, which remains undervalued and mostly invisible, and which is at the root of gender inequalities and a cause of economic injustice, poverty and social exclusion for women, in particular when they are mothers.

However, the current development model, which prioritizes GDP growth and capital accumulation for a few, fails to acknowledge, protect and invest in this care ecosystem that is absolutely vital for sustaining a cohesive society.

It also fails to recognize care as a common responsibility that must be distributed more equitably between men and women, and also across society, with every stakeholder, including families, communities, the private sector and governments, taking their share of responsibility and costs.

[With the Buenos Aires Commitment adopted in 2022, the governments of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) have committed to transition towards a care society, 'a new development model that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the planet, recognizes care as forming part of the human rights that are fundamental to the well-being of the population as a whole, ensures the rights of the people who require or provide care, and raises awareness of the multiplier effects of the care economy on well-being and as a sector that can drive an inclusive, transformative recovery with equality and sustainability'.]

The benefits of shared caregiving and transforming to a care society are far-reaching: it is key to thriving individuals, families and societies, and it would contribute to building a more caring, equal, and less violent world.

We call on Member States to reaffirm that everyone has caring responsibilities. We call on governments to commit to make care central to all policymaking and invest in care systems. This is not just a necessity, it's an imperative.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) - Paris, France

mami@makemothersmatter.org - www.makemothersmatter.org

Contact UN Delegation in New York: un-newyork@makemothersmatter.org