



**Human Rights Council 57<sup>th</sup> Session**  
ID with the Special Rapporteur  
on the right to development  
**Right to development of children and future generations**  
Oral Statement

Make Mothers Matter agrees with the Special Rapporteur: some rights-holders do face additional challenges in realising their right to development. The report refers to children as the future of society but fails to recognize that mothers play a vital role in raising the adults of tomorrow, responsible for their physical, emotional and social development.

The current global challenges – climate change, conflicts, the debt crisis or food insecurity – all have a disproportionate impact on both children and women who are mothers. In the absence of proper and equal access to nutritious food, water, education, housing, health facilities, their right to development cannot be realized. The report highlights that one in three children lack access to such basic services. One can reasonably assume that behind these children, there are mothers who also lack proper access.

We therefore join the call to invest significantly in child development, in particular early childhood development – and the mothers behind the unpaid work of caring for children. The right of every child to an adequate standard of living supposes that mothers also attain such a standard. It is essential to develop decent work and family policies, services and infrastructures. This responsibility falls not just on States but also the private sector who must play its part.

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Make Mothers Matter believes in the power of mothers to make the world a better place, advocating for their recognition and support as changemakers. Created in 1947, MMM is an international NGO with no political or religious affiliations, transparently voicing the concerns of mothers at the highest level: the European Union, UNESCO and the United Nations (general consultative status).