

**REMARKS DELIVERED BY DR. CARLENE RADIX, HEAD OF THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL CLUSTER – OECS COMMISSION TO THE Knowledge-Sharing Webinar - Measuring SDG 5.4.1 (Unpaid Domestic and Care Work) in the Labour Force Survey**

**Thursday 27 May 2021- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm AST**

- **Mr. Didier Trebucq, UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS**
- **Ms. Tonni Ann Brodber, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office-Caribbean**
- **Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan, Deputy Secretary General, CARICOM Secretariat**
- **Permanent Secretaries and representatives of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- **Directors of National Gender Machineries**
- **Directors of National Statistical Offices**
- **Representatives from Regional Institutions and Organizations, Women’s Civil Society Organizations and other CSOs and NGOs, academia and other stakeholders.**

**It is my pleasure to bring greetings to you on behalf of the OECS and our Director General Dr. Didacus Jules, and I look forward with keen interest to learning from this webinar on unpaid domestic and care work.**

- **What does this mean.... What is Unpaid care work?** As individual human beings, we are quite fragile- and we need care. We need to eat daily, preferably- more than once a day- food needs gathering preparation cooking- time- meal 30min..., We need clean surroundings – where we live and work- it is a daily effort to keep things manageable- there are many of us that need additional help with activities of daily living
- 1. Personal hygiene – bathing/showering, grooming, nail care, and oral care.
- 2. Dressing - being able to make appropriate clothing decisions and physically dress and undress oneself.
- 3. Eating - the ability to feed oneself, though not necessarily the capability to prepare food.

- 4. Maintaining continence - being able to mentally and physically use a restroom. This includes the ability to get on and off the toilet and cleaning oneself.
- 5. Transferring/Mobility- being able to stand from a sitting position, as well as get in and out of bed. The ability to walk independently from one location to another.  
This is especially evident at extremes of age- children, older persons need care- this is what underpins our economies.
- **Globally women about three times as many hours on unpaid domestic work and care work as men. – giving rise to statements like- behind every great man is a good woman.... Gender roles are defined- what this is really saying is that the foundation of our greatness as people is the ongoing care we receive... and insufficient attention has been paid in macro-economic policy and planning to un paid care work**
- Like other sociocultural contexts globally, this unequal distribution of unpaid care work is preventing women from exercising the full range of their rights, including the right to paid decent work; and it is also preventing men, due to gender stereotypes that promoting care work as women’s work, from being valued for the benefits of caregiving.
- The OECS Gender Policy and Manual recommends that the direct and indirect contribution of the care work should be recognized in economic policy and planning.

#### **Pathway to Solutions:**

- **The OECS Commission is working to overcome challenges with through the 5R’s *recognising, reducing, and redistributing, unpaid care work, and representing and rewarding* those who carry the burden- and valuing their work-**  
**Recognising care work through data collection: In order to recognise the problem we must seek to measure it- and I look forward to learning more about some of those measures today. The UN resident coordinator has highlighted the gap in data and information, The OECS 2017 to 2030 Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics is aligned to the CARICOM RSDS and prioritises gender statistics an important contributor to this picture, and this story.**

UN Women, as a participating UN agency in the UN Joint Programme on Adaptive Social Protection, is collaborating with the OECS Statistical Services Unit, to pilot a census-based approach to measuring SDG indicator 5.4.1 on unpaid domestic and care work. Through this intervention, training and technical support will be provided to relevant stakeholders in the OECS.

**Reducing unpaid care work through service provision.** COVID-19 has made appreciate more than ever the value of care services. We have had our children at home, keeping things clean have taken on new meaning and significance. We must develop enabling policies and plan for these types of services. Through the UN Joint Programme on Adaptive Social Protection, St. Lucia is receiving technical support to strengthen the gender-responsiveness of its Public Assistance Programme including access to care services- giving the time needed to pursue educational and income generating activities- as highlighted by the UNWOMEN representative

**Redistributing unpaid care work through** policies promoting flexible work arrangements, care leave, parental leave and behaviour change. Again COVID-19 has shown us how flexible and productive working arrangements can be. The OECS Commission, with support from the UN Joint Programme, is developing an Implementation plan for the Social Inclusion and Social Protection Framework that will address unpaid care and domestic work.

**Representing Carers in Decision Making: Ambassador Soeknandan made reference to the all-inclusive approach- the new OECS 6yr strategy prioritises engagement of the people that we serve.** As the OECS Commission proceeds with the development of its Social Inclusion and Protection Strategy, substantive engagement with representatives of the care sectors such as childcare and eldercare service providers and stakeholder groups representing parents, domestic workers and gender-quality advocates will be undertaken.

**Rewarding Care Work...Ambassador Sooknandan quoted a statistic of, I believe, over 3 trillion dollars for the value of unpaid care work.**

**There is a viral video on YouTube Mother's Day Job Interview...** it gives a good perspective of how much we undervalue the "care" work- that has traditionally fallen on women and mothers- we are all in this together- and we must begin to plan work

together as families, communities and societies to ensure all are cared for as a foundation, just like roads and infrastructure, to social and economic development.