



Oral Statement
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on Social Development

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Inclusive and resilient recovery from Covid-19
For sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for
all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and
dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda

We, at Make Mothers Matter, would like to congratulate the bureau and UNDESA team for all their excellent work. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to raise the voices of Mothers.

Covid 19 has presented challenges and obstacles around the planet, impacting Mothers in their role of care, their work and their future.

With widespread closures of schools, childcare centers and loss of jobs, COVID-19 kicked away the scaffolding of care. While the amount of time and energy mothers spend on unpaid labor at home has skyrocketed, their employment has suffered.

Make Mothers Matter asks the Commission to take into account two main challenges mothers are facing, that must be addressed for a sound recovery from Covid.

1/ First, The overall death rate from Covid for men is 1.6 times the death rate for women ; Mothers have found their role being affected by the deaths of their husband or partner, increasing again their workload. This increase has highlighted the issue of young widowhood in many countries, and more generally of single mothers : loss of social recognition, lack of social security, subsidies and public services, and acceleration of extreme poverty for families.

2/ Second, climate changes, well documented as a trigger for Covid19, have also added to the workload of mothers. Rising temperatures, flooding, heavy rains, all contributed to modifying the work of women, in particular in the southern hemisphere. Mothers are more vulnerable because their work depends on natural resources, water, wood, harvest to feed their families. Climate changes increase anxiety, food insecurity as well as inequity for mothers.

Almost 2 years into the pandemic, the increase in their unpaid work – both childcare and housework – along with job losses, widowhood and added work due to climate changes are factors enhancing poverty and contributing to high levels of anxiety and an uncertain future for mothers.

We are therefore calling on member states to take into account that recovery from the pandemic will have to consider the future of the planet as a goal, in order to secure and protect the work and wellbeing of Mothers.

Make Mothers Matter - MMM - 5 rue de l'Université 75007 Paris, France - Tel/fax: +33 1 42 88 27 28

mmmi@makemothersmatter.org - www.makemothersmatter.org

Contacts in New-York : Alexandra Bouée – Jacqueline Leduc - Carole Joncourt -

un-newyork@makemothersmatter.org