



# Financing care to fulfill the SDGs: a Global South agenda from Seville to 2030

4th International Financing for Development Conference

June 30th, 2025, from 5.30 to 7:20 pm followed by a reception

In-person official side event #1967006

GAC Care Pavillion - Casa de la Provincia, Diputación de Sevilla (Pl. del Triunfo, 1,  
Casco Antiguo, 41004 Seville, Spain)

(English - Spanish Interpretation available)

Co-organisers: Southern Voice/Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE) International Development Research Center (IDRC), Oxfam, Red de Genero y Comercio, UNRISD, ECLAC, UN Women, with the support of the Global Alliance for Care.

Co-sponsors: Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger of Brazil, Government of Canada, Government of Spain, Government of Chile.

## Background

Across the world, women shoulder a disproportionate responsibility for care work, which negatively affects their participation in the labor force, educational attainment, autonomy, and personal development, as well as the well-being of their families and communities. Guaranteeing the right to care by investing in care systems means putting well-being, the sustainability of life, and social justice at the center of development. It is essential to advance a shared understanding that “financing care” is an investment that accelerates progress on the SDGs and increases the efficiency of expenditures in development efforts across the Global South.

The sexual division of labour and the current social organization of care reflect entrenched gender stereotypes and societal expectations that naturalize women’s responsibility for care. These inequalities are exacerbated for women facing intersecting forms of injustice and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, and class, among others, which highlights the need for an intersectional approach to transforming care systems. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, women’s disproportionate responsibility for care work has only increased. While 74.5% of men participate in the labor market, only 51.9% of women do—a disparity largely driven by the disproportionate burden of care work placed on women, whether unpaid or under informal working conditions. This remains the greatest barrier to inclusive development with gender equality, shared prosperity and decent work.

The care crisis has deepened as a result of the demographic transition and aging populations, increasing demand for care. It is also connected to other development issues, such as conflict and migration, but particularly to the climate emergency, as climate change intensifies care work, erodes and disrupts care infrastructure and services, and climate action tends to rely on increasing unpaid care work, reinforcing stereotypes.

SDG 5.4 sought to address this issue by calling for recognition and valuation of unpaid care and domestic 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 stands in the way of progress towards the Agenda 2030. Care work is much more than a gender equality agenda; it 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.

In a context of dwindling resources, intersecting crises, backlash on gender rights, and fragmented multilateralism, how can we achieve increased investment in the care economy that redistributes women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work?

Five years before the deadline for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development provides an important opportunity to make the adjustments needed to accelerate progress towards aligning financing flows and policies with economic, social, fiscal and environmental priorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Investing in care systems and elevating the issue as a priority for the Conference on Financing for Development presents a crucial opportunity to spotlight the role of care systems in achieving sustainable development goals and shaping equitable and resilient societies.

## **Side event overview**

The proposed event aims to seize two significant opportunities offered by the 4th International Financing for Development Conference. On the one hand, the opportunity to advance particular commitments that will unlock critical financing for care systems, which are aligned with calls from Global South countries for reforms of the international financial architecture, debt restructuring, tax justice, social protection, or climate finance modalities.

On the other hand, in a context of dramatically strained resources for development, and increasing backlash on gender rights, FfD4 provides a much-needed platform to foster a shared understanding and alignment across sectors on questions such as:

- Why is investing in care systems central to development?
- What are the main domestic and international reforms needed to finance care systems?
- Where does care financing intersect with other avenues for sustainable development financing? Are there any untapped synergies?
- How can other key multilateral spaces in 2025 and 2026, led by the Global South, be leveraged to build on FfD4 outcomes and achieve further progress towards investing in care systems (e.g. G20 SA, COP30, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, UE-CELAC Summit)?

This side event builds on research and policy proposals on care financing from Global South feminist movements, economists and practitioners working on care financing from a gender and human rights perspective. This has allowed a broad, cross-sectoral community to explore how to leverage various types of funding to achieve common objectives. It also aligns with the growing momentum for Feminist Foreign Policies that center care, equality and rights in international cooperation. This momentum was visible during CSW69, which is where these movements came together to co-create innovative and bold strategies and specific policy proposals for financing care systems as a development strategy. These proposals were further unpacked in an official side event of the 4th FfD4 Preparatory Committee Meeting. This coalition of organizations from the Global South seeks to elevate the urgency of financing care as a development strategy that puts the sustainability of life at the centre. And hence, as crucial for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.

## Agenda

17.30 - 17.50	<b>Welcome: Financing care as a development strategy</b>  <i>Opening remarks</i>	<b>Ana Redondo Garcia</b> , Minister of Equality, Spain  <b>Bob Rae</b> , Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations and President of ECOSOC  <b>Julie Delahanty</b> , President,
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		Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
17.50 - 18.00	<b>Financing care as a development strategy</b>  <i>Our journey so far</i> <i>The recommendations</i>	<b>Norma Sanchis and Lucia Cirmi</b> - Gender and Trade Network
18.00-18.45	<b>Financing care – panel discussion</b>  <i>Global South feminist researchers and representatives from feminist movements and trade unions discuss proposals to advance new models of care financing (including: taxation, debt restructuring and innovative / climate finance models)</i>	Moderator: <b>Ana Moreno</b> -Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care  <b>Veronica Serafini</b> - Gender and Macroeconomics Specialist, LATINDADD  <b>Mariama Williams</b> - Senior Strategic Advisor, Global Afro Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative  <b>Nicole Mumala Maloba</b> - Economic Justice and Rights Lead, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)  <b>Paola Simonetti</b> - Director, Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
18.45 - 19.05	<b>Financing care – challenges and opportunities</b>  <i>Perspectives from the UN system and Development Banks on care financing,</i>	<b>Raquel Coello</b> – Policy Advisor, Macroeconomics and Global Lead on Care, UN Women  <b>Diana Rodriguez</b> - Special Advisor to the President on Gender and Diversity, Inter-American Development Bank

		<p><b>Magdalena Sepúlveda</b> - Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)</p> <p><b>Ana Gúezmes</b> - Director of the Gender Affairs Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC</p>
19.05 - 19.20	<p><b>Government perspectives: Moving beyond Sevilla</b></p>	<p><b>Ambassador Paula Narváez</b>, Permanent Representative for the United Nations, Government of Chile</p> <p><b>Luana Pinheiro</b>, Director of Care Economy, National Secretariat for Care Policy and Family, Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Government of Brazil</p>
19.20-19.25	<p><b>Wrap up &amp; next steps</b></p> <p><i>Main discussion takeaways</i> <i>Call to Action</i></p> <p><b>Invites participants to join the reception/continue networking</b></p>	<p><b>Ana Moreno</b> - Technical Secretary, Global Alliance for Care</p>

**Reception at the Care Pavilion - 19:30 to 21:00**