



Human Rights Council – 60th Session
Agenda Item 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur
on the Right to Development
Nexus between gender equality
and the right to development

Oral Statement

Make Mothers Matter welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur, which rightly highlights the link between gender equality and the right to development.

We particularly value his recognition of the care economy. Across the world, mothers and other caregivers sustain families and societies through their unpaid domestic and care work. Yet this essential contribution remains invisible in economic models and undervalued in policy frameworks. When care is not recognised or fairly shared, women, especially mothers, face persistent inequalities in education, employment, political participation, and cultural life, limiting both their right to development and that of society as a whole. Intersectionality matters: rural, migrant, and low-income women are hardest hit.

The report calls for a feminist economy, one that invests in care infrastructure, values unpaid care, and ensures its fair sharing between women and men, families and society, public and private actors.

We therefore urge States to:

- Invest in cross-sectorial care systems, from quality, accessible childcare and parental leaves to universal healthcare and social protection
- Place care at the centre of national and international development strategies.

It is time to repurpose our economic system to prioritise the wellbeing of people and the planet, at the heart of the right to development, and to recognise and support unpaid care work.

Recognising and valuing care is not only a question of gender justice. It is key for the realisation of the right to development for all.

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Since 1947, MMM has been at the forefront of advocating for mothers' rights and recognition worldwide, raising awareness amongst policy makers and the general public on the contributions of mothers towards social, cultural and economic development. MMM has no political or religious affiliations. Working with local partners, MMM advocates on influential global platforms including the European Union, the United Nations (General Consultative Status), and UNESCO, ensuring that the lived realities of mothers are voiced and acknowledged.