



Oral Statement
45h session of the Human Rights Council
Item 2
General Debate

As rightly stated by the UN Secretary General¹ – I quote: “The pandemic has shown us who is doing the work that really matters: nurses, teachers, care workers. As we recover, we need to remember this. It is time to end the inequities of unpaid care work and create new economic models that work for everyone”- end quote.

We at MMM fully agree - but, place MOTHERS alongside teachers, nurses and care workers. Mothers have also played a key role - in keeping their children, families and communities together. The crisis has shown what really matters: It has all been about care and education, and the people performing these duties, whether paid or unpaid, must be better recognized and supported.

The Covid-19 crisis gives us a unique opportunity to “build back better” and it starts with our economy. We MUST move away from an economy that prioritizes GDP growth and profit-making over the wellbeing of people and the planet. Instead we must design a new caring economic model that values, recognizes and enables the conditions for us all to care and be cared for².

A few governments have started to move to a “wellbeing economy” and are showing us the way³.

We call on the UN and member States to support such a shift by establishing a new platform to discuss indicators to replace GDP and to drive us towards a caring new economic model.

¹ Secretary-General's remarks at the Town Hall with Young Women from Civil Society Organizations on 31 August 2020 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/8/speech-secretary-general-at-town-hall-with-civil-society-organizations>

² See also the HLPF side-event organized by MMM on 16 July 2020 on that topic: <https://makemothersmatter.org/placing-care-education-at-the-heart-of-a-new-economic-system/>

³ Iceland, New Zealand and Scotland, recently joined by Wales - See the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll): <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/>