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Care, Security and Macroeconomy (CSM) Program

GENDERISE

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Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving global environment, national development faces a host of intertwined challenges that undermine long-term stability and well-being. At the forefront of these challenges are persistent deficits in care work, growing economic instability, and deteriorating civil security. These issues, traditionally addressed as separate policy sectors, are increasingly recognized as interconnected forces that shape the lives of citizens. At GENDERISE, we believe that rethinking these challenges within an integrated framework is not only necessary but transformative. This strategy document articulates our vision for integrating care work, security, and macroeconomy into domestic policy, with a particular focus on regions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Our objective is to ensure that care work, both paid and unpaid is recognized as a strategic resource essential for public health, economic productivity, and social cohesion.

The undervaluation of care work has long been a blind spot in conventional policy-making. Despite its fundamental role in maintaining households, nurturing communities, and supporting economic activity, care work is often relegated to the private sphere or treated as an externality in national economic calculations. This oversight contributes to the persistence of gender disparities against women who shoulder most of care work and leaves vulnerable groups, particularly women, ethnic minorities, and low-income populations, disproportionately burdened. In many developing contexts, where public services are weak and social safety nets are minimal, the neglect of care not only deepens social inequities but also undermines a nation's overall resilience. Economic policies that prioritize aggregate growth without considering the cost of care work often result in higher rates of illness, reduced labor productivity, and, ultimately, a less secure society.

Moreover, the fragmentation of policy approaches has contributed to an inability to address these challenges holistically. Security strategies have traditionally been framed in terms of military might or law enforcement, while economic policies focus on macroeconomic indicators such as GDP and employment. Environmental policies, when present, are frequently isolated from broader economic and social strategies. This siloed approach neglects the ways in which care work, as a form of social reproduction, is deeply intertwined with both economic performance and public security. For example, when care deficits lead to higher levels of stress and poorer health outcomes, these issues compound to reduce overall productivity and increase social tensions. Such conditions erode public trust in government institutions, contributing to a cycle of instability that is difficult to break.

In regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the effects of these policy shortcomings are particularly pronounced. Rapid urbanization, economic restructuring, and historical inequalities have left many communities struggling to meet basic needs. In many African cities, for instance, the rapid pace of urban growth has outstripped the capacity of governments to provide adequate healthcare, education, and infrastructure, factors that are critical to supporting effective care work systems. Similarly, in parts of Asia, traditional care networks have been disrupted by economic migration and the demands of modern industry, while in Latin America, persistent income inequality and political instability have compounded the challenges of delivering public services. In each case, the failure to integrate care with economic and security policies has profound implications for national resilience and sustainable development.

Recognizing these challenges, GENDERISE is committed to developing an integrated policy framework that places care work at the heart of national development strategies. This document outlines our strategy for addressing the undervaluation of care work and the fragmentation of policy frameworks. We aim to drive transformative change by promoting the inclusion of care work in public policy, fostering participatory governance, and building capacity at all levels of government and civil society. Our approach is rooted in the understanding that care is not simply a social good, it is a strategic asset that underpins public health, economic productivity, and social stability. By addressing these issues holistically, we envision a future in which national policies not only drive economic growth but also foster resilient, secure, and equitable societies.

Strategic Framework and Implementation

At the core of our strategy is a reimagining of the domestic policy framework to integrate care work, security, and macroeconomy. This integrated approach is designed to redress long-standing inequities by recognizing the critical role that care work plays in maintaining the fabric of society. Our strategy is built on three interrelated pillars: reconfiguring policy frameworks, promoting participatory governance, and building capacity for transformative change.

A central aspect of our approach is the reconfiguration of existing domestic policy frameworks. Current policies often treat care work as a private matter, excluding it from economic planning and security considerations. This narrow perspective fails to capture the essential contributions of both paid and unpaid care work to societal well-being. To create a more comprehensive policy model, we propose that national success be measured not solely by traditional economic

Indicators include GDP growth or military expenditure but also metrics that reflect public health, access to care services, and the quality of life among vulnerable populations. For instance, policies should be evaluated on their ability to reduce healthcare costs, enhance labor productivity through improved care provision, and promote social cohesion. An integrated policy framework would therefore require a fundamental shift in how success is defined and measured, to ensure that the benefits of development are equitably distributed throughout society.

Our strategy also emphasizes the need for more participatory governance. Traditional top-down policy-making processes have often marginalized the voices of those most affected by systemic inequities. In contrast, inclusive decision-making can foster greater accountability and ensure that policies are responsive to the needs of all citizens. In practice, this means implementing mechanisms such as community forums, citizen advisory panels, and participatory budgeting processes that allow local communities to engage directly with policy-makers. Such participatory approaches have the potential to transform the relationship between citizens and the state, building trust and enhancing the legitimacy of public policies. When citizens are actively involved in the policy process, governments are more likely to prioritize investments that address fundamental care deficits and improve public security. By placing local experiences and insights at the center of policy debates, we can drive reforms that are both innovative and sustainable.

Capacity building is another critical element of our strategy. Effective implementation of integrated policies requires that government officials, community leaders, and civil society organizations be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to design and execute these policies. In many regions, particularly in parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, institutional capacity remains a significant barrier to progress. Our future work will focus on developing comprehensive training programs that cover key areas such as sustainable urban planning, inclusive economic development, and participatory governance. By fostering a culture of continuous learning and adaptation, GENDERISE aims to empower local actors to take ownership of the policy process. This approach will help build a robust foundation for long-term change, ensuring that integrated policy models are not only adopted but also sustained over time.

A further dimension of our strategy is the promotion of targeted, innovative interventions. Integrated policy frameworks must be grounded in practical solutions that address the specific challenges faced by communities. Drawing on reflections from diverse regions, we recognize

that care work, security, and macroeconomy are deeply interconnected at the local level. For example, in many urban centers in Asia, the disruption of traditional care networks has led to significant social and economic challenges, while in Latin America, community-led initiatives have demonstrated that integrated approaches to public service delivery can yield measurable improvements in quality of life. In Africa, the rapid pace of urbanization has underscored the need for policies that combine investments in public care services with measures to enhance economic productivity and social cohesion. By identifying and scaling up best practices from these regions, GENDERISE can develop a portfolio of pilot projects that serve as models for broader policy reform. These projects will be closely monitored and evaluated using a range of performance indicators that capture improvements in public health, economic stability, and social well-being.

The implementation of our integrated strategy will occur in distinct yet interrelated phases. Initially, we will focus on research and analysis to map the existing policy gaps and establish baseline data on care work, public service delivery, and socio-economic outcomes. This foundational work is essential for understanding the current landscape and identifying opportunities for intervention. Following this, we will launch capacity-building initiatives and participatory governance programs that engage local communities and policymakers. These efforts will be complemented by pilot projects designed to test and refine our integrated policy interventions. Throughout this process, continuous monitoring and evaluation will ensure that our strategies remain responsive to evolving needs and that successful models can be scaled up effectively.

Our future work will also emphasize the importance of cross-regional collaboration and knowledge exchange. GENDERISE is uniquely positioned to leverage its networks across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to facilitate the sharing of best practices and innovative solutions. By establishing regional platforms for dialogue such as conferences, workshops, and online resource centers, we can foster a collaborative environment where diverse stakeholders work together to drive transformative change. These networks will not only support the implementation of integrated policies at the local level but also contribute to a broader movement toward more holistic, people-centered approaches to development.

By reconfiguring domestic policy frameworks to integrate care work, security, and macroeconomy, GENDERISE envisions a future where national priorities are realigned to support the well-being of all citizens. This integrated approach recognizes that the value of

care work extends far beyond its traditional economic boundaries. It is a vital component of public health, a key driver of social cohesion, and an essential element of national resilience. The success of our strategy will be measured by the extent to which policies are reformed, by the improvement of key indicators such as public health and economic productivity, and by the level of active engagement from communities and local governments.

GENDERISE strategy also acknowledges that transformative change requires sustained effort and adaptive management. As conditions evolve, policies must be continuously refined to meet emerging challenges and capitalize on new opportunities. GENDERISE will establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems that track progress against our baseline data and performance indicators. Regular reporting and participatory evaluations will ensure that all stakeholders remain informed and that feedback is incorporated into ongoing policy development. This iterative process is essential for maintaining momentum and ensuring that our integrated approach continues to deliver meaningful results.

Furthermore, our integrated strategy calls for a fundamental shift in how national success is conceptualized. Rather than viewing economic growth as an end in itself, future policy frameworks must incorporate broader measures of well-being that reflect public health, environmental quality, and social equity. This reorientation will not only lead to more sustainable development outcomes but also foster a more resilient and inclusive society. By redefining success in this way, policymakers can ensure that the benefits of development are equitably shared and that no segment of society is left behind.

GENDERISE's future impact in the focus area of Care work, Security, and Macroeconomy will be significant if these integrated approaches are successfully implemented. Our work will have the potential to influence policy debates at the highest levels, guide legislative reforms, and drive practical interventions that improve the lives of citizens. In doing so, we aim to catalyze a shift in national priorities, moving away from fragmented approaches toward a model of development that is truly inclusive and sustainable.

GENDERISE envisions a future where integrated policies not only reduce the hidden costs of inadequate care provision but also enhance public safety and stimulate economic growth. In the future, public investments in healthcare, childcare, and eldercare will be seen as critical components of national security and economic resilience. Furthermore, when communities are actively engaged in the policy process, local needs are more effectively addressed, and,

trust in public institutions is strengthened. This vision forms the cornerstone of our strategy and provides a clear roadmap for achieving transformative change.

GENDERISE is committed to making this vision a reality. Our future work will focus on advancing integrated governance structures that align environmental, economic, and social objectives; promoting participatory governance to ensure that all voices are heard; building capacity at the local level to support sustainable policy implementation; and fostering cross-regional collaboration to share best practices and scale successful interventions. These efforts will be supported by targeted research, robust data collection, and a continuous process of monitoring and evaluation.

As we move forward, we will engage with policymakers, researchers, development experts, philanthropic organizations, and multilateral agencies to build the momentum necessary for systemic change. Our integrated strategy is not simply an academic exercise—it is a practical, actionable roadmap designed to improve the quality of life for all citizens and to ensure that development is both sustainable and equitable.

In conclusion, the challenges of undervaluing care, fragmented policy approaches, and the resultant social and economic vulnerabilities are pressing issues that demand innovative solutions. By integrating care with security and macroeconomic policy, we can create a framework that promotes inclusive development and strengthens national resilience. GENDERISE's CSM Program represents a forward-thinking approach that seeks to redefine national priorities and drive transformative change across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Through integrated governance, participatory decision-making, and capacity-building initiatives, we aim to build societies where care is recognized as a strategic asset, public security is enhanced, and economic growth is achieved in a manner that benefits all citizens.

GENDERISE invites all stakeholders to join us on this journey. By collaborating with governments, civil society organizations, researchers, and international partners, We are poised to lead a transformative movement toward a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future. Together, we can reconfigure domestic policy frameworks to ensure that the full value of care is recognized and that development outcomes are measured not only in economic terms but in the quality of life of every citizen.

Conclusion and Future Direction

This strategy document has outlined a comprehensive approach for integrating care, security, and macroeconomy into domestic policy frameworks. We have identified the central challenges—namely, the persistent undervaluation of care, the fragmentation of policy processes, and the disproportionate burden borne by vulnerable communities. Our reflections demonstrate that an integrated approach, which redefines national success to include public health, social well-being, and environmental quality, is essential for achieving sustainable development and long-term resilience.

The integrated framework we propose reconfigures traditional policy paradigms by placing care at the center of economic and security strategies. This approach not only addresses the immediate needs of marginalized communities but also builds the foundation for a more equitable and robust society. By emphasizing the interconnected nature of care, security, and macroeconomic stability, our strategy offers a transformative vision that has the potential to shift policy debates at national and regional levels.

Looking ahead, the future work of GENDERISE in the focus area of Care, Security, and Macroeconomy will concentrate on several strategic priorities. We will advocate for integrated governance structures that facilitate inter-agency collaboration and ensure that policy decisions are informed by the realities of care work. We will also focus on promoting participatory governance, empowering local communities to actively engage in the policy-making process and ensuring that their voices are reflected in national priorities. Capacity building will be a cornerstone of our efforts, with tailored training programs designed to equip government officials, civil society organizations, and community leaders with the tools needed to implement and sustain integrated policies.

Moreover, GENDERISE will invest in targeted interventions and pilot projects that demonstrate the practical benefits of an integrated approach. These projects will serve as models for broader policy reform, showcasing how investments in public care services, sustainable infrastructure, and participatory governance can lead to measurable improvements in public health, economic stability, and social cohesion. Cross-regional collaboration and knowledge exchange will further enhance our impact. By establishing networks among stakeholders in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, we aim to create a global movement that supports integrated, people-centered policy-making.

Ultimately, our vision is to reconfigure domestic policy frameworks so that care work is recognized as a strategic resource, one that underpins national security and economic resilience. By embedding care into the fabric of policy-making, we can build societies that are not only economically robust but also socially just and environmentally sustainable. The transformative potential of this integrated approach is immense. It challenges conventional metrics of success and offers a roadmap for creating a future where development benefits every citizen.

GENDERISE is committed to leading this transformation. Our strategy is a call to action for policymakers, researchers, development experts, philanthropic organizations, and multilateral agencies. We invite all stakeholders to collaborate with us as we work to advance integrated policy frameworks that prioritize human security, social equity, and sustainable development. Together, we can create a resilient future where the value of care is fully recognized, public security is strengthened, and economic growth is both inclusive and enduring.

As we chart the path forward, GENDERISE will continue to refine and expand its integrated approach through ongoing research, capacity-building initiatives, and the implementation of pilot projects. We are dedicated to fostering participatory governance and building cross-regional partnerships that leverage local expertise and promote best practices. By maintaining a focus on evidence-based decision-making and inclusive policy reform, we will help ensure that our integrated strategy translates into real, measurable impact on the ground.

In conclusion, the challenges that modern states face require a radical rethinking of policy priorities. Integrating care, security, and macroeconomy offers a transformative vision for domestic policy—one that has the power to reshape development trajectories and build more resilient, equitable societies. GENDERISE's future work in this focus area will be pivotal in advancing this vision, driving policy reforms that reflect the true needs of citizens, and ultimately creating a better quality of life for all. We look forward to engaging with stakeholders across Africa, Asia, and Latin America as we embark on this critical journey toward integrated, inclusive national development.

For further details on our initiatives and to learn more about upcoming projects in this focus area, please visit www.genderise.org.

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