

Make Mothers Matter – Jacqueline Leduc Estrada – Representative at the United Nations

We at Make Mothers Matter remain committed to exposing the specific discriminations and challenges faced by women who are mothers in the context of the Care economy.

We continue to call for collective action to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to contribute to a new social contract that does not ignore care.

Today we face multiple and intersecting crises, including climate change, environmental degradation, debt crisis, rising inequalities and population aging. All of which contribute to exacerbate the care work shouldered mostly by women and girls, exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities.

Decent work deficits persist and the social and economic contributions of unpaid care work still go unrecognized and considered a 'burden'. Unpaid care work must not be framed as a burden, it is valuable work and the cornerstone of social development. It is also a right which needs to be recognized and supported. Both paid and unpaid care work produce, sustain and provide for human life and the environment.

Investing in care is investing in the sustainable well-being of society and in our future. In particular, mothers play a critical role in both the family unit and the broader economic and social fabric of communities, but they are penalised for that. Supporting mothers and other unpaid caregivers is therefore essential to advance social justice and strengthen the resilience of communities to crises such as climate change.

In the context of Beijing +30 and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) focusing on SDG 5 and 8, Make Mothers Matter calls for a multistakeholder and cross sectorial approach to develop national care policies, based on the principle of co-responsibility: in addition to governments, communities, civil society organisations and private companies all have a key role to play in recognizing, redistributing and supporting unpaid care work.

The benefits of bringing together all stakeholders, centring care in all policy making and transforming to care society extend well beyond gender equality: it is key to thriving individuals, families and societies, and it would contribute to building a more caring, more equal, and less violent world.