



STÄNDIGE MISSION  
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

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PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

## 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

### Statement of the quadrilateral group<sup>1</sup>

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

Monday, 27 June 2022

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

[Speaking time: 2 minutes, 331 Wörter]

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, and my own country, Liechtenstein.

We thank the High Commissioner as well as the panelists for their valuable input in today's discussion on a human-rights based and gender-responsive approach to care and support systems.

Last Thursday, UN Women and the UNDP released a [report](#) on Government responses to COVID-19. While the report finds, overall, that government responses paid insufficient attention to gender dynamics and women's rights, it also shows that countries with stronger social protection systems and public services do better on gender equality and show more resilience and emergency preparedness in times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

These findings are not surprising since it is known that the protection systems and public services strengthen the empowerment of women. They are not only accounting for up to 70 per cent of the workforce in the health and social sector but also were already before the pandemic shouldering

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland

more than three times the amount of unpaid care and domestic work as men. This unpaid labor has further increased during the pandemic and has forced many women to leave paid workforce thereby impacting women and girls in a disproportionate manner.

The need for care and support will only grow in the future. It is important to acknowledge the value of care work, paid and unpaid, and to strengthen the social protection of those with care responsibilities. More emphasis and investment into this area would not only contribute to gender equality and more resilience for future crisis situations but could, according to a recent [report](#) by the International Labour Organization, even create almost 300 million jobs.

Mr. Vice-President, dear distinguished panelists,

The need and value of human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems has received more attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. How can we make sure that this attention translates into significant policy changes and that there is a systematic and inclusive approach to the challenges discussed today?

I thank you.