**50th session of the Human Rights Council**

**Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women**

**Panel 2: Human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems**

*Concept note (as of 15 June 2022)*

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| **Date and venue:** | **Monday, 27 June 2022, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m (UTC+2) Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online platform (Zoom)** *(will be broadcast live and archived on* [*http://webtv.un.org*](http://webtv.un.org)*)* |
| **Objectives:** | To discuss how to transform the care and support systems to advance gender equality and the rights to support and care, with a focus on the intersectionality of discrimination. |
| **Chair:** | H.E. Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council |
| **Opening statements:** | **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  **H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta**, Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity of Argentina (*video message*) |
| **Panellists and themes:** | * **Ms. Frances Raday,** Professor of Law, Hebrew University, and President, Concord Research Center for Integration of International Law in Israel (*video message*): *Why the transformation of care is crucial for women’s rights?* * **Ms. Rosario Galarza**, Intersectionalities Officer, International Disasbility Alliance (*video message*): *How should the transformation of care promote the rights to dignified life? – from a perspective of women with disabilities.* * **Ms. Chidi King**, Chief, Gender, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Branch, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Organization: *What are the concrete transformations happening?* |
| **Outcome:** | A summary report on the discussion will be prepared by OHCHR. |
| **Mandate:** | In its [resolution 6/30](https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_6_30.pdf), the Human Rights Council reaffirmed the principle of gender equality and the need for the full implementation of the human rights of women and decided to hold an annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women. The second panel of the 2022 annual discussion will address how a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to care and support systems can advance gender equality and the rights to support and care, in the context of socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda. |
| **Format:** | The total duration of the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women will be four hours, divided into two panels of two hours each. In this panel, after opening statement and initial presentations by the panellists, there will be two segments of interventions, followed by conclusions from the panellists. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for the podium, which will cover the opening statements, panellists’ presentations, and their responses to questions and concluding remarks. The remaining hour will be reserved for two segments of interventions from the floor, with each segment consisting of interventions from 12 States or observers, 1 national human rights institution and 2 non-governmental organizations. Each speaker will have two minutes to raise issues and to ask panellists questions.  The list of speakers for the discussion will be established through the online inscription system and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups of States will be moved to the beginning of the list. Delegates who have not been able to take the floor due to time constraints will be able to upload their statements on the online system to be posted on the HRC Extranet. |
| **Accessibility:** | In an effort to render the Human Rights Council more accessible to persons with disabilities and to promote their full participation in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others, the panel will be webcast and made accessible. International sign interpretation and real-time captioning in English will be provided. During the event itself, participants can access live English captioning on the StreamText web page (<https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=CFI-UNOG>). Hearing loops are available for collection from the Secretariat desk. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in *The accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities* (<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Accessibility.aspx>). |
| **Background:** | The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed [a serious gap in care and support systems](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/beyond-covid-19-a-feminist-plan-for-sustainability-and-social-justice). Women and girls absorbed the majority of the increase in unpaid care work during the pandemic, sacrificing their well-being and their retention and return to employment, livelihood, and education. Women also dominate underpaid care work, including essential work. These can lead to disadvantages to access to social security benefits, including maternity protection and pensions.  Free-riding of women and girls’ unpaid and underpaid care work, in turn, leads to fragile and low-quality care and support systems and thus, increases inequality in the society.  In the efforts to build back better from the pandemic, the transformation of care has been identified as a key enabler for gender-equal recovery and an essential element for sustainable development. The urgency of the transformation is recognized by the General Assembly ([resolution 75/157](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/157)), the United Nations Secretary-General’s “[Our Common Agenda](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/)”, and the [Global Alliance for Care](https://alianzadecuidados.forogeneracionigualdad.mx/?lang=en) that has emerged from the [Generation Equality Forum](https://forum.generationequality.org/home) to mark 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.  At the same time, there has been increased emphasis on the need to protect and promote the rights to care and support for all those in need.  At [the Global Disability Summit 2022](https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/pages/global-disability-summit-2022-norway), States renewed their commitment to advancing community inclusion of persons with disabilities, including through inclusive social protection systems, the promotion of community-based services, and the availability and affordability of assistive technology. The Human Rights Council resolution 49/12, in 2022, decided that the Council discusses support systems and community inclusion at its 52nd and 55th sessions.  The Human Rights Council [resolution 48/3](https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/Collaborationspaceoncare/Shared%20Documents/General/Council%20panel%20on%20care%20(27%20June)/Concept%20Note/undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/48/3), in 2021, called for the full realization of all human rights for older persons in the provision of financial, social, health-care, long-term support and palliative care services and the development of comprehensive care systems.  The Human Rights Council [resolution 47/5](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FHRC%2FRES%2F47%2F5&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), in 2021, noted the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute girls’ disproportionate share of unpaid care work, which deprives them of their childhood and hamper the full enjoyment of their right to education and opportunities for decent employment in the future.  Women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities and older women, are often providers of care work and at the same time, in need of care and support to live a life with autonomy and dignity.  The panel aims to discuss how the transformation of care and support systems should advance both gender equality and the right to support and care for everybody, including women and girls, in line with international human rights standards. |
| **Background documents:** | * [Human Rights Council resolution 6/30](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/6/30) of 14 December 2007 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system * [Human Rights Council resolution 48/3](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/res/48/3) of 7 October 2021 on the human rights of older persons * Human Rights Council resolution 49/12 of 28 March 2022 on the participation of persons with disabilities in sport, and statistics and data collection * [General Assembly resolution 75/157](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/157) of 23 December 2020 on women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) * Summary report of the Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women, [A/HRC/50/54](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/50/54) (2022), Section III * Report of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, [A/HRC/44/51](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/51) (2020) and [A/HRC/26/39](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/26/39) (2014) * Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, [A/HRC/30/43](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FHRC%2F30%2F43&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) (2015) |