Women’s care work holds up the world

The pandemic has made the invisible, visible: women have historically sustained the global economy through their unpaid work. During a year of confinement and a social, health and economic crisis, it has also been women who have borne the great burden of sustaining their families individually and their communities in general.

The fact that women are primarily responsible for housework puts their participation and permanence in the labor market at risk, resulting in their impoverishment or permanent dependency. Ultimately, #StayAtHome has a double meaning for women, who are at risk of not returning to public life on an equal footing in the post-pandemic period.
This March 8, International Women’s Day, the CIM acknowledges women caregivers, because in a society without care, economic or political life would be impossible. However, the CIM recognizes that this is collective work, and therefore calls for co-responsibility and the immediate involvement of all sectors of society, particularly men, governments and the private sector.

Positioning care as a social investment and as part of the crosscutting and structural response to the crisis is a bet on the growth of economies and more equal, inclusive and prosperous societies. The CIM calls for the redefinition of care in both the public and private spheres, acknowledging that this essential skill developed by women holds up the world in taking care of people, the earth, the economy and peace.