



ORAL STATEMENT
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Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Make Mothers Matter commends the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and its focus on inequality. Inequality is unfortunately on the rise, and progress on Gender equality especially has stalled if not receded in many countries over the past few years.

A major obstacle to equality between men and women remains the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work. Everywhere women spend more time than men on this work, up to 10 times in certain countries.

This inequality, fuelled by discriminatory gender stereotypes about men and women's roles in society and the low value associated with this work, robs women of the necessary time to fully engage in both income generating activities and public life – especially when they are mothers. This “Gender Care Gap” therefore keeps too many women in low status jobs and vulnerable positions, not to mention subordination. It is also an obstacle to their enjoyment of the principle of participation and excludes them from the right to development

Addressing the unequal distribution of unpaid family care work is therefore key to progress on Gender equality and Development. Reduction and redistributive policies include:

1. The development of public infrastructure and services with the explicit objective of **reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work** - These first include energy, water and sanitation, but also transportation, ICT infrastructure and services, healthcare, childcare and other care services
2. The promotion of a more equal sharing of family care responsibilities and domestic work between men and women, as well as work and family life reconciliation policies that target both men and women.

But **unpaid family care work is also about caring, raising and educating children**, that is, generating the human capital, which makes a society flourish. Investing in early child development in particular is a long-term investment with high potential returns. Recognizing the essential value of this work and supporting parents, especially mothers, in their nurturing care and educational responsibilities would also contribute to achieving the Right to development.

Unpaid family care work sustains economic growth, social development and wellbeing. MMM calls upon States to **recognize** its economic and social value, and to support and empower mothers as partners for development and the realization of the 2030 agenda.

Thank you.