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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

**Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Lebanon, Mexico, Spain and Uruguay:
draft resolution**

Contribution of the care economy to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and the commitment therein to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Reaffirming also the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls and its targets and indicators, particularly target 5.4 and indicator 5.4.1, and recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in decision-making and policymaking is necessary and will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming further its resolution [79/323](#) of 25 August 2025 on the Sevilla Commitment, which sets forth a renewed global framework for financing for development, including increased investment in the care economy, reaffirms the imperative of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and recognizes that the feminization of poverty persists and that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for women’s economic empowerment and sustainable development,

Welcoming the convening of the Second World Summit for Social Development, in Qatar from 4 to 6 November 2025, and reaffirming the multiplier effects of care and support systems,



Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development² and the outcome documents of their review conferences, as well as the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development³ and the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the declarations adopted at its forty-ninth, fifty-fourth, fifty-ninth, sixty-fourth and sixty-ninth sessions,⁴

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 2024/4 of 5 June 2024 on promoting care and support systems for social development, and recalling its resolution 77/317 of 24 July 2023, in which it proclaimed 29 October as the International Day of Care and Support, and International Labour Conference resolution V of 14 June 2024 concerning decent work and the care economy, World Health Assembly resolution 78.16 of 27 May 2025 on accelerating action on the global health and care workforce by 2030 and Human Rights Council resolution 54/6 of 11 October 2023,⁵ as well as all relevant international human rights instruments and relevant international labour conventions which contain provisions relevant to persons providing and receiving care and support,

Acknowledging that care is central to human, social, economic and environmental well-being, and sustainable development, and that care work, paid and unpaid, is essential to all other work,

Recognizing that the care economy comprises care work, both paid and unpaid, and direct and indirect care, its provision within and outside the household, as well as the people who provide and receive care and the employers and institutions that offer care, and that this work is provided through the public and the private sector, including micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, non-profit organizations, the social and solidarity economy, and households and communities,

Acknowledging that care work consists of, among others, activities and relations that pursue sustainability and quality of life, nurture human capabilities, foster agency, autonomy and dignity, develop the opportunities and resilience of those who provide and receive care, address the diverse needs of individuals across different life stages, and meet the physical, psychological, cognitive, mental health and developmental needs for care and support of people including children, adolescents, youth, adults, older persons, persons with disabilities and all caregivers,

Acknowledging also that the care economy spans diverse occupations and sectors, both formal and informal, and that it includes, but may not be limited to, the activities of workers in education, early childhood care and education, and the health

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and E/2005/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232; *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and E/2010/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232; *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex; *ibid.*, 2020, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2020/27), chap. I, sect. A; and *ibid.*, 2025, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2025/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 69/1, annex.

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/78/53/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

and social sectors, of domestic workers and of individuals who perform unpaid care work,

Recognizing that the care economy contributes substantially to national income, employment creation, human capabilities and productivity, and that, according to global estimates, unpaid care and domestic work would account for at least 9 per cent of gross domestic product if valued at the hourly minimum wage, and that every 1 United States dollar invested in closing childcare gaps could yield an average increase of 3.76 dollars in gross domestic product by 2035, underscoring its macroeconomic relevance and its potential to generate inclusive and sustainable growth,

Noting with concern that women and girls, including adolescent girls and older women, and especially women and girls living in poverty, undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care work, which exacerbates gender inequality by limiting women's agency to decide how to spend their time and their ability to participate in the labour market and decision-making processes and occupy leadership positions, that it poses significant constraints on women's and girls' education and training, and that this kind of entrenched inequality and social exclusion is an obstacle to broad-based and sustained growth,

Noting that women often make up a large portion of the paid care workforce, including in informal employment, self-employment and part-time or temporary work, while continuing to bear most of the responsibility for unpaid care and support work, having, as a result, lower rates of labour force participation and shorter, less continuous paid work years than men, which limits their ability to accumulate lifetime savings and benefit from pension and social security schemes,

Noting also that these inequalities contribute to the feminization of poverty and that comprehensive care and support systems, which include legal and policy frameworks, services, financing, social and physical infrastructure, programmes, standards and training, governance and administration, are key to reducing women's economic vulnerability and preventing the intergenerational transmission of poverty,

Acknowledging the need to adopt measures to recognize unpaid and paid care work and reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, sustainable infrastructure, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality care and support services, adequate paid maternity, paternity or parental leave, which are necessary to support both greater sharing of responsibilities between parents and parent-child bonding, as well as protection from discrimination on the grounds of maternity in the labour market, and targeted adequate working arrangements,

1. *Urges* Member States to:

(a) Integrate the value of the care economy, particularly unpaid care work, into fiscal and monetary policy, national development plans and statistics, including national account systems, and budgeting processes, recognizing it as a key sector for economic growth and stability;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive and intergenerational approach in the design and implementation of care and support systems, taking the care economy into account in economic and social policymaking;

(c) Collect quantitative and qualitative sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics on all forms of care work, including through time-use and labour-force surveys, to measure the full extent of paid and unpaid care work and to inform evidence-based policymaking;

(d) Recognize that strategic investments in care infrastructure and services can generate a “triple dividend” effect by creating new jobs, enabling greater female labour-force participation and improving well-being and human development outcomes for society as a whole;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to invest in the care economy and take action to recognize paid and unpaid care work, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work between women and men in the household, and between households, the State, the private sector and the communities, and reward and represent paid care work by expanding high-quality care services and infrastructure, enacting maternity, paternity and parental leave policies and providing allowances and social protection to carers and care workers;

3. *Requests* the United Nations system to support, as appropriate and within existing mandates and resources, the efforts of Member States, upon their request, to develop, strengthen and expand care and support systems as a driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, gender equality, decent work and poverty eradication, including through the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and policy advice, and the integration of care economy considerations into development cooperation frameworks;

4. *Encourages* the international community, including development partners, international financial institutions and public development banks, to support national efforts to invest in and strengthen care and support systems, including through concessional finance, technical assistance, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eighty-second session, under the item entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, a sub-item entitled “Contribution of the care economy to sustainable development”.
