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Oral Statement

Annual full day discussion on the human rights of women. Gender-equal socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

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Covid-19 has highlighted where the wealth sits in the world, and what gender has the most economic security and independence.

The UN has said themselves Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. It includes women's ability to participate equally in existing markets; their access to and control over productive resources, control over their own time, lives and bodies; and increased voice, agency and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels from the household to international institutions.

Before COVID-19, employed women in the EU spent about 3.9 hours per day on unpaid care, whereas employed men spent 2.6 hours. Therefore, it is no shock that women were more likely to be engaged in supplementing care work as a result of the closures in care services during the pandemic.

The unequal sharing of domestic and care tasks within the household is one of the main causes of gender inequality. The sharp and unprecedented decline in the total number of working hours was more pronounced for women, which predicts to a large rise in female unemployment and a wider gender pay gap as we emerge from the pandemic.

We at SHRG believe as a matter of urgency, countries should rethink existing policies to include treating childcare as a form of infrastructure and fully invest in it – which would also create more jobs. Investing in employment and training programmes targeted at women and other affected groups and a stronger focus on the gender pay gap is key.