

Addressing structural barriers for progress on the BPfA and to fulfill the SDGs: Financing care - Feminist proposals from the Global South

CSW69 Official Side Event

Concept Note and Agenda

Venue: UNHQ Conference Room 12

Wednesday, March 19th 16.45 - 18.00hs

Co-Sponsored by the Governments of Colombia, South Africa and Canada.

Co-Organized by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Gender and Trade Network, Oxfam, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), with the support of the Global Alliance for Care, Southern Voice, and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

The main focus of the sixty-ninth session will be on the review of the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). This includes an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action (BPfA), the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys including on education, health, gender based violence, the economy, environment, and decision-making. While new challenges and opportunities have risen since then, it is clear that progress will only be achieved if systemic transformations are proposed and if structural barriers are addressed.

Care is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of our economies and development, indispensable for sustaining life. As a pillar of our socioeconomic system, unpaid care work represents 10-39% of national GDPs around the world yet is unrecognised and neglected. Care work (paid and unpaid) falls disproportionately on women and girls and is a key barrier to their empowerment and autonomy. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the global care crisis has only deepened. The sexual division of labour and the social organization of care remain the greatest barriers to inclusive development with gender equality, shared prosperity and decent work.

The care crisis is also interlinked with the climate emergency, as climate change intensifies care work, it erodes and disrupts care infrastructure and services, and climate action, sometimes unintentionally, also relies on increasing unpaid care work.



Unless a fairer social organization of care is advanced, and the sexual division of work is addressed, the care economy will continue to be a pervasive barrier that explains other gender inequalities and that stand in the way of progress towards the BPfA.

While there is growing recognition of the urgent need for this transformation, and policy momentum and innovation have started to emerge, investing and financing care remains unaddressed. Financing equitable and sustainable care systems continues to be a challenge, particularly considering fiscal austerity measures, higher inflation, low economic growth and growing debt levels that reduce fiscal space. The international economic governance and available financial mechanisms are not fit for this purpose.

This session will unpack the urgency of financing care as a development strategy and explore specific care financing proposals. It will present the conclusions from an international workshop on care financing to inform the IV Conference on Financing for Development, involving feminist movements, economists and practitioners working on care financing from a gender and human rights perspective. It will galvanize a broad coalition of feminist movements, policymakers, researchers and international organizations to position care financing as central for progress on the Beijing Platform for Action.

The session seeks to weave a bridge between CSW69 and progress on the BPfA, and the IV Conference on Financing for Development Conference (FfD) in June in Spain. Elevating perspectives from feminist movements and bridging discussions and proposals from CSW69 to the FfD conference presents a crucial opportunity to spotlight the care economy's role not only to advance on the BPfA but also to achieve sustainable development goals and shaping equitable and resilient societies.

Agenda:

Time	Section
16.45 – 16.50	<u>Welcome</u>
5 min	Moderator: Ana Moreno , Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care
16:50 – 16:52 pm	<u>Panelists presentation</u>
2 min	Moderator: Ana Moreno , Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care

<p>16:53 - 17: 14 pm</p> <p>21 min</p>	<p><u>Government perspectives on the centrality of financing care for the SDGs and development:</u></p> <p>Amb. Leonor Zalabata, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations. <i>Why is financing care central for development and how is Colombia advancing the issue as part of the Preparatory Committee of the Financing for Development Conference?</i></p> <p>Consejero Francisco Javier López: <i>Why is financing care central for development and how can this be advanced towards the Financing for Development Conference that Spain is hosting in June?</i></p> <p>Adv. Mikateko Joyce Maluleke, Director-General of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa: <i>From a South African perspective, why is financing care central for development? Given that South Africa hosts the G20 this year and is part of the Preparatory Committee of the Financing for Development Conference, how can financing care be promoted within those spaces?</i></p> <p><i>Each panelist has 7 minutes to answer.</i></p>
<p>17:14 – 17:17</p> <p>2 min</p>	<p><u>Presentation of panelists</u></p> <p>Moderator: Ana Moreno, Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care</p>
<p>17:17 - 17:50</p> <p>33 min</p>	<p><u>Perspectives from global south feminist movements on financing care:</u> <i>Four global south feminist researchers and representatives from feminist movements share proposals to advance new models of care financing.</i></p> <p>Alma Espino, Latin America Gender and Trade Network (conclusions from the care financing workshop)</p> <p>Nasheli Noriega - Oxfam LAC (conclusions from the care financing workshop)</p> <p>Luiza Nassif, Made (conclusions from the care financing workshop)</p> <p>Maureen Olyaro, Policy and Programs Manager, FEMNET</p>

	<i>Each panelist has 8 minutes to answer.</i>
17:50-17:52	<u>Presentation of panelists</u>
2 min	Moderator: Ana Moreno , Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care
17:52 - 18:01	<u>Closing remarks from International organizations:</u> Why financing care is central for progress on BPfA and link to FfD
9 min	<p>Carolina Robino, Senior Program Specialist, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)</p> <p>Francisco Cos Montiel, Senior Research Coordinator, Gender Justice and Development at UNRISD</p> <p>Gaby Oré Aguilar, Senior Program Officer, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund</p> <p><i>Each panelist has 3 minutes to answer.</i></p>