



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Preparing for Care: The Role of Policy Leaders, Employers and Society in Solving the Caregiving Crisis

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About the Roundtable

On June 13, 2025, following the premiere of the new PBS documentary *Caregiving* at the United Nations, the Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA) brought together national and global leaders to advance action on caregiving.

The stories shared by caregivers in *Caregiving* make a compelling case for cross-sectoral engagement to address the growing caregiving burden and its profound impact on individuals, families, communities, and economies. The roundtable discussion built on the awareness created by the documentary to encourage meaningful and collaborative action on a global scale. Participants addressed the scale of the caregiving challenge, including its physical, emotional, and financial facets, and explored its most significant impacts on society. They also examined the actions governments should take, and the ways in which employers are responding to the pressures of caregiving and an aging workforce. Further, the discussion highlighted key opportunities for collaboration across sectors to address on the caregiving burden.

Introduction

Caregiving represents a critical yet often underrecognized component of global health and social systems. As populations age around the world and the demand for both formal and informal caregiving increases, caregiving must be more fully integrated into policy agendas, institutional practices, and public discourse. The premiere of the PBS documentary *Caregiving* has helped to elevate the visibility of caregiving, presenting a series of compelling narratives highlighting individual caregivers and underscoring the need for support.

This document outlines a plan of action, focusing on targeted strategies across awareness, advocacy and engagement to normalize caregiving, promote policy change, and foster multisectoral collaboration. Together, these actions will reduce stigma, improve access to support, and strengthen the infrastructure surrounding caregiving at local, national, and global levels.

A Blueprint for Action

AWARENESS



Leverage and build on the powerful storytelling in the documentary to normalize caregiving.

- Leverage the personal stories from the film and other general public awareness campaigns to make caregiving a mainstream topic. This will go a long way in reducing stigma and social isolation for caregivers.
- Encourage organizations and educational institutions to create spaces, both physical and cultural, where caregiving is acknowledged, discussed, and valued. Examples include having a physical space with materials in hospitals for caregivers and student forums that address caregiving in schools.
- Scale the stories and messages from the documentary to audiences globally by working in partnership with UN Member States and considering positioning in the UN Global Compact.

ADVOCACY



Take this moment of heightened awareness to advocate for caregiving policies and practices.

- Push for the development and adoption of compassionate, flexible caregiving policies in workplaces, ensuring protection and support for all employees regardless of job type or status.
- Ensure that policy benefits are accessible to those providing care, not just those eligible on paper, and ensure that employees are aware of existing workplace benefits to enhance utilization.

- Address gender disparities across the caregiving spectrum, recognizing the disproportionate impact of caregiving on women, while understanding the specific needs of men and youth caregivers and the dynamics of caregiving across cultures.
- Bridge the policy gap between healthcare and social care, especially by learning from international examples, addressing the risks of social isolation, and recognizing the needs of both professional and family caregivers.

ENGAGEMENT



Build cross-cutting collaborations and community engagement.

- Foster partnerships between and among healthcare providers, businesses, nonprofits, and policymakers to break down silos and create holistic support systems for caregivers.
- Support bipartisan and community-driven initiatives that bring together diverse groups to address caregiving as a societal issue, recognizing the varying cultural perspectives and needs across different communities.
- Integrate the important role of caregivers into our narratives about prevention, early detection and diagnosis, and advanced care planning and financial planning.
- Utilize existing resources and networks and encourage self-identification among caregivers, fostering a culture of care across workplaces and communities. This recognition of the universality of caregiving will strengthen advocacy and support efforts.

Conclusion

The challenges and responsibilities associated with caregiving are widespread, yet existing systems fall short in addressing the associated social, economic, and policy implications. As caregiving becomes increasingly central to public health, workforce development, and society at large, a coordinated and strategic approach is needed.

Our June 13th roundtable discussion provided a framework for action that can be adapted across contexts and sectors. By advancing public awareness, advocating for practical and inclusive policy solutions, and building cross-sector partnerships, stakeholders can more effectively support caregivers and integrate their contributions into broader strategic goals. Continued collaboration and commitment will be essential to operationalizing these recommendations and ensuring that caregiving is adequately recognized and resourced across institutional and societal structures.

Participants

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Global Coalition on Aging

GCOA represents a cross-section of global business including technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, home care, financial, transportation, and consumer sectors. We engage global institutions, policymakers, and the public to drive debate on, create, and promote innovative policies and actions to transform challenges associated with the aging of the global population into opportunities for social engagement, productivity and fiscal sustainability.

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