

CONCEPT NOTE

Side Event

64th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD64)

Beyond Normative Commitments: Care and Support Systems in Poverty Eradication and Social Justice Agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean

Policy considerations for coordinated and inclusive social development

Date:	February 4, 2026
Time:	10:00 – 11:15 AM EST
Registration:	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_waRQ-EW6QqKSibMTRiXYCg#/registration
Languages:	Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish–English will be offered.

Co-organisers*: UNRISD, Government of Chile, IDRC, GRADE, CLACSO, ELA
*with the collaboration of the Global Alliance for Care

Introduction

Care and support systems have become a central component of social development agendas, particularly in contexts marked by persistent poverty, deep inequalities and growing care needs. In Latin America and the Caribbean, these dynamics intersect with long-standing structural challenges, including labor informality, territorial disparities, gender inequality and limited coordination across social policies.

From a feminist perspective, care should be framed not only as a service but as a transformative social infrastructure that redistributes unpaid work, promotes gender equality, and sustains life. Intersectional approaches are essential to address how care responsibilities and access vary by race, ethnicity, disability, and migration status.

The agenda of the 64th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) reflects this context by prioritizing the advancement of social development and social justice through coordinated, equitable and inclusive policies, and by identifying the eradication of poverty and the protection of dignity through resilient care and support systems as an emerging issue. These priorities resonate strongly with recent regional normative and policy advances.

In particular, the Tlatelolco Commitment, adopted at the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, consolidates the concept of care as a structural public policy and a shared social responsibility, placing the sustainability of life at the center of development strategies. Similarly, Advisory Opinion No. 31 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has recognized care as an autonomous human right, reinforcing States' obligations to guarantee access to care through adequate policies, services and institutional

arrangements. These advances create opportunities to design gender-transformative care systems guided by principles of redistribution, recognition, and representation.

While these advances have significantly strengthened the normative foundations of the care agenda, important questions remain regarding how care and support systems are understood, discussed and operationalized within poverty eradication and social justice agendas, particularly in relation to coordinated social development policies. Concepts such as resilience, dignity and inclusion are increasingly invoked, yet their implications for policy design, prioritization and coherence are not always examined in a systematic manner.

Rather than reiterating the relevance of care for social development, this event uses a Latin America and the Caribbean lens to examine how care and support systems are currently being mobilized within poverty eradication and social justice agendas, and what assumptions and expectations shape that process. By bringing recent regional normative advances into dialogue with policy practice, the discussion aims to clarify points of tension, limits and implications for coordinated and inclusive social development, contributing to CSocD64 deliberations without introducing new commitments. The dialogue will emphasize feminist-informed strategies and the need for financing and governance models that promote equity and shared responsibility.

Objective

To examine how care and support systems are positioned within poverty eradication and social justice agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to identify policy considerations informed by recent regional normative advances, including the Tlatelolco Commitment and Advisory Opinion No. 31 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Focus of the Dialogue

The discussion will focus on:

- How care and support systems are currently framed in relation to poverty eradication and dignity within social development policies.
- What assumptions underpin these framings, and where greater analytical clarity may be needed.
- What considerations should inform discussions on resilient, equitable and inclusive care systems within coordinated social development strategies.

The event will prioritize critical reflection and policy-relevant insights, rather than the presentation of comprehensive models or country-specific initiatives.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased analytical clarity on how care and support systems are understood within poverty eradication and social justice agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Identification of relevant policy considerations, informed by regional normative advances, for discussions on coordinated and inclusive social development.
- Concise, policy-relevant messages to inform CSocD64 discussions on resilient care and support systems.

Agenda

Moderator: Ana Moreno, Global Alliance for Care

Time	Session	Speaker
10:00 – 10:10	Institutional opening and framing	Magdalena Sepúlveda, UNRISD
10:10 – 10:20	Financing care and support systems	Carolina Robino, IDRC
10:20 – 10:30	Care as a right and public responsibility: implications of Advisory Opinion No. 31	Laura Pautassi, ELA
10:30 – 10:40	Evidence on care, poverty and inequality	Lorena Alcázar, GRADE
10:40 – 10:50	Care, climate and social justice: academic perspectives from LAC	Pablo Vommaro, CLACSO
10:50 – 11:00	Care within governmental social development and poverty reduction agendas	Javiera Toro, tbc - Ministry of Social Development and Family, Government of Chile
11:00 – 11:10	Dialogue and key takeaways	Ana Moreno, Global Alliance for Care
11:10 – 11:15	Institutional closing	Magdalena Sepúlveda, UNRISD

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