

CSW69 CARE HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The Care Agenda in the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing+30 Review Process

APRIL 2025



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This report was prepared by the Technical Secretariat of the Global Alliance for Care. Its content does not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Alliance's members.

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INDEX

I. Introduction	4
II. The Road to Beijing+30: Care in Preparatory Processes and Reviews	4
A. National and Regional Level-Reviews	4
National-Level Reports	5
National-Level Surveys	8
Regional Reviews	10
B. Expert and Civil Society Inputs	11
Expert Group Meetings	11
Civil Society Statements and Parallel Reports	12
C. Secretary-General's Report and Inputs	13
III. Care in Official CSW69 Proceedings	15
A. CSW69 Official Programme	15
B. Outcome Documents	17
IV. Side Events and Parallel Convenings	19
A. Global Alliance for Care Official Side Event and Breakfast	19
B. Events Organized with the Support of the Global Alliance for Care	23
C. Global Alliance for Care Member Events	29
IV. Conclusions and Reflections	29

I. Introduction

The [69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW69\)](#) took place in New York from March 10 to 21, 2025. It aimed to review and assess the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), as well as the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#). The convening provided a timely opportunity to spotlight the transformation of care systems as an integral component of achieving gender equality. It also served to assess the status of the global care agenda, progress in care policies and programs, and persistent challenges across diverse sectors.

Stakeholders met the moment by highlighting care-related issues in [preparatory reports and documents](#) on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, in the [official proceedings of the session](#), and [in on-site and virtual side and parallel events](#).

In its **2025–2030 Strategic Priorities**, the [Global Alliance for Care](#) (GAC) outlined several multilateral advocacy actions and identified key multilateral spaces to promote discussions on care. These efforts aimed to dialogue with policymakers and other stakeholders, catalyze action on care, and position the cross-cutting nature and centrality of care in the development agenda. The sessions of the CSW69 were identified as a critical platform due to their focus on gender equality and the care agenda's relation to it.

To support advocacy efforts and amplify its members' work, the Alliance developed a [CSW69 Care Agenda](#) and a [GAC CSW69/Beijing+30 Advocacy Toolkit](#).

The Strategic Priorities also mandated the Alliance to track and disseminate international recommendations and resolutions on care. In response to this demand from GAC members—and based on inputs from GAC members and a review of CSW69 footage, proceedings, and documentation—this report aims to shed light on conversations, debates, outcomes, and events related to care that emerged during the session. While not exhaustive, it highlights key themes that surfaced during the CSW69 on care. The goal is to inform GAC members and a broader audience about achievements and conclusions that can further support their care-related advocacy and strategies.

II. The Road to Beijing+30: Care in Preparatory Processes and Reviews

A. National and Regional Level-Reviews

In its [June 8, 2022 resolution](#), which provided recommendations to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) called on all Member States to undertake comprehensive [national-level reviews](#) of progress and ongoing challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also mandated the UN Regional Commissions

to carry out regional-level reviews. These inputs would be compiled into a [synthesis report](#) to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for consideration and discussion.

Member States were invited to submit both the reports and a shorter online survey, by June 1, 2024. UN Women issued a [guidance note](#) to support Member States in preparing their submissions. This included a specific question on measures taken over the past five years to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, promote work-life balance, and promote the rights of domestic workers. The instructions for this question also encouraged Member States to describe their current or planned engagement with the Global Alliance for Care¹.

National-Level Reports²

All [160 reports submitted](#) by Member States—including all twenty from GAC country members—contained at least one reference to paid and/or unpaid care work. However, the extent to which Member States addressed the issue varied widely. Over half described how women disproportionately shoulder responsibilities for care work in their countries, and many reported that women's unpaid care responsibilities constitute a significant barrier to their economic empowerment, labor force participation, income levels, financial status, and/or pay compared to men. Several countries mentioned other negative consequences for women's well-being and equal participation in society, including limitations on their political participation and engagement, educational attainment, physical and mental health, and free time. A few countries further noted the feminized nature of paid care and domestic work, along with the sector's precarious labor conditions.

Some reports drew attention to how paid and unpaid care work affects indigenous, Afro-descendant, migrant, rural, and/or LGBTIQ+ women, and affirmed the need for an intersectional approach to care policy. Several Member States examined how crises and shifting con-texts impact unpaid care responsibilities and the conditions of paid care workers. Fifty acknowledged the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on care demand, care infrastructure, and women's responsibility for this work. Ten countries underlined the effects of climate change or climate-related events—such as cyclones and droughts—on care work. Six recognized aging populations and the growing care crisis as a pressing challenge, while

1 The full question read: *"In the past five years, what actions has your country taken to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, promote work-life and family balance and strengthen the rights of paid care workers? In the narrative report, please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups, such as those listed in question 3. Specific examples of how the increase in unpaid care and domestic work during COVID-19 pandemic was addressed are encouraged. Where appropriate, please also report on your engagement or intention to engage in the Global Alliance for Care. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses."*

2 This analysis is based on a qualitative review of national-level reports submitted by Member States to the Commission on the Status of Women as part of the 2025 review process. The review focused on references to care-related issues, including both paid and unpaid care work. It is important to note that a single report may include multiple mentions across different topics (e.g., unpaid care, paid care, intersectional impacts, or policy responses). Therefore, the figures cited reflect the number of reports that mention a given issue and do not represent mutually exclusive categories.

another six assessed the consequences of armed conflict and forced displacement on care work. Eighteen countries affirmed that care must be a shared responsibility, and an equal number acknowledged its centrality and value for societies and economies. Four explicitly referred to care as work, and five referred to it as a right. Another five broadened the scope of care to include the planet, the environment, or communities affected by disasters.

The reports also shed light on persistent barriers to transforming the social organization of care and addressing care inequalities. Twenty-eight countries identified gendered social norms and stereotypes that assign caregiving roles to women as a pervasive challenge. Ten pointed out the systemic undervaluation and lack of recognition of care work as a major impediment to gender equality. Seventeen emphasized that limited availability or affordability of care services—especially childcare—hinders the development of equitable care systems. Seven raised concerns about the lack of family-friendly policies and workspaces. Additional challenges cited by Member States included lags in implementing care policies, stereotypical media portrayals of women, data gaps, large informal economies, and the lack of ratification of international conventions related to unpaid care work, such as [ILO Conventions 156](#) and [183](#).

Besides providing a general diagnosis and contextual information, 156 Member States reported concrete and specific measures³ taken to address unpaid care work, work-life balance, or decent work in the domestic and care sector. Fifty countries included care or work-life balance as part of their national gender equality policies or other development frameworks⁴. Nineteen reported having issued or currently developing dedicated care policies or plans. Eighteen have addressed or are addressing care work through legislation, either via specialized care laws or within family and work-life balance laws. Five countries have recognized care in their constitutions or are undergoing related constitutional reforms⁵. Twenty-one specified budget allocations for care-related policies, and twelve reported setting up institutional mechanisms to design, implement, or support care policies. Another twelve highlighted progress in developing or establishing comprehensive care systems.

To promote work-family balance, most Member States introduced or expanded maternity leave provisions⁶, followed by paternity leave and parental leave. Several implemented leave for other care-related purposes. Parental allowances, benefits, or insurance schemes—some of which are targeted or means-tested—were also commonly reported. Many Member States noted that they have introduced provisions to protect employees from dismissal and prohibit contract termination due to caregiving responsibilities, including pregnancy or caring for a child. Forty-nine countries described introducing flexible work arrangements, including remote work opportunities, to promote work-life balance⁷. Fifteen reported introducing measures to provide nursing breaks and facilities for employees in the workplace, while

3 Some measures are reported to be in progress or planned for the near future.

4 This includes: women's economic empowerment strategies, national development plans, and social protection and employment strategies.

5 Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, and Ecuador have incorporated references to care in their constitutions. Mexico's corresponding constitutional reform is under congressional review, while Ireland reported its Citizens' Assembly and Joint Oireachtas Committee recommendation for constitutional reform on care.

6 Some States also define leave entitlements using gender neutral language, as "primary" and "secondary caregiver" leave or similar terms.

7 Many of these pointed to the COVID-19 pandemic as a driver for such policies.

twenty asserted that they guaranteed childcare provision at work. Other relevant policies included spousal transfers and increased labor inspections to ensure compliance.

Most countries reported addressing care work by strengthening childcare provision, either through subsidies, increasing the number of childcare centers, or enhancing the quality and regulations of services, among other measures. Several governments also introduced or improved long-term care services and support services for older persons and persons with disabilities, including home-based care, personal assistance, and independent living programs. Some countries have also launched after-school programs to alleviate care responsibilities. Eighteen reports described improvements in care-supporting infrastructure such as transport, electricity, and water provision; two highlighted the introduction of clean cooking stoves to reduce time spent on domestic tasks.

Reports also detailed measures to directly support caregivers and care recipients. Forty-one Member States cited making payments to caregivers—including female-headed households, parents of young children or children with disabilities, single mothers, and widows. Some of these provisions are means-tested or conditional. Twenty-three countries provided payments directly to persons with disabilities and older persons. Ten offered alternative forms of support for caregivers, such as vocational training, tax breaks, in-kind and housing assistance, extra benefits in case of child illness, and microcredit opportunities. Six countries provided caregivers psychosocial and emotional support, and seven established respite services.

Ten countries have reformed their pension systems to consider the time women spend on unpaid care work. Nine integrated such considerations into marital assets, benefiting unpaid caregivers during divorce. Five stated that they had incorporated caregivers into their social security systems. Seven reported efforts to facilitate information on care policies and services and work-life balance entitlements. Finally, forty countries implemented public education or awareness campaigns on care work. These mostly focused on engaging men and boys in caregiving activities, but also included topics such as family-friendly workplaces and valuing care work.

Far fewer countries reported policies related to decent work for paid care and domestic workers, with forty-four citing one or more such measures. Common actions included legal protections, professionalization and skills training, affiliation with social security schemes, and wage increases in the sector. Several Member States conducted awareness campaigns to inform care and domestic workers of their rights and promote these rights among employers. Other reported policies included formalization efforts, regulations on staffing numbers and standards, labor inspections, complaint procedures and mechanisms, financial and in-kind support, and care worker registries.

On data and research, forty Member States indicated that they had conducted or planned time-use surveys. Others cited other types of surveys and research that included data on care, such as household, labor force, and public opinion surveys; rapid research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality; and research on work-life balance, and other care-related and policy-oriented work. A few countries noted having estimated the value of unpaid care work through satellite accounts.

Many reports included innovative policies and targeted projects aimed at addressing care inequalities. Some highlighted local governments' efforts to implement care strategies, while others focused on improving access to care services for specific populations, including migrants and refugees, rural populations, university students, athletes, STEM professionals, and workers in the mining industry. A few countries further funded civil society projects promoting work-life balance or men's engagement in care. Several described efforts to advance the care agenda through multilateralism, foreign policy, development aid and cooperation. Twenty-five mentioned establishing partnerships with international agencies, multilateral development banks, and international or local civil society organizations to design and implement care programs and policies. Notably, six countries highlighted their active participation in the Global Alliance for Care⁸.

National-Level Surveys

National surveys offered an additional snapshot into countries' gender equality priorities. Of the 142 Member States that submitted the survey, forty-nine (34.5%) identified "Unpaid care and domestic work/work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity, paternity or parental leave, care services)" as a priority over the past five years, while forty-six (32.4%) selected it as a priority for the next five years. Twenty-five (17.6%) indicated that the care crisis had affected implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Western European nations were the most likely to identify unpaid care as a priority over the past five years, followed by Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean:

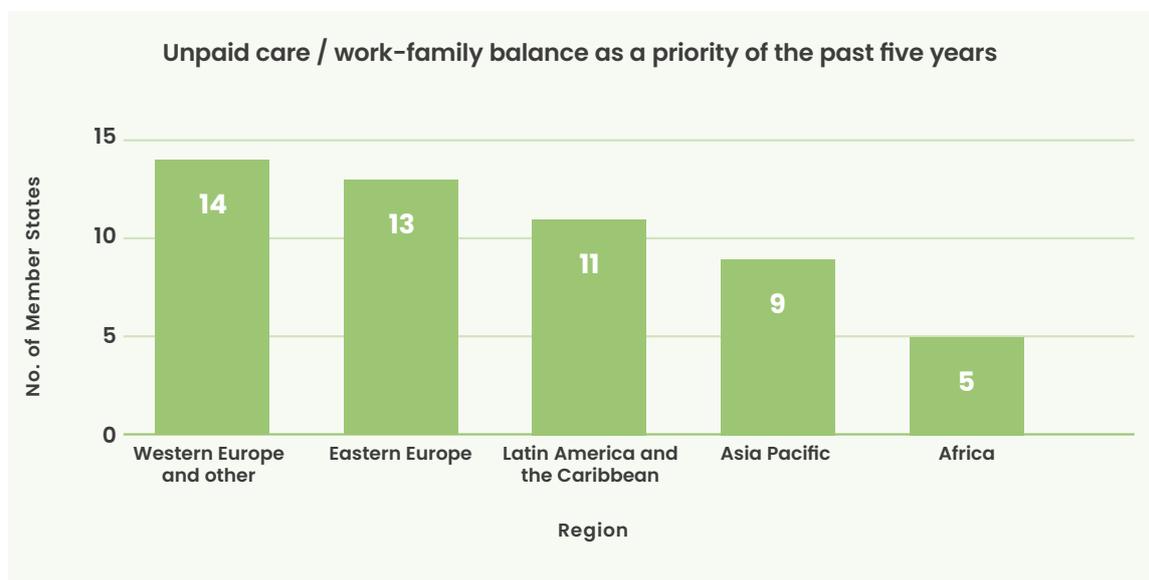


Figure 1: Number of Member States identifying unpaid care or work-family balance as a priority over the past five years, by region. **Source:** GAC Secretariat, based on Member States' responses to online surveys.

Looking ahead, Western European countries were again most likely to select unpaid care and work-life balance as a priority for the next five years—followed this time by countries in the Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

⁸ Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Mexico, Paraguay and the Philippines.

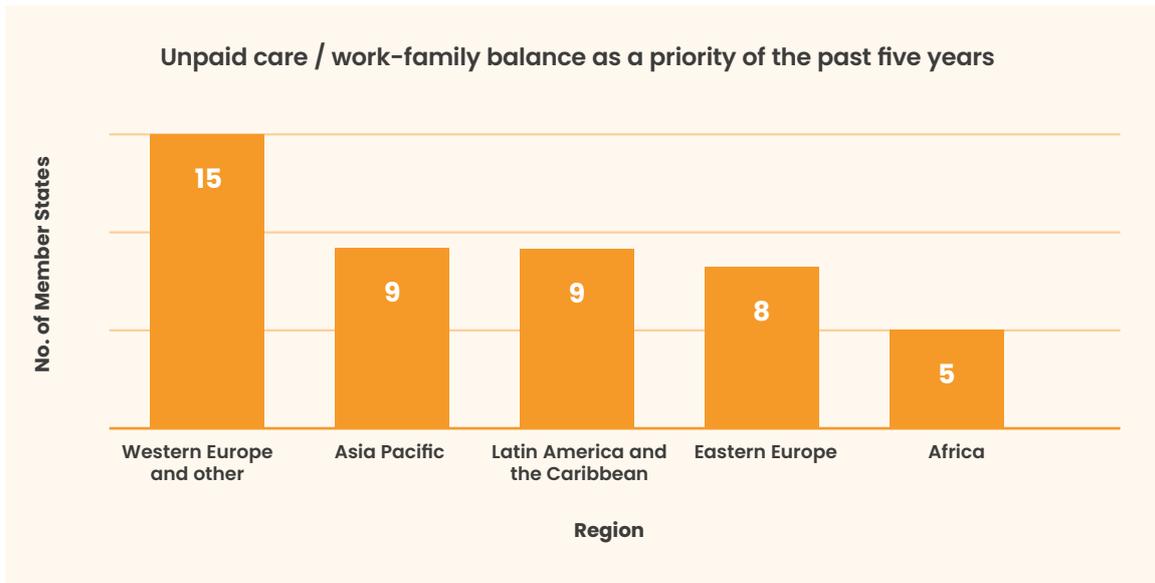


Figure 2: Number of Member States identifying unpaid care or work-family balance as a priority over the next five years, by region. **Source:** GAC Secretariat, based on Member States' responses to online surveys.

The survey also allowed Member States to select from a list of measures they have implemented to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-life and family conciliation. The most commonly reported measures included introducing or strengthening maternity, paternity, parental, or other types of family leave; expanding childcare services or made existing services more affordable; and expanding support for older persons, persons with disabilities and others needing intense forms of care.

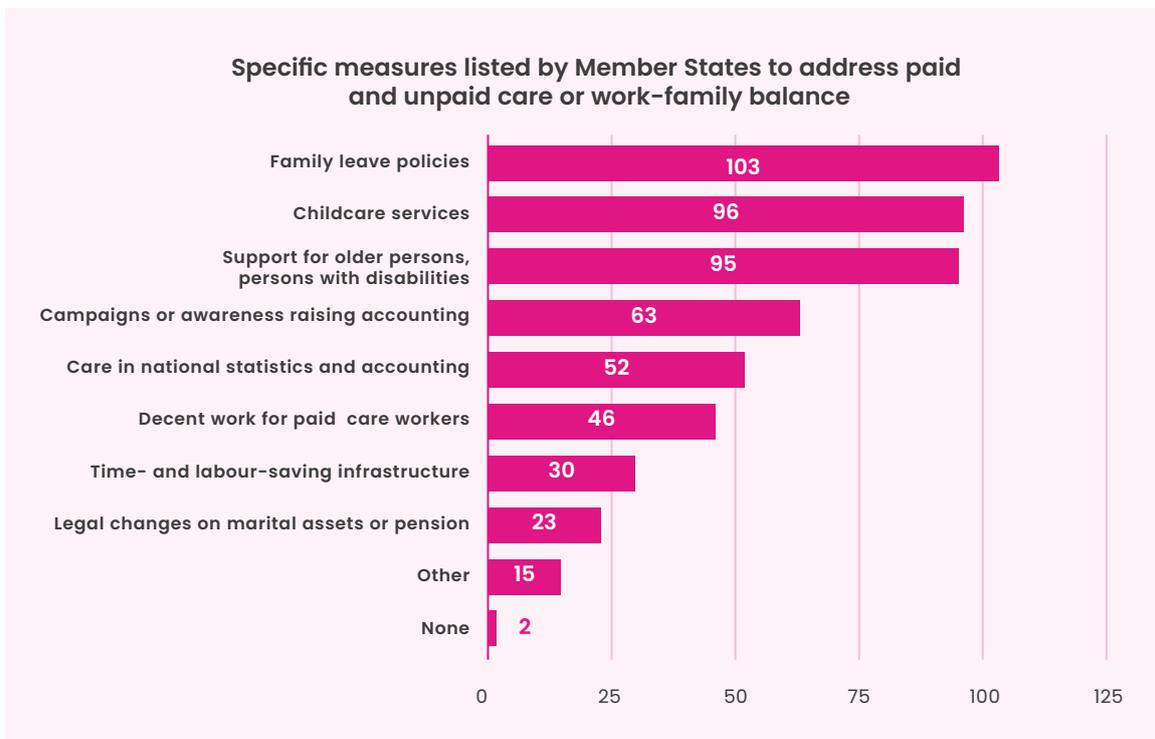


Figure 3: Specific measures listed by Member States to address paid and unpaid care or work-family balance. **Source:** GAC Secretariat, based on Member States' responses to online surveys.

Other measures described by Member States included payments for caregivers (particularly for single-parent families), social protection coverage, dedicated care legislation, policies, institutional mechanisms, and information services, and comprehensive care systems.

Regional Reviews

Reports prepared by the United Nations Regional Commissions provided insights into patterns, collective progress, and challenges at the regional level.

In the African region, the [Economic Commission for Africa \(ECA\)'s report](#) highlighted high disparities in time spent on unpaid care work between women and men, and a failure to recognize, reduce and redistribute this work. It also noted the impacts of climate change on the volume of unpaid care. The report called for increased investment in care systems, measures to ensure that social protection is care-friendly, and, enhanced maternity, paternity and parental leave policies. As part of the B+30 review process, the African Union issued [a common position](#) committing to invest in quality, affordable, and accessible care services and facilities, as well as to implement programs that recognize, reduce and redistribute care work, reflect it in national statistics, and ensure women's representation in care work.

The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), meanwhile, convened a [regional B+30 review meeting](#) that noted progress in work-life balance policies and the provision of childcare services. It highlighted measures taken by Estonia, Finland, and the European Union, but acknowledged that unpaid care work remains a significant barrier to women's labor force participation, career growth, mobility in high-paying sectors such as STEM, and leadership and decision-making. Discussions centered on gaps in childcare and eldercare services, and parental leave policies, noting disparities between urban and rural communities. Participating civil society organizations (CSOs) called on Member States to invest in the care economy and guarantee decent wages and social protection for care workers. The meeting concluded with recommendations to invest in care policies and services, including family leave, childcare, and eldercare services, and to promote shared responsibility for care work.

In [its synthesis report](#), ECE again highlighted advancements in work-life balance policies, family leaves and entitlements—including for self-employed parents—and childcare services. It additionally reported on efforts to engage men in caregiving and improvements to care for older persons. The report emphasized the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on care work, particularly the paid care workforce; recognized the impacts of a growing care crisis and population aging; and explored the repercussions of the unequal distribution of care work on women's political participation.

The [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean \(ECLAC\)'s report](#) showcased regional progress and frameworks related to the care economy, specifically the [Buenos Aires Commitment](#) and the care society development model. The document reaffirmed that women continue to shoulder a disproportionate share responsibility for care work, particularly due to a lack of care services. It stated that women—especially migrant women—are overrepresented in the paid domestic workforce and often face low-paying and precarious jobs.

The report also identified several best practices, recounting national efforts to conduct time-use surveys, estimate the value of unpaid care work and incorporate it into satellite accounts. ECLAC highlighted Argentina and Mexico’s progress in expanding domestic workers’ access to social protection. It further described regional frameworks and conventions that include care—particularly those recognizing care as a right—and detailed the region’s innovative comprehensive care systems as a promising policy model. Lastly, it reviewed regional advancements in expanding maternity, paternity, and parental leave, providing childcare services, offering support to caregivers, and recognizing other forms of community caregiving.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\) report](#) similarly stressed that unpaid care work—along with its lack of recognition and deeply rooted social norms—contributes to women’s poverty and hinders their economic empowerment, with effects that often extend into old age. ESCAP underscored the importance of the paid care sector, especially as populations in the region age. Despite this relevance, paid care workers are often employed in vulnerable conditions.

Finally, the [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia \(ESCWA\) report](#) pointed to a continued lack of focus on unpaid care work in the region. It observed with concern that growing conflict and instability have led to increased care and domestic work responsibilities for refugee and displaced women. The Commission noted that, despite some progress in providing childcare and eldercare services, significant lags still remain—particularly regarding reforms to the division of marital assets and pension regulations.

B. Expert and Civil Society Inputs

Expert Group Meetings

To inform debates around CSW69, UN Women convened an [Expert Group Meeting](#) to identify challenges, opportunities, and priority areas for achieving gender equality. Documentation for this meeting included short input papers by experts and observers; seven of the nineteen papers referenced the care agenda. They acknowledged the persisting unequal distribution of care work and its impacts on women’s well-being and economic participation, and highlighted the need for policies that recognize and redistribute this work, such as parental leave and financial support.

The papers also explored several intersections, including the links between unpaid care, gender equality, and the climate crisis; the labor conditions of migrant workers in the domestic and care sectors; and the effects of armed conflict and increased military spending on women’s care responsibilities. They emphasized the need for publicly financed care policies and their potential return on investment, as well as the imperative to center care as an essential component of feminist multilateralism.

The Expert Group Meeting, held from August 13 to 15, 2024, focused on three key topics: accountability, recommitment, and resources. The session on resources included a presentation titled “*Care in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Economic Context and Financing Challenges 30 Years Later.*” The [final report of the meeting](#) highlighted Member States’ lack of

recognition of care as work as one of the major challenges to achieving gender equality, and it called for feminist fiscal policies that, among other benefits, can support the care economy.

Civil Society Statements and Parallel Reports

Civil Society also provided extensive documentation to inform the B+30 review process. Twenty-one organizations or coalitions, including one GAC member⁹, submitted [parallel reports](#) to analyze the state of gender equality at global, regional, subregional, or national levels, offering recommendations for further action. Seventeen of these reports addressed issues related to paid and unpaid care work—both globally and in specific contexts such as, the Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, and North Africa as well as in countries including Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States.

These reports framed unpaid care work responsibilities as a barrier to women’s participation in the labor force, access to education, equal pay, and income generation. Several delved into the specific vulnerabilities and discriminations faced by domestic workers, migrant care workers, rural and Dalit women, and women with disabilities. The documents further described how the COVID-19 pandemic, health crises, climate change, and conflict increased women’s care work.

A few reports focused on the repercussions of these care-related gender roles on young women and girls, while others expressed concern over anti-gender backlash and the dismantling of gender-transformative care policies. Civil society organizations generally called on Member States to: recognize the value and centrality of care work; implement family leave and flexible work policies; provide affordable, quality and disability-inclusive care and support services; engage men in caregiving; ensure paid and unpaid care workers have access to social protection; ratify care-related international conventions; and guarantee decent work for care workers, including migrant domestic workers.

In addition to submitting parallel reports, civil society organizations with ECOSOC status were invited to provide [short statements](#) to the Commission on the Status of Women. Of the 204 statements received, 96 included references to paid and unpaid care work including 11 of the 13 statements submitted by GAC members¹⁰. These inputs offered broader considerations for addressing the care agenda. Many statements reiterated key issues such as the centrality of care for societies and economies, the disproportionate responsibility for care work borne by women, its impact on women’s well-being and socioeconomic participation, as well as the feminization and precarity of paid care and domestic work. They also identified similar challenges, including social norms, the lack of recognition of care work, and inadequate work-family balance policies and care services.

9 Nala Feminist Collective, on behalf of over 100 youth from North Africa and its diaspora.

10 Equimundo, Fòs Feminista, Fundación para el Estudio y la Investigación sobre la Mujer, International Trade Union Confederation, Make Mothers Matter, Oxfam International, Plan International, Public Services International, Sonke Gender Justice Network, Southern Voice (through Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo), United Cities and Local Governments and Women Deliver.

Civil society organizations also explored additional dimensions—including the relationship between unpaid care work and women’s mental health, gender-based violence, and access to health care. They examined the ramifications of paid and unpaid care work for older, rural, Afrodescendent, indigenous, LGBTIQ+, refugee, and migrant women, girls and adolescent women, migrant domestic workers, as well as women with disabilities, in STEM, in prisons, and in the entertainment industry. In addition to the commonly referenced crises—such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, aging, and health—civil society organizations also touched on the effects of digitalization, platform economies, economic sanctions, privatization, and austerity on care work.

Their statements framed care as a right, a public good, a shared responsibility, and an ethic—extending care for the planet and the environment under the scope of this definition. Many emphasized the need to recognize, value, reduce, redistribute, reward and represent care work—particularly with a specific focus on the Global South and through an intersectional approach.

Civil society organizations statements also offered concise recommendations for governments and other stakeholders to take action on care. These included: collecting data and measuring the value of care work; guaranteeing protection from contract termination based on care responsibilities; implementing work-life balance policies; expanding access to care services; engaging men in caregiving; establishing comprehensive care systems; and increasing public investment in care policies. They also called for developing care-supporting infrastructure; providing financial, in-kind and psychosocial support to caregivers; reforming pension systems; and guaranteeing decent work for paid care and domestic workers. The latter would involve increased raising wages, expanding social protection, investing in skills development and professionalization, and facilitating social dialogue. Finally, civil society organizations demanded support for their networks advancing the care agenda and for ratifying relevant international frameworks and conventions.

C. Secretary-General’s Report and Inputs

Based on the previously mentioned submitted documentation, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, developed a [comprehensive report](#) offering insights into the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The report included an assessment of achievements and ongoing challenges related to paid and unpaid care work, as well as the adoption of relevant policies.

The Secretary-General noted progress over the past five years in advancing gender equality, citing the establishment of care systems and increased reporting on eldercare services and decent work policies. The report also highlighted the impact of demographic trends—such as population aging—on care responsibilities, and emphasized the need to recommit to the principles of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including transforming the care economy, recognizing and redistributing care work, and investing in care services. It mentioned the contributions of the Generation Equality Forum in accelerating gender equality and cited the Global Alliance for Care as a best practice:

“Evidence from the Generation Equality Accountability Reports for 2023 and 2024 showcases the Generation Equality model of intergenerational and multi-stakeholder partnerships and solidarity, and the creation of such global platforms as the Alliance for Feminist Movements and the Global Alliance for Care.”

In the section on “Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work,” the Secretary-General recalled the recent [International Labour Conference Resolution on Decent Work and the Care Economy](#) and asserted that investments in care policies can generate significant returns and create decent jobs. The report also outlined global and regional trends concerning paid and unpaid care work, including the disproportionate time women dedicate globally and regionally to these activities, and the feminization and precarious conditions of paid care and domestic work. It acknowledged the impacts of these injustices on women’s economic empowerment and the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The document described measures taken by Member States to address these issues, including the implementation of parental and other types of leaves, alongside increased focus on childcare, eldercare, and decent work for care workers. It noted that access to affordable childcare remains a persistent challenge, but highlighted pioneering efforts to establish regional frameworks and comprehensive care systems— most notably Uruguay’s in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has inspired similar models in sub-Saharan Africa. The report also recognized progress in providing childcare and eldercare in Eastern and Southeastern Asia, Burundi’s legal protections for migrant domestic workers, and the Government of Mexico’s efforts to affiliate domestic workers to social security.

The Secretary-General emphasized that further efforts are needed to achieve gender balance in the paid care workforce and identified the care sector as critical to a just transition. The report affirmed that public investments must be made to support the care economy by expanding fiscal space through progressive taxation and other reforms to fiscal and monetary policy. It also linked unpaid care work to women’s poverty and lack of social protection, and recounted policies such as pension credits, cash transfers, COVID-19 emergency payments, parental allowances, and vocational training for caregivers.

The report explored additional intersections, noting that social norms initiatives involving men and boys in caregiving can also reduce gender based violence. It examined how climate change can intensify unpaid care, domestic, and communal work, and prevent women from participating in climate or natural resource-related decision-making. It also reviewed Member States’ investments in care-supporting infrastructure.

The Secretary-General concluded the report with a set of recommendations, including the development of resilient systems that integrate social protection, decent work, and care services, and other essential public goods.

Prior to CSW69, the Secretary-General also submitted a [proposal for the themes of the upcoming five sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women \(2026–2029\)](#). Arguing that care is central to the functioning of our societies yet remains undervalued and unrecognized, he recommended the 2026 CSW priority theme to be: *“Transforming care systems: towards*

achieving sustainable development, gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls, and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda.”¹¹

The accompanying report also highlighted the vulnerable conditions of paid care workers—most of whom are women—and stated that transforming care systems would yield significant benefits and be essential to accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Care in Official CSW69 Proceedings

A. CSW69 Official Programme

The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened on March 10, 2025, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and featured many speakers who explicitly referred to the care agenda as an urgent area for action. During his opening statement, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the need to invest in women’s economic empowerment, including by supporting caregivers.

In the presentations that followed, **Sima Sami Bahous**, UN Women Executive Director, emphasized the need to transform care systems to achieve women’s economic empowerment, while **Nahla Haidar**, Chair of the [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#), highlighted the Committee’s recommendations on women’s care work. **Laura Nyirinkindi**, Chair of the [Working Group on discrimination against women and girls](#), observed that countries have adopted numerous policies, legislations, and measures to eliminate discrimination against women, including those related to the valuation and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work. She also noted that the Working Group’s upcoming report will focus on the gendered dimensions of the care and support systems, and will analyze challenges and approaches to the global care crisis “to promote a human rights-based, feminist, intersectional approach to care that takes into account women’s and girls’ role as ‘carers for the planet.”

After the adoption of the [Political Declaration](#) (see next section), the floor was opened to a general discussion on the *“Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled ‘Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century’”*, which continued throughout the two-week session. During the General Discussion, seven groups of Member States and 57 individual Member States made reference to paid and/or unpaid care and the measures they had taken to address the issue in their statements. Six intergovernmental or UN agencies and five civil society organizations that addressed the Commission also drew attention to the topic.

The session also included two ministerial roundtables and nine high-level interactive dialogues. The ministerial roundtables focused on *“National Mechanisms for Gender Equality*

¹¹ The recommendation was noted by Member States, but the priority theme was eventually adopted for 2028 (see Section III.b of this report).

and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Recommitting to, Resourcing, and Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, also with a View to Contributing to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals". In these segments, the governments of Bangladesh, Brazil*¹², Colombia*, Czechia, the Dominican Republic*, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany*, Italy*, Japan, Malta, Moldova, Nigeria, Paraguay*, the Philippines*, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain*, Thailand and Togo all described their policies, laws and institutional mechanisms that tackle women's unpaid care work responsibilities.

The [first dialogue](#) convened the United Nations Regional Commissions, Member States and youth and civil society representatives to discuss progress at the regional level. Moderator **Anacláudia Rossbach**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, affirmed the need to invest in economic policies that empower women, particularly those engaged in unpaid care work. Government representatives from Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Spain*, and Timor-Leste*, representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*, and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)*; youth and civil society speakers from Latin America, the Arab region, and Europe recognized women's disproportionate responsibility for care work as a pressing issue that needs to be addressed.

The **second dialogue** aimed to examine "*Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: the Role of the Commission on the Status of Women*" ([part I](#) and [part II](#)). Opening the segment, **H.E. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil**, Chair of the Commission and representative of Saudi Arabia, acknowledged women's unpaid care work as the cornerstone of economies and as one of the issues that should drive the Commission's continued efforts. During the dialogue, representatives from Burundi, Mexico*, Singapore shared their countries' care policies.

The [third dialogue](#), "*Beijing@30*", brought together government and youth representatives. In their interventions, Denmark, the Dominican Republic*, Greece, South Africa, the Criterion Institute, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America shed light on the impacts of the unequal distribution of care work on women—especially young girls—its links with climate change and women's poverty, and shared relevant policies.

During the [fourth dialogue](#) on "*Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity, and Decent Work*," most speakers touched on the care agenda. Panelists—including Costa Rica* in its opening remarks, and experts from Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, the UK Women's Budget Group, the University of Belgrade, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and the Women at Risk International Foundation— delved into women's unpaid care work. They reiterated the need to integrate care into government policy, implement measures to recognize and redistribute it, and guarantee the rights of paid care workers. Member States including Burundi, Cuba, Denmark, Guyana, Kenya, Mexico* and the Philippines* presented their policies and care systems.. Two civil society organizations—the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, and the Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling— underscored the importance of care work for our societies and its unequal distribution.

¹² GAC Members are marked with an asterisk in this section.

The [fifth interactive dialogue](#) addressed “Poverty Eradication, Social Protection, and Social Services.” Speakers from Ukraine, the London School of Economics, and University College Dublin analyzed the link between unpaid care work and women’s poverty, financial status, and lack of social security coverage. Representatives from ECLAC* and Guyana highlighted efforts to integrate unpaid care work into social protection and pension systems. Egypt and Kenya affirmed the need to value care work, while Mexico*, Paraguay*, Romania, and Ukraine shared their care policies, such as childcare provision, parental leaves, and comprehensive care systems.

In the [sixth interactive dialogue](#) on “Freedom from Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes”, Australia highlighted the relationship between unpaid care work, women’s economic security, and violence against women, and detailed some relevant policies. In the [seventh interactive dialogue](#) on “Participation, Accountability, and Gender-Responsive Institutions,” civil society organizations raised care as a key issue. The African Women’s Development and Communication Network* asserted that unpaid care continues to represent a major obstacle to gender equality and drew attention to the feminist movements’ work on the issue. Similarly, the International Center for Research on Women* cited unpaid care as a barrier to women’s leadership in diplomacy and foreign service.

The [eighth interactive dialogue](#) on “Environmental Conservation, Protection, and Rehabilitation” saw Mexico* stating that climate change exacerbates women’s care work responsibilities. The [ninth and final dialogue](#) on “Peaceful and Inclusive Societies” featured UN Women* emphasizing that women are at the frontlines in conflict contexts—providing care and leading efforts toward peace and recovery.

B. Outcome Documents

The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women concluded with the adoption of three documents: the [Political Declaration](#), the [CSW’s Multi-Year Programme of Work](#), and a [resolution on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts](#).

The Political Declaration includes a specific article on care, in which ministers and representatives of Governments recommit to implementing and resourcing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, specifically by:

“Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women’s and girls’ disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women within the household and promoting work-life balance, inter alia, through prioritizing public investments to develop and expand integrated care systems, including care leave policies, the provision of universal care and support services throughout the life course and the proper recognition, representation, remuneration and reward of care workers.” (paragraph 15.(b))

The Multi-Year Programme of Work also establishes the priority theme for the seventy-second session of the Commission in 2028 as:

“Recognizing and strengthening care and support systems to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

On the final day of CSW69, Member States had the opportunity to comment on the adopted documents. Chile*, on behalf of the Latin American Like-Minded Group, and Egypt celebrated the inclusion of care in the Political Declaration and the Multi-Year Work Programme, respectively.

IV. Side Events and Parallel Convenings

A. Global Alliance for Care Official Side Event and Breakfast

The convening of key stakeholders, public officials, activists, experts, and organizations to discuss gender equality during CSW69 also offered a valuable opportunity to address relevant issues beyond the official program and proceedings. Side and parallel events enabled members of the Global Alliance for Care to focus specifically on the care agenda—highlighting key milestones, exploring relevant intersections, and deepening discussions around care as a central pillar of gender equality.

■ Global Alliance for Care Flagship Event

Date: Friday, March 21st, 2025 from 1:15 to 2:30 PM

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room A



Image 1. Global Alliance for Care flagship CSW69 side event “The Care Agenda 30 Years After the Fourth World Conference on Women: A Reflection on Achievements and the Way Forward” | March 21, 2025

The Global Alliance for Care’s flagship side event, “The Care Agenda 30 Years After the Fourth World Conference on Women: A Reflection on Achievements and the Way Forward,” co-

sponsored by the Governments of Chile, Germany, the Philippines and Spain, along with UN Women, was held on Friday, March 21, 2025 from 1:15 to 2:30 PM at the United Nations Headquarters. The event aimed to review the growth and evolution of the care agenda from its mention in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to the present day. Alliance members reflected on progress, shared challenges, and exchanged lessons learned over the past decades on addressing care inequalities across regions and sectors.

In his opening remarks, **Ambassador Claudio Garrido Melo**, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Chilean Mission to the United Nations, highlighted the persistence of unpaid care work responsibilities as a major challenge to achieving gender equality. He reaffirmed Chile's commitment to recognizing and redistributing care work, outlining the country's progress in developing a national care system, implementing care policies, and promoting multilateral action on the care agenda. **Jemimah Njuki**, Chief of the Economic Empowerment Section at UN Women, framed the conversation within the context of the Beijing+30 review process, recalled recent multilateral and international resolutions on care, and emphasized the importance of addressing this issue for achieving gender equality. She also announced that CSW69 concluded with the adoption of a Political Declaration and Multi-Year Work Programme, both of which incorporated care as a central concern.

During the panel discussion, the **Honorable Deborah Akech Kuocnin**, Undersecretary of the National Ministry of Youth and Sports of South Sudan, speaking on behalf of Nala Feminist Collective, shed light on the efforts of feminist movements to achieve a just social organization of care—even prior to the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing. She recounted recent efforts to engage men in caregiving and estimate the value of care work, and mentioned government initiatives to address women's unpaid care work through parental leave. She drew attention to the broad definition of care adopted by feminists movements, as well as their work in transforming gender norms, advocating for the inclusion of care in national budgets, and promoting care as an ethical principle.

Violet Shivutse, Chair of the Huairou Commission, shared the organization's history and its roots in mobilizing grassroots caregivers during the HIV pandemic, particularly in the context of structural adjustment in Africa. She emphasized the magnitude of the contributions of grassroots women caregivers to their communities—often surpassing those of other sectors—and explained how estimating the value of this work has become central to advocacy efforts. She also highlighted the Huairou Commission's engagement in the Global Alliance for Care as part of its Management Committee and referenced to the [Grassroots Women Community Caregivers' Call to Action](#), which urged stakeholders to recognize the contributions of grassroots caregivers and resource their work. She illustrated how, in Africa, when public policies are limited to insufficient measures such as cash transfers, grassroots women create social protection systems to ensure food security and other essential elements for life.

Verónica Montúfar, Equalities Officer at Public Services International (PSI), outlined [PSI's key demands regarding the care agenda](#): protection of public care workers' rights and access to universal, quality, publicly funded care services. She described PSI's advocacy for recognizing care as a human right and a public good, and for redistributing it between households and public service institutions. She emphasized PSI's stance that States must provide public financing for care services and regulate them, and referred to PSI's [Care Manifesto: Rebuilding the Social Organization of Care](#), developed in coalition with feminist organizations. She criticized

the use of the concept of care economy as one that encourages the commodification and privatization of care—negatively impacting women, workers, and public access to services.

Councillor Nomvuyo Mposelwa, National Chairperson of the Women’s Commission of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and Executive Mayor of the Joe Gqabi District, representing United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), spoke about the unique role of local governments in building caring societies. She emphasized the importance of local policies and public services in fostering a feminist municipal movement, noting that care must not only be a service but also a guiding principle in local policy and decision-making. She added that such measures must be implemented in collaboration with local civil society and workers’ movements to ensure participation and accountability, and be properly financed. She highlighted the need for renewed multilateralism and emphasized the inclusion of care in [UCLG’s Local Social Covenant](#) as a key pillar of transformative local leadership.

Anastasia Holoboff, Director of Capacity and Movement Strengthening at Women Enabled International, underscored the importance of the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities—particularly women—in the care agenda. She explained that women with disabilities often hold dual positions as both givers and recipients of care and support. Furthermore, she noted the persistent exclusion of women with disabilities from conversations on care and gender equality, and their categorization as mere recipients of care and support. She drew attention to the rights of persons with disabilities as care recipients and their special interest in promoting the rights of care providers. She called for continued multistakeholder and intersectional dialogue on the issue, with full and meaningful inclusion, and referred to the [Feminist Accessibility Protocol](#) as a useful tool for achieving this goal.

Following the panel, the moderator, **Ana Moreno**, the Technical Secretary of the Global Alliance for Care, opened the floor to questions and comments from the audience. Participants shared insights on the need to link the care agenda in humanitarian crises, forced migration, and conflict contexts, as well as the Women, Peace and Security agenda. They shared existing initiatives aimed at addressing the Middle East and North Africa, as well as ongoing challenges related to social norms, personal status codes, and women’s unpaid care responsibilities in the region. Others also emphasized the importance of providing caregivers with proper support, particularly psychosocial support, and drew attention to the occupational hazards faced by paid care workers.

The event concluded with remarks from **H.E. Ermelita V. Valdeavilla**, Chair of the Philippine Commission on Women, who affirmed that care is essential to all societies and that this agenda holds great transformative potential. She shared the Philippines’ progress in developing a dedicated care policy, implementing work-life balance measures, and promoting local programs to provide care-supporting equipment, financial support for caregivers, and efforts to shift social norms. Finally, **Francisco Javier López Lorenzana**, Counsellor for Gender and Human Rights of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations, closed the session by reiterating the need for dialogue and building bridges around the care agenda. He affirmed that care is a feminist issue—but also one with far-reaching implications. He cited aging populations, for example, as a major driver of care policy across the political spectrum.

■ Global Alliance for Care Members' Breakfast

Date and time: March 14, 8:30 to 10.30 AM

Venue: Millennium Hilton One UN Plaza, New York. Manhattan Room



Image 2. Global Alliance for Care Members' Breakfast | March 14, 2025

Apart from the official side event, the Global Alliance for Care Secretariat also convened a networking breakfast, providing members an opportunity to connect, share experiences, promote their current work on care, and reflect on the challenges and progress in advancing the care agenda. Sixty individuals from over thirty member organizations and institutions attended the networking breakfast.

During the breakfast meeting, **Aina Calvo**, the State Secretary for Equality and the Eradication of Violence against Women from the Government of Spain, and **Antonia Orellana**, the Minister of Women and Gender Equity of the Government of Chile—both members of the GAC Management Committee—highlighted the importance of the Alliance. They praised its flexible structure, which enables not only interregional cooperation but also cross-sectoral collaboration—particularly valuable in today's international context, marked by pushbacks against gender equality agendas. Both officials also shared updates on the progress made in the care agenda in Spain and Chile, respectively, and reaffirmed their governments' commitment to placing care at the center of discussions at the upcoming [4th International Conference on Financing for Development](#) (Seville, 30 June - 3 July, 2025) and the [XVI Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (Mexico City, 12-15 August, 2025).

Other members of the Management Committee also took the floor such as **Natalia Gherardi**, Executive Director of ELA Argentina; **Adriana Paz**, General Secretary at the International Domestic Workers Federation; **Moni Pizani**, UN Women Representative for México; and **Relinda Sosa Pérez**, member of the Governing Council of Huairou Commission.

The fundamental role of trade unions within the Alliance was also emphasized by members like the Association of Domestic, Home and Maquila Workers; Public Services International,

and the International Domestic Workers Federation, including their efforts in the context of the [113th Session of the International Labour Conference](#). They underscored the importance of continuously bringing the issue of decent work for care and support workers into care-related discussions, and of ensuring their representation in advocacy and decision-making spaces.

Interventions from other members referred to key initiatives, such as the [Global Roadmap for Action on the Care Economy](#) (GRAC), led by the Center for Global Development, The Asia Foundation, CIPPEC, Women Deliver, and the International Center for Research on Women. This roadmap provides an overview of the global care landscape, highlights existing data and measurement gaps, and offers specific recommendations.

Finally, other members highlighted the need to confront gender equality setbacks through the prioritization of social norms change campaigns—especially those focused on younger generations.

In addition to sharing updates on the efforts being led by members in various multilateral spaces to advance and position the global care and support agenda, members also discussed key strategies to strengthen the Alliance and increase the advocacy and articulation capacity of its membership. Some of the proposals shared by members included the creation of working groups aligned with each of the strategic areas defined in 2024; the facilitation of preparatory spaces ahead of multilateral events, including efforts to develop joint positions; and the development of a roadmap toward the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that ensures inclusive participation from all sectors.



Image 3. Global Alliance for Care Members' Breakfast | March 14, 2025

B. Events Organized with the Support of the Global Alliance for Care

The Global Alliance for Care also provided support to several events and initiatives on strategic topics related to the care agenda. The first was a virtual NGOCSW event titled [“New Rights for the 21st Century: Care and Time,”](#) organized by the Time Use Initiative*¹³. The event explored the definitions of the right to care and time as both narrative and action frameworks. It explored how the recognition of these rights impacts the well-being of women and care workers, and showcased innovative policies implemented in different cities and regions worldwide. It also emphasized that the inability to exercise these rights is detrimental to health, social and working conditions of care workers, paid and unpaid.

Speakers affirmed that care work is inextricably linked to time: disproportionate responsibilities for care generate time poverty, which limits women’s well-being and gender equality. Panelists argued that policies aimed at redistributing care and freeing women’s time should also reward and represent care workers to achieve decent work, and noted that international agencies are in a privileged position to support such initiatives. Finally, speakers shared experiences from Bogotá and Barcelona on guaranteeing both the right to care and the right to time in public policy.



Image 4. NGOCSW Event “New Rights for the 21st Century: Care and Time” | March 11, 2025

The CSW69 side event [“Transforming Care Systems for a Changing World: A South-South Dialogue”](#), convened by the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Governments of Brazil*, Chile*, and Mexico*, ECLAC*, ESCAP* and ESCWA with the support of the Global Alliance for Care, provided an opportunity for cross-regional knowledge exchange and South-South cooperation to transform care systems and advance innovative care economy solutions.

The event emphasized the urgency of systemic reforms to recognize care as a fundamental right and to integrate it into social protection systems, addressing the disproportionate share of unpaid care work that falls on women. National initiatives aiming at reducing gender disparities in caregiving—such as Cambodia’s care ecosystem approach, Chile’s formal recognition of care as a right, and Brazil’s national care policy—were presented as promising models.

13 GAC Members are marked with an asterisk in this and following sections.



Image 5. Side event “Transforming Care Systems for a Changing World: A South–South Dialogue” | March 13, 2025

Discussions reinforced the importance of South–South cooperation in sharing best practices, fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships, and securing sustainable financing for the care economy. The event concluded with a strong call for coordinated global action to integrate care policies into economic frameworks and promote inclusive, gender-responsive care systems.

Later, the event **“Financing care and beyond: A pillar for advancing depatriarchalization as a development goal”**, organized by the Governments Mexico* and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Plurinational Service for Women and Depatriarchalization “Ana María Romero” of



Bolivia, Oxfam*, the Regional Network *Trenzando Cuidados*, UNDP* and UN Women* with the support of the Global Alliance for Care, aimed to position financing care and gender equality as development priorities.

The session featured the presentation of two new documents on the topic: **“Expanding the Social Demand for Care”** and **“Realities and Challenges Regarding the Financing of Care Policies and Systems: Systematization of the Learning Community on Taxation and Care”**. Panelists also provided an overview of the depatriarchalization and care agenda, shared best practices from the Latin American region, explained how care policies can be localized, and offered reflections ahead of the XVI Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Another parallel event, ***“Care Economy and Decent Work: Strategies for Labor and Gender Justice,”*** convened by the International Domestic Workers’ Federation*, the International Labour Organization* and the Simone de Beauvoir Leadership Institute* with the support of the Global Alliance for Care, brought a specific focus on the needs and challenges face by paid care workers. The event sought to explore comprehensive policies and legislation that guarantee care workers’ access to decent work and universal social protection. Panelists presented Mexico’s model for achieving a Care Society, shared best practices on decent work and care in the region, outlined instruments and tools for regulating and investing in care policies, as well as explored the intersections between domestic and care work to advance decent work. Finally, the event positioned a common understanding of care work as a right

rather than a commodity and identified the responsibilities of states, businesses, and the social sector in this regard.



Image 7. CSW69, Side Event “Accelerating Progress on the Beijing Platform for Action on Women and the Environment through a Care-centered Just Transition” | March 17, 2025

During the second week of CSW69, the side event **“Accelerating Progress on the Beijing Platform for Action on Women and the Environment through a Care-centered Just Transition”** was held. This session explored the care and climate nexus, as initially alluded to in the Beijing Platforms for Action, and discussed recent action research undertaken by the [Climate and Care Initiative](#) with the support of Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on a care-centered transition.

Panelists, including grassroots paid and unpaid care workers from Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, described their work caring for both people and the planet, articulating key demands to support this labor. Government representatives from Brazil and the Philippines later shared their efforts to devise policies addressing care work and climate action, while reflecting on opportunities presented by the 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) to be held in Brazil.

The final side event, titled **“Addressing Structural Barriers for Progress on the BPfA and to fulfill the SDGs: Financing Care – Feminist Proposals from the Global South,”** was co-sponsored by the Governments of Canada*, Colombia*, South Africa, and Spain* and co-organized by the Gender and Trade Network, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada*, Oxfam*, and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)*, with the support of the Global Alliance for Care, Southern Voice*, and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

The session built a bridge between CSW69 discussions, progress on the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development. It elevated perspectives and proposals from feminist movements on financing care policies. Government representatives from Colombia, South Africa and Spain affirmed the need to finance care as

a pillar of gender equality and sustainable as a whole, and identified opportunities to position this agenda at the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development Conference and 2025 G20 in South Africa.

Civil society organizations also stressed the importance of public investment in care, proposing concrete measures such as progressive tax policies and debt restructuring as critical sources of financing.

The Global Alliance for Care Secretariat also supported the organization of other closed workshops and meetings, including two workshops on the climate and care nexus and financing care policies, respectively, as well as a meeting of the W20 to collectively identify strategies and plans for the 2025 G20 in South Africa, including its working group on care.



Image 8. Closed workshops on climate and care nexus | March 2025



Image 9 Closed workshops on financing care policies | March 2025



Image 10. W20 meeting

C. Global Alliance for Care Member Events

Global Alliance for Care members were also at the forefront of mobilizing efforts to promote discussions on care. Of the thirty-one CSW69 side events centered on care, twenty-eight were convened by one or more members of the Alliance.

The Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality (IWWAGE)* organized the virtual Panel *“Propelling India’s Care Economy: Achievements, Challenges, and Strategies for the Future.”* It featured leading experts who deliberated on India’s progress, persistent challenges, and strategic pathways for strengthening the care economy.

The EU-LAC Foundation*, ODI Europe*, Walking the Talk, and la Coordinadora de ONGs de Desarrollo also organized an event titled *“Beijing+30 Transforming financial architectures for gender equality: Pathways to inclusive and prosperous societies in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean”*, which spotlighted the importance of continuing to promote the approval of the Bi-regional Pact for Care at the IV Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the European Union, to be held in November 2025 in Santa Marta, Colombia.



Image 11. CSW69, Side Event *“Beijing+30 Transforming financial architectures for gender equality: Pathways to inclusive and prosperous societies in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean”* | March 10, 2025

The Committee on the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), the Government of Sweden* and We Effect, in collaboration with Cooperatives Europe and the International Cooperative Alliance, explored the role of cooperatives in transforming care systems in the event *“Collectively Transforming Care Systems with A Multi-Sectoral Approach.”*

INSTITUCIONALIDAD

- ▶ No es un derecho emergente- Ya existía solo que no se lo consideraba ni exigía.

OBLIGACIONES

- ▶ Cada Estado debe reconocer, respetar y garantizar el derecho al cuidado. Obligaciones de efecto inmediato. Exigibilidad y justiciabilidad.
- ▶ Interdependencia con DESCAs. El cuidado es un derecho en sí mismo y que deben garantizarse las condiciones para su ejercicio.

POLITICAS PÚBLICAS

- ▶ Obliga a los 3 poderes del Estado y jurisdicciones (Nacional, provincial, local). Con estándares: de género y de DDHH.
- ▶ Sector privado, comunitario y los

Image 11. Virtual NGOCSW event “The Human Right to Care in the Beijing +30 Global Commitments” | March 12, 2025

The virtual NGOCSW event *“The Human Right to Care in the Beijing +30 Global Commitments”* involving ActionAid, the African Women’s Development and Communication Network*, CESR, DAWN Feminist, GI-ESCR*, the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Oxfam*, PSI* and the Tax Justice Network took stock of the progress made on care since the Beijing Declaration. It also charted a way forward for rebuilding the social organization of care through its recognition as a human right, guaranteeing decent work, and expanding fiscal space.

The event *“Care in Times of War, Conflict and Crises: Elevating the Care Economy for Resilience and Recovery,”* convened by the State of Libya, the Arab Women Organization, GIZ* and UN Women* in cooperation with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia analyzed how caregiving within communities and societies is affected by crises and war and explored interventions to respond to these challenges.



Image 12. Side Event “Care at the Core: ASEAN Leadership in Advancing Gender Equality through the Care Economy” March 12, 2025

Another event by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Lao Women’s Union, ESCAP*, Oxfam*, UN Women*, and USAID*, titled **“Care at the Core: ASEAN Leadership in Advancing Gender Equality through the Care Economy,”** highlighted ASEAN’s pioneering efforts in advancing gender equality through the care economy. The event reaffirmed ASEAN’s commitment to integrating care work into economic and social policies and identifying key upcoming milestones.

The governments of Austria and the Bahá’í International Community, the ChildFund Alliance, Equipundo*, Plan International*, and the Women’s Refugee Commission, organized the event **“Children Respond to the Promise of Gender Equality: Addressing Gender-Based Violence through Shared Care Responsibilities and Humanitarian Support at Beijing+30.”** It explored how initiatives that support shared care responsibilities, implement gender-transformative humanitarian interventions, and enable the meaningful participation of children and young people can help address gender-based violence and advance gender equality.

The Ford Foundation*, SIDA* and WIEGO convened the event **“Women’s Collective Power for Public Good: Where are we now, 30 years on?”** which included a panel on collective mobilization and coalition-building to achieve justice and equality in the care sector.

The ***Local and Regional Governments’ Day***, convened by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and facilitated by UCLG* saw the adoption of a set of Policy Recommendations, which included a call to increase investments in local care systems.

The UCLG* and UNDP* event, **“Improving the Lives of Women: Concrete Actions by Local Governments,”** also explored care as a key pillar of local policymaking for gender equality and sustainable development.

The session **“Rights in dispute: Gender equality in Latin America in the face of setbacks in the new global panorama,”** organized by the Heinrich Boll Foundation, the Latin American Justice and Gender Team (ELA)* and Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres, similarly explored the impact of the rise of anti-rights movement on the care agenda across the continent.



Image 13. Parallel Event “Women’s Collective Power for Public Good: Where are we now, 30 years on?” | March 13, 2025

The NGOCSW event organized by Single Super Moms and Make Mothers Matter*, ***“Leave No Single Mother Behind,”*** drew on the experiences of grassroots organizations to illustrate the challenges faced by single mothers—their vulnerability to poverty, the difficulties they encounter in accessing decent work, and potential solutions to address these issues.

The event ***“Transforming Care: Progress, Challenges, and Future Directions in Men’s Involvement in Care Work,”*** organized by the Government of Rwanda in collaboration with, Equimundo: Center for Masculinities & Social Justice*, RWAMREC*, Sonke Gender Justice*, and the University of Miami’s Human Rights Law Clinic and WORLD Policy Analysis Center* explored progress and challenges in reshaping care policies to promote gender equality, with a particular focus on the role of men in caregiving.



Image 14. Parallel Event *“Recognizing and Redoubling the Impact of 30 years of Grassroots Women’s Groups’ Organizing to Realize the Beijing Platform for Action, SDG 5, and Build Economically Just and Resilient Communities: A Call to Action”* | March 17, 2025

The Huairou Commission*, UN Women*, the Spanish Development Cooperation, the Future of Work Program of the Ford Foundation*, UCLG*, GROOTS Jamaica, Las Brumas Cooperative Union, Nicaragua, the Community Kitchens Movement, Peru, the Women and Habitat Network LAC, and Oxfam* convened the event ***“Recognizing and Redoubling the Impact of 30 years of Grassroots Women’s Groups’ Organizing to Realize the Beijing Platform for Action, SDG 5, and Build Economically Just and Resilient Communities: A Call to Action”***.

The session featured grassroots women caregivers who highlighted their essential work within communities, as well as putting forward key demands and identifying necessary policies. Partners and stakeholders also showcased their efforts to address the needs and priorities of grassroots caregivers.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil* to the UN, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, DIVA for Equality Fiji, ECMIA, Fòs Feminista*, and Outright International organized the event ***“Reclaim Families: A Feminist and Human Rights-Based Approach to Family Policy.”*** The event explored feminist framings to family policies, while centering the experiences of excluded groups and voices from the Global South, and shared promising practices.

The Government of Tanzania* hosted the event on *“Scaling Up Innovation for Reducing and Redistributing Women and Girls Unpaid Care Work in Rural Tanzania”*.

The Government of Mexico* and UN Women* convened the event *“Redefining Diplomacy: The Impact of Care Systems on Foreign Policy”*, which featured reflections on international cooperation regarding care, showcased progress in national care policies, and explored the unpaid care needs of women diplomats.

The Government of Brazil* and UCLG* also organized the event *“Local Female Leadership: Transforming Climate and Care in Brazil and Latin America”*, which examined the intersection of care and climate policy at the local level.

Finally, the event *“Motherhood: The Unfinished Business of Beijing”* shed light on the critical importance of supporting motherhood for gender equality and global development. It reviewed progress and challenges and discussed potential mechanisms for future change.

IV. Conclusions and Reflections

The documentation and proceedings of CSW69 reflect a notable increase in attention to the care agenda across formal and informal spaces. Discussions during the session, as well as the wide range of care-related side and parallel events, suggest that care is gaining prominence in gender equality and development dialogues, building on momentum accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Content from the session highlighted the diversity of actors engaged in advancing care—ranging from governments and multilateral agencies to feminist movements, researchers, trade unions, and grassroots organizations. Contributions explored care in relation to themes such as economic justice, social protection, climate change, humanitarian crises, masculinities, and inclusive governance. Many events focused on recognition and redistribution of care work, while others highlighted proposals for financing, policy innovation, and systemic reform.

Across the materials reviewed, three trends appear consistently:

- 1 Expanded attention to care** in formal and informal CSW spaces, including multiple references in official proceedings and increased volume of care-focused events.
- 2 A broadening of entry points** to the care agenda, including intersections with the environment, fiscal policy, migration, aging, and labor rights agendas, and increased cross-movement dialogue.
- 3 An emphasis on the need for structural change**, including calls for investment in public care systems, the recognition of care as a right, and the integration of care into national and international policy frameworks.

Many interventions also brought attention to ensuring inclusive care and support systems as fundamental to the dignity, rights, and well-being of those who receive care and support,

including older persons, persons with disabilities, children, and marginalized communities. Several contributions stressed the need for policies and systems that guarantee the rights of both care workers and care recipients, ensuring quality, accessible, and rights-based care services throughout the life course. The intersections between care, social protection, health, education, and humanitarian response were identified as critical areas for further development and investment.

At the same time, a number of challenges and gaps were also identified:

- Persistent **inequities in who provides care**, with women and girls—particularly from marginalized groups—continuing to bear a disproportionate responsibility and facing precarious conditions in the paid sector.
- **Limited availability of data and analysis** on care systems and their intersections with other sectors, particularly in the Global South, as well as knowledge gaps and inconsistent narratives across policymakers and key actors.
- **Barriers to implementation**, including financial constraints, social norms, and lack of cross-sectoral coordination, and a lack of policies rooted in the 5Rs of care and human-rights based, gender-transformative and decent work approaches, as outlined in the Global Alliance for Care’s transformative vision.
- Concerns around **the risk of backlash or instrumentalization** of the care agenda in politically sensitive environments.

Looking forward, several upcoming multilateral processes—including the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2025 G20 in South Africa, and the Second World Summit for Social Development—were referenced as potential spaces for advancing care-related commitments. A number of events also raised the importance of maintaining momentum in the lead-up to the Beijing+30 review process.

The findings compiled in this report are intended to support Alliance members in their ongoing work—whether through policy development, advocacy, partnership-building, or internal reflection. By documenting how care was addressed at CSW69, this report aims to contribute to shared learning and inform future engagement in multilateral spaces.

