

14TH GATHERING OF THE PARLAMERICAS PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY & 19TH PARLAMERICAS PLENARY ASSEMBLY



Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth:
Investing in the Care Economy



ABOUT PARLAMERICAS

ParlAmericas promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the Inter-American system and is comprised of 35 National Legislatures from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Headquartered in Ottawa Canada, the organisation facilitates the exchange of parliamentary good practices and promotes cooperative political dialogue.

ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance, organizes consultations and builds multi stakeholder partnerships with civil society and youth leaders.



14TH MEETING OF PNGE

The 14th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE) was held from November 30 to December 1 in Bogota, Colombia.

Entitled "Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy", this was the first hemispheric-wide meeting of ParlAmericas' membership to take place in person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This PNGE gathering brought together parliamentarians and subject matter experts from over 20 countries of the Americas and Caribbean to exchange experiences and good practices for legislative action related to care work and the economy.

ABOUT THE CARE ECONOMY



“It is time to take bold action: the gendered distribution of care work is one of the strongest determining factors of inequality and poverty in the Americas and Caribbean. I am proud that through ParlAmericas we are dedicating our attention to this priority agenda that implicates each and every one of us – men and women alike.”

President of the PNGE, Senator Verónica Camino Farjat (Mexico)

The care economy – which encompasses paid and unpaid care work in the public and private spheres – is one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. According to the World Economic Forum, almost 40% of all projected job opportunities in emerging professions were created in the care sector between 2020 and 2023. Taking into account socioeconomic trends such as aging or growing populations, changing family structures, women’s status in labour markets, and shortcomings in social protection policies, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that by 2030 the number of care recipients is predicted to reach 2.3 billion. Important work is increasingly being undertaken in the parliaments across the Americas and Caribbean to recognize and measure care work and incentivize its financing. Through their legislative roles and leadership, parliamentarians can promote the economic value of the care sector.

60%

According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) 60% of women in households with children under the age of 15 say that they do not participate in the labour market because they have family responsibilities.

25.3%

The economic contribution of women's unpaid work ranges from 15.9% to 25.3% of GDP, with women accounting for nearly 75% of this figure.

13 MILLION

In Latin America and the Caribbean, as of 2019, around 13 million people were engaged in paid domestic work, 91.5% of them women, many of them Afro-descendants, indigenous and/or migrants.



AGENDA OF THE GATHERING

Day 1- November 30, 2022

01

Inauguration and welcoming remarks

02

Reports by parliamentary delegations

03

Facilitated dialogue – The economic dimensions of care: Myths and realities

04

Welcome reception

The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas delivered opening remarks on day one, and highlighted the importance of recognizing care and treating it as the serious policy issue that it is.

Experts from U.N. and inter-American bodies including CARICOM, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS, ECLAC, FAO, and UN Women, in addition to representatives from national institutions and offices that are innovating on the provision of comprehensive services and statistical measurements of care delivered presentations.



AGENDA OF THE GATHERING

Day 2- December 1, 2022

01

Data: The key to legislative action that values care work

02

Legislating for the care economy: Parliamentary work

03

Inter-American Model Law on Care – Inter-American Commission of Women

04

Presentation on Care Blocks in Bogota Columbia

05

Special presentation: legislative experience

06

Keynote - Strengthening multilateralism in the Americas and the Caribbean

During the gathering's sessions on day two, parliamentarians and various specialists delivered presentations and engaged in panel discussions that explored themes such as the economic and social value of care, methods to promote the collection of high-quality data to quantify unpaid care work, and laws and programmes that support a holistic approach to meeting the varied needs and rights of caregivers and care recipients throughout their life cycles.

A key-note address was delivered by Ms Epsy Campbell, former Vice-President of the Republic of Costa Rica.



AGENDA OF THE GATHERING

Day 3- December 2, 2022

01 Reading of the Declaration on the Care Economy

02 Dialogue - Parliamentary diplomacy: Making multilateralism work for the people

03 Plenary session

04 Reading of the Declaration on Parliamentary Engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas

05 Closing remarks

On day three, ParlAmericas held its 19th Plenary Assembly, convening parliamentarians from the Americas and the Caribbean to exchange perspectives and reflections on parliamentary diplomacy.

During the Plenary Assembly, some members of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors were re-elected, with Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay) resuming the presidency and the Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives, resuming the vice-presidency. Sub-regional representatives were also elected: Canada and Mexico for North America; Costa Rica and Nicaragua for Central America; Colombia, Guyana, and Suriname for South America; and Barbados and Jamaica for the Caribbean.



PRESENTATION ON CARE BLOCKS IN THE CITY OF BOGOTÁ

Ms. Diana Rodríguez Franco, Secretary for Women's Affairs, City of Bogota, delivered a riveting presentation on the "Care Block" initiative in the City of Bogotá.

This initiative, one of the first in the region, centralizes key services for female caregivers to improve their well being and to reduce the time women dedicate to unpaid jobs/tasks.

30% of the female population living in Bogotá are devoted to full-time unpaid care work, with a dedication average of 10 hours per day. Among women, this burden affects disproportionately to low-income ones, whose opportunities are hampered due to the care work overload.

The CARE System's main innovations are its ease of access and its simultaneous provision of services to caregivers, such as professional and skills training, wellness promotion, and income-generating activities. There is also access to health care centres, schools, laundries, recreational facilities and food courts for the convenience of care-givers and receivers.



**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
AT A CARE BLOCK IN
BOGOTA**

DATA AS THE KEY TO LEGISLATIVE ACTION THAT VALUES CARE WORK

A crucial mechanism for evaluation of the economic and social contributions of dedicated care work is access to high quality data on the time spent providing care, whether paid or unpaid. During the session entitled “Data: The key to legislative action that values care work” participants were presented with two cases studies by the following experts:

- Julieth Solano, Technical Director of the Directorate of Statistical Regulation, Planning and Standardization, National Administrative Department of Statistics (Colombia)
- Isiuwa Iyehen, Deputy Representative, UN Women Multi Country Office – Caribbean



COLUMBIA

In 2010 Colombia passed innovative legislation, a first in the region, mandating a national survey of Use of Time, to be updated every five years, in order to support measurement of the care economy.

Ms Solano provided a detailed overview of how information is gathered through time-use surveying. The National Public Policy on Gender Equity for women 2012-2022 set as a thematic priority the “Economic Autonomy and Equality in the Labor Market and in Care.”

Consequently, the National Administrative Department of Statistics in Colombia developed extensive gender-disaggregated data and includes statistics that measure and attribute monetary value to unpaid care work.



GRENADA

Ms. Iyohen described the experience of piloting three stylized retrospective questions on unpaid domestic and care work in the Grenada Labour Force Survey to generate Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 5.4.1, i.e., proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.

The approach for the collection of data is based on the proposal set forward in Producing SDG Indicator 5.4.1: Guidance for Caribbean Countries, which recommends integrating a small set of stylized retrospective questions into the census.

Subsequently, the Grenada Central Statistical Office (CSO) recommended that such questions also be piloted in the quarterly Grenada Labour Force Survey.

Box 1 highlights the three stylized questions that were used in the piloting.

Box 1. Piloted Questions on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work

- a. Yesterday, how much time did you/he/she spend on housework for which you/they were not paid? Housework includes activities such as cleaning the house, doing laundry, ironing, preparing and serving food, washing the car, cleaning the yard, cutting the grass, tending to your flower garden, shopping for groceries, cooking gas or other household items, paying bills and minor home repairs. Travelling or waiting time should be included in your answer.
- Zero/none
 - Hours |_|_| Minutes |_|_|
 - Don't Know
 - Refused/not stated
- b. Yesterday, how much time did you/he/she spend looking after children who are members of your household or family, without receiving any pay? Looking after children includes playing, bathing, helping with homework, reading, and taking to the doctor or activities. Travelling or waiting time should be included in your answer.
- Zero/none
 - Hours |_|_| Minutes |_|_|
 - Don't Know
 - Refused/not stated
- c. Yesterday, how much time did you/he/she spend caring for adults who are members of your household or family, including elderly, sick or disabled, without receiving pay? Caring for includes feeding, personal and physical care, talking with, helping with shopping or paying bills, providing help with taking medication, and so on. Travelling or waiting time should be included in your answer.
- Zero/none
 - Hours |_|_| Minutes |_|_|
 - Don't Know
 - Refused/not stated

**THREE STYLISED
QUESTIONS USED
IN THE GRENADA
CENSUS PILOT**

LESSONS FROM BOGOTA

- Latin America is a leader in measuring unpaid care work
- Beliefs and social and economic factors impact care
- Of a female population of 4 million in Bogotá, 3.6 million carry out unpaid care work and 1.2 million do so full-time

Despite the differences in the extent of data collected, in both instances the surveys showed that a disproportionate amount of time is spent by women and girls on unpaid care work.

LESSONS FROM GRENADA

- Data in CARICOM is scarce
- Stand-alone surveys would produce more useful data
- Self-reporting is more effective than proxy-reporting
- Training and pre-testing of numerators very important



LEGISLATING FOR THE CARE ECONOMY



“Our aim as legislators is to promote inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction and equal opportunities for women and men boys and girls, therefore it is imperative that we recognise the requirement for and entitlement to care for all persons at every stage of the lifecycle. It is therefore our duty to treat care as a key factor in determining the prosperity of our societies.”

Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas

In relation to the way forward, delegates were provided with insights, data, tools and best practices in relation to recognizing the significance of care work to our societies and legislating on care. The Inter-American Commission of Women presented the Inter-American Model Law on Care and its implementation guide, while case studies offered by a representative of national statistics office in Bogota, and the representative of UN Women showed the importance of data (or a lack thereof).

These tools bring together key issues and are based upon existing standards related to recognizing, redistributing, regulating, promoting, and creating new ways of addressing care work.

A group of women are seated at a table in a meeting. In the background, a flag is visible. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

DIALOGUE PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY: MAKING MULTILATERALISM WORK FOR PEOPLE

During the 19th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, Parliamentarians reflected on the state of parliamentary diplomacy and considered strategic opportunities to strengthen engagement, including through ParlAmericas' mandate to promote parliamentary participation.

Parliamentarians reasserted the importance of continuing to work collaboratively, as well as from an intersectional and intercultural perspective, on issues of regional importance, such as gender equality, sustainable development, migration, social justice, transparency and integrity, and the promotion and protection of human rights



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Some of the topics proposed to be included on the agenda for parliamentary diplomacy in the hemisphere:

- Climate change and extreme climate events and economic implications
- Educational programmes at schools
- Role of indigenous people
- Immigration and refugee crisis
- Agriculture and food security
- Governance, democracy and election issues
- Border issues
- Gender equality

DELEGATION

- Hon. Bridgid Mary Annisette-George, MP
Speaker of the House
- Ms. Chantal La Roche
Senior Legal Officer

"By practicing parliamentary diplomacy through ParlAmericas, we reaffirm the value of parliamentary work and endorse the democratic convictions that unite us and upon which the inter-American system has been built."

Senator Blanca Ovelar (Paraguay), President of ParlAmericas





APPENDIX I

Declaration of the 14th Gathering of the PGNE on the Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy

APPENDIX II

Declaration on Parliamentary Engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas

RESOURCES ON THE CARE ECONOMY



Inter-American Model Law on Care, OAS and CIM, 2022:

<https://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/LeyModeloCuidados-EN.pdf>

Towards a Care Society: The Contributions of the Regional Gender Agenda to sustainable development, ECLAC, 2021:

https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/47266/1/S2100563_en.pdf

The Care Economy in Latin America: Putting Care at the Centre of the Agenda, Valeria Esquivel, ILO, 2011:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236934942_The_care_economy_in_Latin_America_Putting_care_at_the_centre_of_the_agenda

Care in Latin America and the Caribbean during the COVID-19: Towards comprehensive systems to strengthen and response and recovery, ECLAC, 2020:

https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/presentation/files/final_care_brief_19082020.pdf

The Effect of Women's Economic Power in Latin America and the Caribbean, The World Bank, 2012:

<https://www.bancomundial.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/PLBSummer12latest.pdf>

Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, 2022

https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/48020/1/S2100866_en.pdf

Piloting the Measurement of SDG Indicator 5.4.1 in Grenada Using the Labour Force Survey

<https://caribbean.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Piloting%20Measurement%20of%20SDG%205%20.4.1%20through%20Grenada%20LFS%20interactiveF.pdf>





Declaration on Parliamentary Engagement in the Inter-American System through ParlAmericas

We, parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean, members of the parliamentary delegations of our respective national parliaments¹, gathered in Bogota, Colombia, on the occasion of the 19th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas,

Recalling that Resolution 1673 (XXIX-0/99) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States called for the creation of a Parliamentary Network of the Americas, resulting in a meeting of chairs of foreign relations committees of national parliaments and congresses of OAS member states, held at OAS headquarters on March 29 and 30, 2000, achieving consensus to create the Inter Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA);

Recalling that the Inter Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), now called ParlAmericas, was constituted by the national parliaments of the hemisphere at an inaugural meeting held in Ottawa Canada from March 7 to 9, 2001, with the purpose to promote parliamentary engagement in the Inter-American System and contribute to inter-parliamentary dialogue on issues of hemispheric relevance;

Recognizing that ParlAmericas is the inter-parliamentary institution composed of the national legislatures of the 35 sovereign states of the Americas and the Caribbean through which parliamentarians of the hemisphere have gathered since 2001 to promote cooperative political dialogue, facilitate parliamentary diplomacy, and foster the exchange of good legislative practices;

Reaffirming our commitment to democracy, to the observance of the separation and independence of the branches of government, and to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

Emphasizing that multilateralism, regional integration, globalization, and the promotion of human rights and democracy through international relations require an increasingly active engagement of parliaments, as representatives of the will of the people, in international affairs;

Recognizing that ParlAmericas actively engages with the different actors and bodies that make up the Inter-American System including the different OAS entities and organisms, in particular the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, the General Secretariat, the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the Inter-American *Task Force* on Women's Leadership; and the different stakeholders of the Summits of the Americas process, such as the Summit Implementation Review Group, the UN agencies and other institutions that comprise the Joint Summit Working Group, and the Summits of the Americas Stakeholder Forums; as well as other parliamentary institutions and hemispheric and regional multilateral spaces;

¹ Parliamentary delegations from the national parliaments of Belize, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. The delegations from Bolivia and Nicaragua stated that they would present the Declaration to the leadership of their respective parliaments.



Welcoming the inclusion of a mandate to promote parliamentary engagement, through ParlAmericas, as an integral part of the Summits of the Americas, as stated within the [Inter-American Plan of Action on Democratic Governance](#) adopted by the Heads of State and Government on June 9, 2022, at the IX Summit of the Americas;

Embracing the provisions set forth by the ParlAmericas Board of Directors in the document [Commitment for Parliamentary Engagement in the Summits of the Americas Process](#) adopted on June 16, 2022 within the framework of the IX Summit of the Americas;

Noting that Resolution 5778/22 on Strengthening Democracy adopted during the 52nd OAS General Assembly held in Lima, Peru calls for a special meeting with parliamentarians through ParlAmericas and other regional parliamentary organizations to share best practices and recommendations with the member states, with a particular focus on the gender perspective, in order to enhance inter-American parliamentary dialogue.

We commit to:

1. Actively participate, through ParlAmericas, in the different multilateral spaces of the Inter-American System to offer, as representatives of the interests of our constituents, parliamentary perspectives in discussion of issues of hemispheric importance, such as climate change, gender equality and women's rights, migration, the strengthening of democratic governance, the fight against corruption, the consolidation of the rule of law, the defence of human rights, and the reduction of poverty and social inequalities, among others.
2. Exercise parliamentary oversight on the implementation of the commitments and agreements adopted by our governments under the framework of the Inter-American System, and promote the principles of accountability and transparency in the organizations that make up the Inter-American System.
3. Foster collaboration between our respective parliaments and the Permanent Missions to the OAS, appointed by our governments, to address issues of relevance to the agenda of the Inter-American system.
4. Inform the development of the ParlAmericas Strategic Plan 2023-2030 that includes a vision for strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary engagement in the Inter-American System in line with shared democratic principles.
5. Participate through ParlAmericas in the special meeting with parliamentarians to be organized by the Permanent Council of the OAS through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), to share best practices and recommendations with the member states, with a particular focus on gender equality, in order to enhance inter-American parliamentary dialogue, in accordance with Resolution 5778/22 on Strengthening Democracy of the 52nd OAS General Assembly.



6. Contribute to the Summit of the Americas Process through ParlAmericas by promoting hemispheric inter-parliamentary dialogue on the issues addressed during the Summits and by advocating for legislative actions in line with the political commitments adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas and the Caribbean within the framework of the Summit, among other actions in accordance with the document [Commitment for Parliamentary Engagement in the Summits of the Americas Process](#) adopted on June 16, 2022 by the ParlAmericas Board of Directors during the IX Summit of the Americas.

Adopted on December 2, 2022

DECLARATION

14th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy

November 30 - December 2, 2022
Bogota, Colombia

We, parliamentarian delegates from 18 countries¹ in the Americas and the Caribbean, have convened on November 30 and December 1, 2022, in Bogota, Colombia, at the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, for the 14th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality within the framework of the 19th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly, titled *Legislative Perspectives for Inclusive Economic Growth: Investing in the Care Economy*.²

The Gathering provided a space for us to exchange with our colleagues and subject matter experts on good practices for legislative initiatives related to the economics of care work. During the Gathering, it was recognized that care work, a foundation of our societies, contributes significantly to the functioning of economies, to women's autonomy and gender equality, and that it can be a catalyst both for inclusive economic growth and social well-being.

The dialogues highlighted the importance of high-quality data on care work – paid and especially unpaid – as an essential component in the development of evidence-based legislative and policy initiatives that advance gender equality, economic growth, and poverty alleviation. We further had the opportunity to review tools, legal frameworks, and international instruments based upon human rights standards related to recognizing, valuing, redistributing, regulating, promoting, and creating new ways of addressing care work.

Considering the above and,

Recognizing:

1. That care is essential for all individuals' physical, biological, and emotional well-being and needs which change depending on the phase, stage, or conditions in their lifecycle, including but not limited to, whether they are a child, adolescent, adult, older persons, pregnant, ill, persons with disabilities, whether temporary or permanent, or belong to a population group requiring care.

¹ Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. A parliamentary delegation representing the MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR) also participated.

² "Caregiving is viewed as a wide array of everyday activities for managing and sustaining life that take place inside and outside the home, and that allow the physical, biological and emotional well-being of people, particularly those who lack the autonomy to perform these activities on their own. Caregiving includes self-care, providing direct care for others, establishing the pre-conditions for care, and managing care." [Inter-American Model Law on Care](#), Article 4, Inter-American Commission of Women.

2. That the care economy is one of the fastest-growing economic sectors globally and is projected to generate more than 40 percent of all job opportunities in new professions between 2020 and 2023.³ Countries in the Americas and the Caribbean that have calculated the economic value of unpaid work in households estimate that it accounts for between 15.9 and 27.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, with unpaid care work performed by women accounting for approximately 74 percent of that value.⁴
3. That there will be an estimated 2.3 billion people receiving care by 2030, taking into account demographic and socioeconomic trends such as population ageing or growth, shifting family and household structures, women's labour force participation, and gaps in social security systems.⁵
4. That parliaments can play a decisive role in promoting public investments in the care economy as a necessary human rights pursuit that helps to ensure that all individuals can access the needed range of services and supports to enable their care, and that workers in these fields are recognized, remunerated, and have adequate protections.
5. That, statistically, women and girls make up the majority of providers of paid and unpaid direct care work due to gendered social norms that perpetuates a lifelong cycle of unequal distribution of care work from an early age. In Latin America and the Caribbean women spend more than three times as many hours on unpaid care and domestic work than men.⁶
6. That despite the essential contributions made by careworkers, they and those they care for face various risks, especially when the work is unregulated, lacks benefits and protections, and is low-paid or unremunerated; women are disproportionately impacted by the risk of physical, emotional, and sexual violence under these circumstances.
7. That the uneven distribution of care work is experienced differently by individuals, collectives, and communities given their economic, cultural, and geographic situation and other social identity factors; migrant care workers, for instance, can face particular vulnerabilities due to their immigration status, and it is primarily women who are migrants and/or living in poverty who are hired as domestic workers by private households, with these individuals often working in unregulated environments without full access to social protection or labour rights.
8. That care work is a skilled occupation, and that care workers in all fields – as well as the recipients of their care – would benefit from greater access to specialized training as a means of ensuring the provision of high-quality, safe, person-centred care while reducing the prevalence of risks.

³ [Jobs of Tomorrow Mapping Opportunity in the New Economy](#). WEF

⁴ [The Care Society: A Horizon for Sustainable Recovery with Gender Equality](#). ECLAC

⁵ [Care Work and Care Jobs](#). ILO

⁶ [Care in Latin America and the Caribbean during the COVID-19](#). ECLAC

9. That women's full participation in the labour market and general autonomy are undermined by the unequal distribution, intensity, and lack of acknowledgment and support for unpaid care work, which also limits their ability to fully exercise their economic, social, cultural, civic, and political rights.
10. That the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the urgency of strengthening the capacity and resilience of our health, educational, and social protection systems and visibilized the critical and essential role of labour associated with care as a result of school closures, social isolation, the increased number of ill people, decreased access to some care services and an overburdening of others.
11. That the redistribution of care responsibilities can result in significant benefits for all genders, as studies show that men carers tend to live longer, have a better work/life balance, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviour.⁷
12. That commitments to addressing the disproportionate distribution of paid and unpaid care work between women and men are enshrined in different international instruments such as [the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), [the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\)](#), the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), [Sustainable Development Goal target 5.4](#), [the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), [Maternity Protection Convention 2000 \(No. 183\)](#), and the commitments adopted by governments at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that form part of the [Regional Gender Agenda](#), particularly the [Buenos Aires Commitment](#), among others.
13. That countries in the Americas and the Caribbean are making progress in the legal and policy landscape associated with care work, aided by civil society collaborations and important regional frameworks such as the [Inter-American Model Law on Care](#) developed by the Inter-American Commission of Women – a tool with the aim of regulating care, its recognition, redistribution, provision, and promotion, as well as the recognition of unpaid care work as work.
14. That despite the number of relevant international and regional agreements and policy tools, advocacy by women's organizations, and enhanced awareness about unequal care burdens during the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for the redistribution and valuing of care work remains insufficiently prioritized in political agendas, developmental policies, budgeting, human rights debates, political rhetoric, and research.
15. That States ought to act as guarantors in access to the right to care by implementing a comprehensive care system that consists of evidence-based and disaggregated data-driven

⁷ [State of the World Father's: Structural Solutions to Achieve Equality In Care Work](#). MENCARE

policies and programs that organize the care economy in a manner that reduces and redistributes care work equitably.

16. That parliaments are responsible for adopting legislative frameworks that enable such a comprehensive care system comprising the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies. Parliaments can furthermore be key actors in acknowledging the economic value of unpaid care work and in promoting a co-responsibility model in which actors such as the State, civil society, the private sector, communities, and families actively inform, assist with, and support care work.
17. That public investment in the care economy and a shift in social and economic policies towards more sustainable care arrangements can yield multiplier effects through an expansion of job opportunities, reductions in unemployment and poverty, and advancements in sustainable development and gender equality which benefits all people, including men and boys.
18. That parliaments hold the potential to serve as a positive model for society by adopting internal policies that accommodate and promote care responsibilities, such as enacting workplace policies and procedures that enable childcare services and flexibility in scheduling, as well as parental leave for parliamentarians and employees of the parliaments.
19. That the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by ECLAC with support from UN Women, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 7-11, 2022, contributed concretely to multi-stakeholder consensus-building on its theme of “The Care Society as a Horizontal for Sustainable Recovery with Gender Equality.”

We commit to:

1. Adopt an approach in our lawmaking and oversight functions that acknowledges that care work, caregiving, and investing in the care economy should be priorities for government action, essential to the advancement of social and economic development and gender equality commitments.
2. Introduce legislation, table motions, or conduct oversight to require our governments to improve the collection of disaggregated data through periodic time-use surveys and economic analyses in order to gain a more complete and nuanced understanding of care work and the care economy.
3. Advocate for the public and private sector to adopt measures that lessen the burden of care work and foster the social co-responsibility of care via economic incentives, education, flexible working arrangements that do not compromise labour and social rights, extended paid family and sick leave, and programmes that provide compensation or accommodations during closures of care services like schools or daycare centres.

4. Promote the implementation of gender-responsive counter-cyclical fiscal policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on all women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in sectors key to the sustainability of life, including the care economy (Paragraph 28, Buenos Aires Commitment).
5. Introduce legislative reforms, table motions, or conduct oversight to expand protections for all care workers and recipients of care, with a special focus on migrant workers and other traditionally marginalized groups.
6. Adopt legislation, table motions, or conduct oversight needed to develop/strengthen and finance a comprehensive national care system informed by economic and gender analyses, as well as by consultations with civil society organizations, families, the private sector, providers and recipients of care work, temporary and migrant care workers, and other stakeholders.
7. Call on our governments to take into account the current situation of unpaid care work in the development of the [Action Plan on Health and Resilience in the Americas](#) to be implemented by 2030, as part of the larger strategy to expand equitable access to comprehensive, high-quality, and people-centred health services accounting for the sociocultural, economic, and structural challenges facing the hemisphere, as agreed by the Heads of State and Government during the IX Summit of the Americas.
8. Advocate for the development and strengthening of health programmes that prioritize mental health and encompass prevention and early intervention through services, treatments, and supports that offer those living with mental illness the opportunity to experience significant improvements in their quality of life. In this regard, we will take note of the recommendations to be issued in the final report of the High-Level Commission on Mental Health and COVID-19 of the Pan-American Health Organization.
9. Introduce legislation or motions, and undertake the oversight required to provide tax and financial incentives to businesses and industries that adopt inclusive care work practices and further provide social protection service infrastructure, including by supporting access to care services for the sick, disabled, the elderly, and children.
10. Promote public programmes and campaigns that help to reshape the norms and stereotypes surrounding care work with the objective of achieving more gender-equal households, workplaces, economies, and societies.
11. Enact legislative or oversight initiatives to formalize the unpaid care work sector and guarantee decent employment for all care workers according to national or international labour standards.
12. Promote the freedom of association for care workers and employers and the building of alliances between trade unions representing care workers and civil society organizations representing care recipients and unpaid carers.

13. Use our political platforms to contribute to a positive shift in societal understanding and practices surrounding care work, such as by challenging stereotypes related to care work that are rooted in harmful gender norms implying that men are not natural caregivers and that care work and the related societal and economic impacts solely concern women.
14. Consider the elements developed in the Inter-American Model Law on Care of the CIM/OAS as a reference tool for the development of legal frameworks on the recognition, regulation, redistribution, provision, and promotion of care work.
15. Call on our governments, regional parliaments, and other multilateral bodies to fulfill the commitments and recommendations made in the framework of the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and oversee their implementation from a legislative standpoint.

Adopted on December 2, 2022