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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”**

Statement submitted by Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc., a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Women and labor migration continue to remain on the sidelines of national and global migration discussions and policy deliberations in the local, regional, and international level. In contrast, of the amount of remittances from migrants, the majority are from women caregivers and represents a sizable percentage of the supply countries' economies. The Secretary General's Report of 2017, *Making Migration Work for All*, showed that women account for 48 per cent of migrants, and they send a higher percentage of their income compared to men. This economic power can become a powerful leverage to women's voice in the global and national migration policy discourse. The total Number of overseas workers from the Philippines is estimated at 2.2 Million within the period from April to September 2019, according to Philippine Statistics Authority data released in June 2020. Of this figure, 56 per cent are women. The total remittance sent by migrants during the same period was estimated at approximately equivalent to US\$4 billion. According to the World Bank, the Gross Domestic Product of the Philippines in 2019 totalled \$357 billion and \$31 billion of such is migrants' remittances. On average, this figure accounts for approximately 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

Feminization of migrant care-work continues to be one of the most pressing issues in labor migration. Caregiving work mostly done by women is one of the lowest paying, physically demanding and emotionally draining work as experienced by women migrant caregivers and domestic workers who are being assisted or served by Maryknoll Sisters and Maryknoll entities missioned in South and East Asia, North and Latin America. In reality, women face more restrictions in labor policies and employment than men.

In an article by Speranta Dumitru published in 2014 in Elsevier, the author referenced a 2002 study by sociologist Arlie Hochschild, who coined the metaphor "care drain" to describe women's labor migration as a loss. Hoschild's analysis found out that half of the women who were hired as nannies were college-educated. This new metaphor was intended by Hoschild to point out global injustice, and the draining from the global south of what she called "emotional resources," whether migrating women care-givers are educated or not. Hoschild also indicated that the care drain "extracts love" from the women's families and children. The Guardian newspaper online published on 20 October, 2020, a special human rights report, *Les nouveaux Misérables: a photo documentation of the lives of Filipina workers in the household of rich people*, by French undercover photographer Thomas Morel-Fort. The photos taken in the span of six years followed the lives of undocumented workers, a majority of whom were women in the homes of wealthy Parisians and persons living in Cote d'Azur. These stories spotlight the inequalities and poor treatment of migrant workers, particularly women. Morel-Fort also documented the difficult situation of the care-givers' families in the countries of origin.

This information correlates to data released by United Nations Women related both to unpaid work, which illustrates that women do 2.6 times more unpaid care work than men, and the pension-retirement gap which reflects that, globally women are 10.6 per cent less likely than men to have access to old-age pensions. According to ILO statistics, there are 740 million women in the informal economy, which means they have no access to unemployment benefits, maternity leave, or retirement and health benefits. Women on average work 4.5 hours more than men. Exploitation of women's labor for free is a development, human rights, and fairness issue. It is also undermining children's futures.

The NGO-CSW New York Study Groups on Beijing+25, which featured six thematic groups, has published a report entitled, *Recommendations To Be*

Implemented Based on the Six Thematic Groups. Recommendation Six on Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work states that: Women need access to job training, internships and mentoring and must constitute at least 50 per cent of management and corporate boards. The study recommended ratification and implementation of the International Labor Organization's Convention on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (C-190), to which Maryknoll Sisters and other Maryknoll and many faith-based entities have endorsed. In addition, the gender pay gap finally needs to be eliminated, and gender budgeting implemented. Further recommendations are that the care economy and industry must be given priority in the decent work platform so that women in the caregiving work are fully compensated and regulated, ensuring their social protection and retirement pension in old age. The rising older population and care for this population will cause unpaid care burden to become even heavier for women. This recommendation is directly related to migrant care work issues addressed above.

Therefore, we recommend the following:

Representation of women migrants in crafting of national policies and decisions that affect themselves, their families, and communities; most importantly for their own individual development such as the ability to highlight how their contributions to domestic resources must be used in national budgets.

Regulation of the global care economy through the Decent Work platform and addressing full and equitable worker compensation, the elimination of pay gaps, and assurance of social protection and retirement pension.

That Member States ratify the ILO Convention on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (C-190).

This statement is endorsed by the following organizations accredited to ECOSOC:

- Company of the Daughters of Charity of Dt. Vincent de Paul
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- International Presentation Association
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- VIVAT International.