



**Second World Summit  
for Social Development**

**November 4–6, 2025**

**Care Advocacy  
Toolkit**

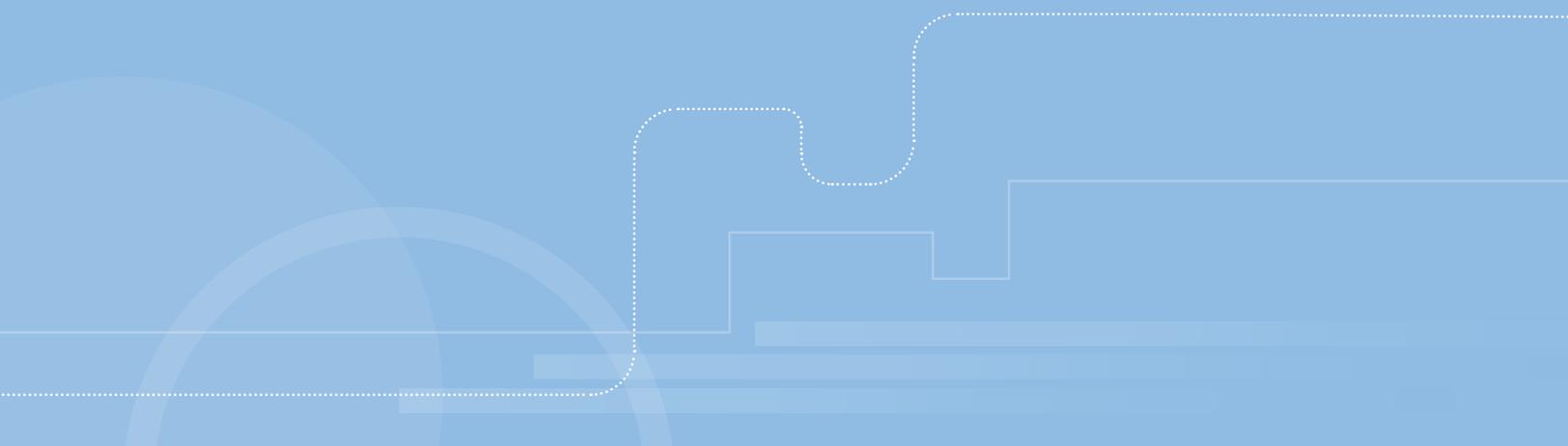
**Second World Summit for Social Development**

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# **Care Advocacy Toolkit**

**This toolkit 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. For more detailed information about the Second World Summit for Social Development, please consult the official website, available [here](#).**

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# Introduction

In its 2025–2030 Strategic Priorities, the Global Alliance for Care (GAC) identified the **Second World Summit for Social Development** (WSSD2) as a key space to amplify advocacy efforts, integrate care into sustainable development frameworks, and promote its recognition as a cross-cutting element in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WSSD2 also presents a significant opportunity for the Global Alliance for Care to advance its transformative vision of care.

Building on members' insights and ongoing advocacy efforts, this WSSD2 Advocacy Toolkit is designed as an **information resource for Alliance members** seeking to gain a better understanding of WSSD2, participate in the Forum, and promote a transformative vision of care within and beyond its proceedings. It provides general background information on WSSD2, details on its relevance to the care and support agenda, advocacy opportunities, and additional resources produced by members.

*You can access previous care advocacy toolkits [here](#).*

# What is the Summit for Social Development, and why is it important?

The World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995 in Copenhagen, was at the time the largest gathering of world leaders in history. It brought together over 117 Heads of State and Government, as well as a total of 14,000 participants from 186 countries. The Summit sought to mobilize action on three key objectives of social development: eradicating poverty, achieving full employment, and promoting social inclusion.

The gathering resulted in the adoption of the **Copenhagen Declaration**, which outlined ten commitments to advance social development:

1. Creating an **economic, political, social, cultural, and legal environment** that enables people to achieve social development
2. **Eradicating poverty** in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political, and economic imperative of humankind.
3. Promoting **full employment** as a basic priority of economic and social policies, and enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work.
4. Promoting **social integration** by fostering societies that are stable, safe, and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons.
5. Promoting full respect for human dignity and achieving **equality and equity between women and men**, and recognizing and enhancing the participation and leadership roles of women in political, civil, economic, social, and cultural life and in development.
6. Promoting and attaining the goals of **universal and equitable access to quality education**, the highest attainable standard of **physical and mental health**, [...] striving to strengthen the **role of culture in development** [...].

7. Accelerating the economic, social, and human resource **development of Africa and the least developed countries**.
8. Ensuring that when **structural adjustment programs** are agreed to, they include social development goals, in particular eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and enhancing social integration.
9. Increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the **resources allocated to social development** to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and regional and international cooperation.
10. Improving and strengthening the **framework for international, regional, and subregional cooperation** for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

The Declaration was also accompanied by a **Programme of Action**, which outlined specific measures to create an enabling environment for social development, achieve full employment, and promote social inclusion.

## **Second World Summit for Social Development**

The **Second World Social Summit for Social Development** (WSSD2) will take place at the Qatar National Convention Center in Doha from **November 4 to 6, 2025**, to assess gaps, reaffirm commitment to the **Copenhagen Declaration**, and accelerate alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Against the backdrop of persisting inequalities and new global challenges, the WSSD2's main objective is to accelerate action for the eradication of poverty, achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and promotion of social inclusion.

### ***Preparations***

In July 2024, the President of the General Assembly appointed H.E. Mr. Philippe Kridelka, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, as co-facilitators for the intergovernmental negotiations leading up to WSSD2. The co-facilitators convened an **informal briefing** with stakeholders in November 2024 to share expectations and hear perspectives on the Summit from Member States, civil society, and international organizations.

## ***Food for Thought Paper***

In December 2024, the co-facilitators opened a call for input from Member States on a ***Food for Thought paper*** to inform negotiations of the Political Declaration of the World Social Summit. The **paper** was released in March 2025, and mentioned the urgency of strengthening long-term care systems, ensuring equitable care work, and advancing inclusive care and support policies for social development<sup>1</sup>. An in-person only **informal hearing** was held in April 2025 for stakeholders to share reactions and perspectives on the *Food for Thought* paper.

In addition, the **UN Inter-Agency Task Force** (UN IATF) supporting preparations for the Summit produced a **set of briefs** on the three key fields of actions identified in the *Food for Thought* paper – social inclusion, eradicating poverty, and decent work – as well as on follow-up, monitoring, and review of related implementation.

## ***Political Declaration***

The co-facilitators issued the **Zero Draft** of the *Political Declaration of the Second World Summit on Social Development* on April 28, 2025. It included a commitment to consider the multiplier effects and returns on investment of financing care policies, promoting formal work in the care sector, strengthening access to long-term care, and ensuring equitable care work.

The **first draft** was published on June 18, 2025, with new language that recognized that unpaid care work responsibilities keep women out of the labor force. It featured several commitments to recognizing, reducing, and redistributing care work. The draft emphasized the importance of strengthening long-term care systems, ensuring decent work in the care sector, promoting work-life balance, and providing childcare and family benefits. It also mentioned equitable care work, social protection for caregivers, redistributing care work within households, and designing public care policies as urgent areas for action.

The **second Draft**, issued on July 15, 2025, retained most of these references – except for a clause related to designing public care systems – and added new language on support systems and policies.

The final text of the **WSSD2 Political Declaration**, agreed upon by consensus on September 5, 2025, and to be formally adopted at the Summit, has retained most of the

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that the Paper emphasizes strengthening the role of the family when implementing care policies.

language on care from previous drafts. Though a reference to care work responsibilities keeping women out of the labor force was removed, the document still includes previous commitments to recognizing, reducing, and redistributing care work. It urges States to consider the multiplier effects of care systems and to implement care and support policies. The Declaration includes pledges to strengthen care and support systems, ensuring decent work in the care and support sector, promoting work-life balance, and providing childcare and family benefits. It also mentions equitable care work, social protection for caregivers, redistributing care work within households, and designing public care and support policies as urgent areas for action.

## **Activities organized around WSSD2**

- **Official meeting:** Plenary sessions, including the adoption of the Political Declaration and general statements by delegations. The official meeting will also include two high-level roundtable discussions: one focusing on the three pillars of social development (poverty eradication; full and productive employment and decent work for all; and social inclusion), and another on assessing progress, addressing gaps, and accelerating implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the 2030 Agenda.
- **Doha Solutions Platform for Social Development:** Repository of pledges, commitments, and initiatives from all stakeholders dedicated to advancing social development.
- **Pre-summit activities (November 3, 2025):** A set of activities on November 3, 2025, showcasing key global solutions and initiatives, such as the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty** and the **Doha Solutions Forum for Social Development**.
- **Solutions Sessions (November 4-6, 2025):** Side events organized alongside the Summit that focus on priority themes or emerging issues related to social development and offer concrete solutions.
- **Solutions Square Exhibitions (November 4-6, 2025):** Exhibition space for diverse actors to showcase their work and approaches to social development.
- **Solutions Studio (November 4-6, 2025):** Venue for sharing new commitments and initiatives, including those under the Doha Platform for Social Development.

- **Civil Society Forum (November 5–6, 2025):** Space for insights from civil society actors on social development, led by the NGO Committee for Social Development in partnership with UN DESA and Qatar.
- **Private Sector Forum (November 5, 2025):** Convening centered on the perspectives of businesses and enterprises, co-organized by the UN Global Compact, UN DESA, and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE).

## How is care related to WSSD2?

In 1995, the Copenhagen Declaration included references to care work and gender equality. As part of its commitment to achieving equality between women and men, it pledged to foster shared caregiving responsibilities for children and support for older persons, and to provide childcare and support services. It further vowed to make women’s contributions to the economy through unpaid care work more visible.

The **Copenhagen Programme of Action** would further emphasize the importance of reducing women’s disproportionate time spent on domestic work and countering the gendered division of labor through measures such as technological innovation, parental leave, work-life balance arrangements, and childcare services – framing these as key mechanisms to enable women’s full participation in the labor force.

These early references offer a powerful framework for care-related advocacy at WSSD2. The three pillars of social development under discussion at WSSD2 – eradicating poverty, achieving full employment and decent work, and promoting social inclusion – are highly relevant to the care agenda.

Disproportionate care responsibilities are often the most prominent barrier to women’s economic empowerment and access to financial and other resources. In 2023, an estimated **708 million women** were outside the paid labor market due to caregiving responsibilities, compared to **40 million men** – representing **45% of all inactive women worldwide**. A meta-analysis found that mothers earn around 3.6%–3.8% less than single women, due mainly to care-related career interruptions, employer discrimination,

and preferences for lower-paying but more flexible jobs<sup>2</sup>. In the United States, **single mothers earned 56 cents for every dollar earned by fathers**<sup>3</sup>.

Care work responsibilities are also associated with limited access to social protection. Women who have had to dedicate part or all of their lives to caregiving are often locked out from contributory social security schemes linked to gainful employment – including retirement, benefits, medical care, and other forms of coverage<sup>4</sup>. Exclusion from social protection systems is a major cause of poverty worldwide and can be especially severe for older, indigenous, rural, Afro-descendant women, and women with disabilities<sup>5</sup>.

The paid care sector is often characterized by low wages, precarious working conditions, and a lack of access to social security. This is particularly the case in the Global South and among informal, domestic, and migrant care workers<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, labor shortages in the care sector generate high levels of stress and threats to workers' mental and physical health<sup>7</sup>. It is estimated that by 2030, there will be a global shortage of around **18 million healthcare workers** to meet the needs of the world's population.

When public care and support services are absent, insufficient, or inaccessible, those in need risk falling into **"care poverty"** – a situation of inadequate coverage and unmet care needs. This situation is exacerbated by demographic trends such as population aging. More than **40% of all children (nearly 350 million)** below primary school entry age worldwide face unmet childcare needs<sup>8</sup>.

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2 Cukrowska-Torzewska, E., & Matysiak, A. (2020). *The motherhood wage penalty: A meta-analysis*. *Social Science Research*, 88–89, 102416. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102416>

3 Salas-Betsch, I. (2024, August 7). *The economic status of single mothers*. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-economic-status-of-single-mothers/>

4 Addati, L., Cattaneo, U., Esquivel, V., & Valarino, I. (2018). *Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work*. International Labour Office. [https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40dgreports/%40dcomm/%40publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_633135.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40dgreports/%40dcomm/%40publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf)

5 Staab, S., Williams, L., Tabbush, C., & Turquet, L. (2024). *Harnessing social protection for gender equality, resilience and transformation*. In *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*. UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/World-survey-on-the-role-of-women-in-development-2024-en.pdf>

6 Duffy, M., & Armenia, A. (2021). *Paid care work around the globe: A comparative analysis of 47 countries and territories*. UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Discussion-paper-Paid-care-work-around-the-globe-en.pdf>

7 UNI Global Union. (2025). *Fixing the care crisis: Stopping the staff exodus, building resilient care systems: A global survey of institutional health and care workers*. <https://uniglobalunion.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-UNI-Care-2025-Report-Fixing-the-care-crisis.pdf>

8 Devercelli, A., & Beaton-Day, F. (2020). *Better jobs and brighter futures: Investing in childcare to build human capital*. World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a5e7a52e-115c-5dd1-97e6-clb062c945c9/content>

Investing in care policies and systems – as well as in work–life balance measures – is an essential strategy for combating poverty, achieving full employment and decent work, and promoting social inclusion. Robust care systems promote women’s participation in the economy, enhance outcomes for children, and are estimated to generate up to **299 million full-time jobs by 2035**<sup>9</sup>. Inclusive care and support services can foster independent living and autonomy for persons with disabilities<sup>10</sup>. Finally, such policies also strengthen countries’ resilience in facing the challenges of aging populations<sup>11</sup>.

## The GAC at WSSD2

During WSSD2, there will be some advocacy, networking, and outreach opportunities for members of the Global Alliance for Care (GAC). Attending, participating in, or consulting the GAC’s various WSSD2 initiatives and resources will foster collaboration, promote dialogue on care, and build on the collective efforts of its members:

- **GAC Exhibition at Solutions Square:** From November 4 to 6, 2025, at Booth 11, Exhibition Hall 6 of the Qatar National Convention Center. This exhibit will feature visual materials, photographs, and publications showcasing best practices, statistics, and examples of care-related initiatives from GAC members. A morning coffee of members will be held at the Booth on November 5, 2025, from 8:30 to 10:00 AM.
- **GAC Flagship Solutions Session “Care at the Center of Social Development: Advancing Care-Centered Solutions for an Equal World”:** Wednesday, November 5, from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Qatar National Convention Center, Room 105. This session will bring together high-level representatives from governments, international organizations, and civil society members of the GAC to share progress, highlight innovative policies, and explore how care-centered

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9 Addati, L., Cattaneo, U., & Pozzan, E. (2022). *Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender-equal world of work*. International Labour Office.  
[https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_838653.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_838653.pdf)

10 Pereira, M. A. (2025). *Disability policy insights: Disability inclusion in the care agenda* (Policy Brief No. 2). Center for Inclusive Policy.  
[https://inclusive-policy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Policy-Brief-2\\_FINAL.pdf](https://inclusive-policy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Policy-Brief-2_FINAL.pdf)

11 World Economic Forum. (2025). *Future-proofing the longevity economy: Innovations and key trends*.  
[https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Future\\_Proofing\\_the\\_Longevity\\_Economy\\_2025.pdf](https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_Proofing_the_Longevity_Economy_2025.pdf)

approaches can address emerging global challenges while advancing poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion.

- **Events organized with the support of the GAC:** Activities led by members with the support of the GAC, tackling multiple facets of the care agenda:
  - **“Shifting the Paradigm: Centring Care Society and Social Protection for Social Development”** (3 November 2025, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Doha Time): Organized by Make Mothers Matter, the Global Initiative for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR), Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Human Rights Watch, Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, with the support of the Global Alliance for Care. Virtual (registration [here](#))
  - **“Gender-Responsive Social Protection and Economic Transformation in a Time of Reform”** (6 November, 2025, 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Room 14, Exhibition Hall 7): Organized by the Feminist Task Force, “Gender Equality to End Poverty” Coalition, and the Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development. Co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW NY), Nobel Delta Women for Peace and Development International, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Feminist & Women’s Constituency, and with the support of the Global Alliance for Care and UN Women-convened Economic Justice & Rights Action Coalition.
  - **“Caring for the Future: Redefining Development Through Care Politics”** (6 November 2025, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Room 103): Organized by the Governments of Chile and Spain, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and UN Women with the support of the Global Alliance for Care
  - **“Transformative Governance for Caring Societies: Pathways Towards Inclusive Social Development”** (6 November 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Qatar National Convention Centre, Room 1): Organized by UNRISD, the Government of Chile, the Latin American Council for Social Sciences (CLACSO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the ILO, and UN Women with the support of the Global Alliance for Care.

- **Other members' events and initiatives:** Care-related convenings organized by GAC members on the sidelines of WSSD2.

*You can read the complete agenda of GAC activities at WSSD2 [here](#).*

## **What is the GAC transformative vision that members bring to WSSD2?**

The Global Alliance for Care's transformative vision and 2025–2030 Strategic Priorities offer a set of collective principles and messages that can be amplified, positioned, and connected to other issues during WSSD2:

- Care is **essential to our societies and economies**. It allows individuals to be fed, clean, and participate in their communities in a healthy environment. However, this labor is largely unrecognized and undervalued.
- Care consists of the **activities undertaken to ensure the day-to-day physical, economic, and emotional well-being and development of persons**. It includes the provision of elements essential to human life, such as food, shelter, sanitation, cleanliness, health, and company. Care work comprises two overlapping activities: direct, personal, and relational care activities, such as feeding a baby or nursing an ill partner; and indirect care activities, such as cooking and cleaning. Care can be unpaid, as in the case of housework or community caregiving, as well as paid, such as domestic work or workers in other care sectors (health, education, among others).
- **Women and girls assume the lion's share of care work**, dedicating three times more time to this labor than men globally. This is a **significant hurdle to achieving gender equality**, as it generates time poverty and limits women's economic participation and security, their educational attainment, and their time for self-care and recreation.
- The current social organization of care is also **unsustainable for people who require care and support, as it fails to provide quality, accessible, and sufficient services, and does not** guarantee the right to autonomy and independent living.
- **Paid care workers, who are also mainly women, also face precarious labor conditions, low wages, and a lack of social security**. Many such workers are migrants and face multiple forms of discrimination due to nationality, migration status, and/or ethnic and racial identity.

- Care is a **cross-cutting issue central to development, and it intersects with many other agendas, including labor rights, the environment and climate action, migration and forced displacement, demographic trends**, including population aging, trade, combatting violence, housing and urban development, health, debt restructuring, fiscal justice and austerity, education, technology, and conflict, among many others.
- Care must be recognized **as work, as a right, as a universal need, and as a public good**. All individuals and sectors of society **share responsibilities** for care work. While States are the primary duty-bearers for the provision of public care services, the private sector, households, and communities also have a role to play. Men must also be equally engaged in caregiving.
- Stakeholders should be guided by the **5Rs of care framework**: Recognize, reduce, and redistribute care work, and reward and represent care workers. Several policies must be implemented to achieve this vision:
  - **Data and research** must be generated on care inequalities, and care work must be captured in national accounts.
  - Governments must develop **universal and comprehensive care systems and policies, including care-supporting infrastructure, childcare, long-term care, and other essential services**.
  - Governments must also sustainably **invest and finance these policies** and expand fiscal space. Other co-responsible sectors — such as philanthropies, donors, and international cooperation agencies — should also provide funding opportunities and support projects directed toward transforming care systems.
  - Workplaces must be **care-friendly**, with flexible work arrangements, leave policies, and on-site care facilities.
  - Care workers must enjoy **decent work conditions and social protection**, and their right to collective bargaining and organization must be guaranteed. Their formalization, certification, and skills development must be prioritized.
  - **Civil society**, including caregivers' and receivers' organizations, must participate in designing, implementing, and monitoring care policies, and **social dialogue** must be maintained.

- Persons with disabilities, older persons, people with illnesses, and children and adolescents must be seen as **subjects of rights and agents of change** by care policies, rather than dependents or mere receivers of assistance.
- Policies must be **localized** and adopt an **intersectional perspective**, taking into account needs and interests arising from gender, age, ethnicity, income, and disability, among other factors.

## **How can the care agenda be positioned at WSSD2?**

In addition to attending or addressing the WSSD2, stakeholders may wish to leverage heightened conversations on social development, the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration, and alignment with the 2030 Agenda to explore and raise awareness of the centrality of care to the development agenda. This can be done through the following activities:

- **Engage in dialogue** with Member States, Major Groups, and other stakeholders to advocate for a care lens at the WSSD2 and commitments to care as a cross-cutting lens to advance social development.
- **Organize and participate** in events and convenings that facilitate conversation on issues related to care and social development.
- **Produce, compile, and disseminate** useful research and data to support advocacy efforts focused on care and social development.
- **Launch engaging multimedia campaigns** that offer an accessible narrative and key messages on care and topics featured at WSSD2.
- **Promote active engagement** with the Global Alliance for Care as a multistakeholder platform for action on these issues and beyond.

# Additional resources

**Global Alliance for Care:** Care in Focus Statistics Sheet (2025)



**The Asia Foundation:** Climate and Care Work: Integrated Solutions for Intersecting Crises (2024)



**Center for Global Development, the Asia Foundation, CIPPEC, Women Deliver, and the International Center for Research on Women:** The Global Roadmap for Action on the Care Economy (2024)



**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean:** The Care Society: A Horizon for Sustainable Recovery with Gender Equality (2022)



**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:** Investing in our Common Future, Building “Caring” Societies (2024)



**International Trade Union Confederation:** Putting the Care Economy in Place: Trade Unions in Action Around the World (2022)



**Overseas Development Institute:** Building Caring Societies: How States Can Shift the Gendered Norms of Care (2023)



**Oxfam:** Time to Care: Unpaid and Underpaid Care Work and the Global Inequality Crisis (2020)



**Public Services International:** Care Manifesto: Rebuilding the Social Organisation of Care (2025)



**UNI Global Union:** Winning Rights: The Path to Empowering Care Workers (2024)



**United Nations:** Transforming Care Systems in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Our Common Agenda (2024)



If you have any additional resources you'd like to add to this toolkit, kindly send them to [info@globalallianceforcare.org](mailto:info@globalallianceforcare.org).



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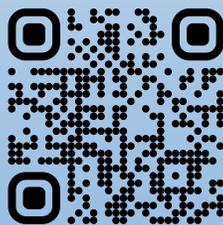
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