

GRI Topic Standard Project for Labor - Working Parents and Caregivers exposure draft

Comments to be received by 29 April 2025

This exposure draft of the GRI Labor Topic Standards is published for public comment by the

Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), the independent standard-setting body of GRI. This exposure draft is intended to replace *GRI 401: Employment 2016* (Disclosure 401-3).

Any interested party can submit comments on this draft by 29 April 2025 via this online survey.

As required by the <u>GSSB Due Process Protocol</u>, only comments submitted in writing and in English will be considered. Comments will be published on the GRI website and considered a matter of public record. Instructions on how to submit comments are outlined on the first page of the online questionnaire.

A separate <u>explanatory memorandum</u> summarizes the objectives of the project and the summary of the proposals contained within this exposure draft.

This draft is published for comment only and may change before official publication.

For more information, please visit the <u>GRI Standards webpage</u>. For questions regarding the exposure draft or the public comment period, please send an email to labor@globalreporting.org

This document has been prepared by the GRI Standards Division and is made available to observers at meetings of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB). It does not represent an official position of the GSSB. Board positions are set out in the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards. The GSSB is the independent standard setting body of GRI. For more information visit www.globalreporting.org.

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Note on reading this document

This document includes generic text used in all GRI Standards. This text is highlighted in grey and cannot be changed – please do not comment on this text.

Underlined terms in the draft Standard indicate terms for which definitions have been provided. Most of these terms are already defined in the *GRI Standards Glossary* – these definitions are highlighted in grey in the Glossary and cannot be changed. The proposed new definitions are not highlighted in grey and are open for review.



Introduction

- 2 GRI PARE: Working Parents and Caregivers 202X contains disclosures for organizations to report
- 3 information about their impacts related to working parents and caregivers and how they manage
- 4 these impacts.

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- 5 The Standard is structured as follows:
 - Section 1 contains one disclosure, which provides information about how the organization manages its impacts related to working parents and caregivers.
 - Section 2 contains one disclosure, which provides information about the organization's impacts related to working parents and caregivers.
 - The Glossary contains defined terms with a specific meaning when used in the GRI Standards. The terms are <u>underlined</u> in the text of the GRI Standards and linked to the definitions.
 - The Bibliography lists authoritative intergovernmental instruments and additional references used in developing this Standard.
- The rest of the Introduction section provides a background on the topic, an overview of the system of GRI Standards and further information on using this Standard.

17 Background on the topic

- 18 This Standard addresses the topic of working parents and caregivers.
- 19 According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Workers with Family Responsibilities
- 20 Convention 1981 (No. 156) [2], workers with family responsibilities are workers with responsibilities in
- 21 relation to their dependent children and to other members of their immediate family who clearly need
- their care or support (e.g., workers caring for aging parents). Individuals with family responsibilities
- 23 who are currently employed or wish to seek employment should have the right to do so without facing
- 24 discrimination and, where possible, minimize any conflicts between their work and family obligations.
- 25 Enabling working parents and caregivers to manage both their work and family is crucial for both
- sustainable economic growth and gender equity. For example, robust policies providing paid parental
- 27 leave contribute to a more equitable society, poverty reduction, and sustainable growth. Children
- 28 whose parents have adequate parental leave are also more likely to be breastfed, receive the health
- 29 care they need, and form nurturing bonds that bolster socioemotional development.
- 30 See [6] in resources in the Bibliogrpahy.
- 31 The Standard covers the organization's employees and workers who are not employees and whose
- work is controlled by the organization, hereafter 'workers who are not employees'. Workers who are
- 33 not employees perform work for the organization but are not in an employment relationship with the
- 34 organization. Control of work implies that the organization directs the work performed or has control
- 35 over the means or methods for performing the work. See the Control of Work Standard Interpretation
- 36 to GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021 for more information.

System of GRI Standards

- This Standard is part of the GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards (GRI Standards). The GRI
- 39 Standards enable an organization to report information about its most significant impacts on the
- 40 economy, environment, and people, including impacts on their human rights, and how it manages
- 41 these impacts.

- 42 The GRI Standards are structured as a system of interrelated standards that are organized into three
- 43 series: GRI Universal Standards, GRI Sector Standards, and GRI Topic Standards (see Figure 1 in
- 44 this Standard).



Universal Standards: GRI 1, GRI 2 and GRI 3

- 46 GRI 1: Foundation 2021 specifies the requirements that the organization must comply with to report in
- 47 accordance with the GRI Standards. The organization begins using the GRI Standards by consulting
- 48 GRI 1.

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- 49 GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021 contains disclosures that the organization uses to provide
- information about its reporting practices and other organizational details, such as its activities,
- 51 governance, and policies.
- 52 GRI 3: Material Topics 2021 provides guidance on how to determine material topics. It also contains
- disclosures that the organization uses to report information about its process of determining material
- topics, its list of material topics, and how it manages each topic.

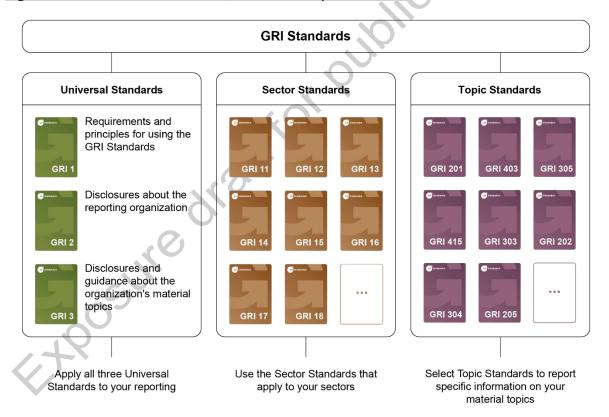
Sector Standards

- 56 The Sector Standards provide information for organizations about their likely material topics. The
- 57 organization uses the Sector Standards that apply to its sectors when determining its material topics
- and when determining what to report for each material topic.

Topic Standards

- The Topic Standards contain disclosures that the organization uses to report information about its
- 61 impacts in relation to particular topics. The organization uses the Topic Standards according to the list
- of material topics it has determined using GRI 3.

Figure 1. GRI Standards: Universal, Sector and Topic Standards





Using this Standard

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- This Standard can be used by any organization regardless of size, type, sector, geographic location,
- or reporting experience to report information about its impacts related to working parents and
- 67 caregivers. In addition to this Standard, disclosures that relate to this topic can be found in GRI
- 68 EMPL: Employment 202X and GRI REWO: Remuneration and Working Time 202X.
- An organization reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards is required to report the following disclosures if it has determined working parents and caregivers to be a material topic:
 - Disclosure 3-3 in GRI 3: Material Topics 2021.
 - Any disclosures from this Topic Standard that are relevant to the organization's impacts related to working parents and caregivers(Disclosure PARE 1 through Disclosure PARE 2).
- 74 See Requirements 4 and 5 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021.
- 75 Reasons for omission are permitted for these disclosures.
- 76 If the organization cannot comply with a disclosure or with a requirement in a disclosure (e.g.,
- pecause the required information is confidential or subject to legal prohibitions), the organization is
- required to specify the disclosure or the requirement it cannot comply with, and provide a reason for
- 79 omission together with an explanation in the GRI content index. See Requirement 6 in GRI 1 for more
- 80 information on reasons for omission.
- 81 If the organization cannot report the required information about an item specified in a disclosure
- 82 because the item (e.g., committee, policy, practice, process) does not exist, it can comply with the
- 83 requirement by reporting this to be the case. The organization can explain the reasons for not having
- this item, or describe any plans to develop it. The disclosure does not require the organization to
- 85 implement the item (e.g., developing a policy), but to report that the item does not exist.
- 86 If the organization intends to publish a standalone sustainability report, it does not need to repeat
- 87 information that it has already reported publicly elsewhere, such as on web pages or in its annual
- 88 report. In such a case, the organization can report a required disclosure by providing a reference in
- 89 the GRI content index as to where this information can be found (e.g., by providing a link to the web
- 90 page or citing the page in the annual report where the information has been published).
- 91 Requirements, guidance and defined terms
- The following apply throughout this Standard:
- 93 Requirements are presented in **bold font** and indicated by the word 'shall'. An organization must
- comply with requirements to report in accordance with the GRI Standards.
- Page 195 Requirements may be accompanied by guidance.
- Guidance includes background information, explanations, and examples to help the organization
- 97 better understand the requirements. The organization is not required to comply with guidance.
- The Standards may also include recommendations. These are cases where a particular course of
- action is encouraged but not required.
- The word 'should' indicates a recommendation, and the word 'can' indicates a possibility or option.
- Defined terms are <u>underlined</u> in the text of the GRI Standards and linked to their definitions in the
- 102 Glossary. The organization is required to apply the definitions in the Glossary.



1. Topic management disclosures

- An organization reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards is required to report how it manages
- each of its material topics.

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- An organization that has determined working parents and caregivers to be a material topic is required
- to report how it manages the topic using Disclosure 3-3 in GRI 3: Material Topics 2021. The
- organization is also required to report any disclosure from this section (Disclosure PARE 1) that is
- relevant to its impacts on working parents and caregivers.
- 110 This section is therefore designed to supplement and not replace Disclosure 3-3 in GRI 3.

Disclosure PARE 1 Policies for workers with family

112 responsibilities

113 **REQUIREMENTS**

- 114 The organization shall:
- a. describe its policies on paid leave for <u>employees</u> and <u>workers who are not employees</u> with family responsibilities, including:
- i. maternity leave;
- 118 ii. paternity leave;
- 119 **iii. parental leave**;
- 120 iv. caregiver leave;
- b. describe how it encourages employees and workers who are not employees to take paid
 leave for family responsibilities;
- 123 c. describe its policies on reintegrating employees and workers who are not employees after taking leave for family responsibilities, including maternity leave;
- d. describe its policies on working arrangements to support employees and workers who are
 not employees with family responsibilities, including:
- i. breastfeeding and lactation breaks;
 - ii. employer-supported childcare;
- 128 129
- e. describe how <u>workers' representatives</u> are involved in developing policies for employees and workers who are not employees with family responsibilities.

132 **GUIDANCE**

- For clarity, the term 'workers who are not employees' refers to workers who are not employed by the
- organization but whose work is controlled by the organization. See the Control of Work Standard
- 135 Interpretation to GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021 for more information.
- 136 The organization is required to separately report the information in PARE 1-a-i to e for employees and
- workers who are not employees.
- The organization can describe its unpaid leave policies for employees and workers who are not
- 139 employees with family responsibilities.

140 Guidance to PARE 1-a

- 141 The organization should report any paid leave it provides to its employees and workers who are not
- 142 employees to fulfill their family responsibilities, such as caring for a dependent child. The organization
- should describe the circumstances in which the paid leave policies are applied, e.g., until a child is
- 144 eight years old. The organization should describe the differences in paid leave policies between types
- of employees, including <u>part-time</u> or <u>temporary employees</u>.



- 146 The organization should report the statutory number of days or weeks of paid leave that employees
- and workers who are not employees with family responsibilities are entitled to be absent from work,
- 148 according to relevant legislation, and collective bargaining agreements. The organization should also
- report the additional non-statutory number of days or weeks of paid leave provided by the
- 150 organization.
- 151 The organization should report whether it contributes to social protection during workers' leave. For
- 152 each type of paid leave reported under PARE 1-a, the organization should report whether it makes
- social protection contributions to an employee and a worker who is not an employee, See Disclosure
- 154 REWO 6 in GRI REWO: Remuneration and Working Time 202X.
- 155 In accordance with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Workers with Family Responsibilities
- 156 Convention, 1981 (No. 156) [2], terminating a worker's employment due to their family responsibilities
- is not a valid justification. See Disclosure EMPL 5 in GRI EMPL: Employment 202X.

158 Guidance to PARE 1-a-i and PARE 1-a-ii

- 159 Maternity leave is granted to women workers for the birth or adoption of a child. Under the
- 160 ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183) [1], all women workers are expected to be
- entitled to paid maternity leave of at least 14 weeks, including prenatal and postnatal phases.
- 162 Paternity leave is granted to employees and workers who are not employees whose partner gives
- birth to a child or the adoption of a child.
- 164 The organization should report whether it provides the same paid leave benefits to parents in a same-
- sex relationship. The organization can use the gender-neutral terms of primary and secondary
- 166 caregiver leave as terminology instead of maternity and paternity leave.
- 167 The organization can describe its policies on providing paid maternity and paternity leave to
- 168 employees and workers who are not employees who are part of same-sex couples.

169 Guidance to PARE 1-a-iii

- Parental leave is granted to either parent following maternity or paternity leave to care for a child. In
- accordance to ILO Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) [2], Parental
- leave should be granted without relinquishing employment and with rights resulting from employment
- 173 being safeguarded

174 Guidance to PARE 1-a-i, PARE 1-a-ii and PARE 1-a-iii

- 175 Adoption leave is granted to workers who have adopted a child. The ILO Maternity Protection
- 176 Recommendation, 2000 (No. 191) [3] indicates that adoptive parents should have the same leave,
- 177 benefits, and employment protection as biological parents. The organization should report whether it
- 178 provides the same paid leave benefits to those adopting a child.

179 Guidance to PARE 1-a-iv

- 180 Caregiver leave is granted to workers who care for family or household members, for example, when
- 181 ill
- The organization can describe its policies on providing unpaid caregiver leave to its employees and
- 183 workers who are not employees.

184 Guidance to PARE 1-b

- An organization can encourage its employees to utilize the leaves for family responsibilities. This can
- 186 include, for example, providing access to information and training programs for managers and
- 187 managers and communication via multiple channels that increase awareness about applying
- 188 procedures for leave and changing work cultures to encourage employees to take family care leave.
- The organization should report how it engages with managers, human resources, and other staff
- 190 responsible for implementing leave policies.
- The organization should describe how it addresses gender differences in relation to using leave for
- family responsibilities. For example, fear of discrimination and gender stereotypes can discourage
- men employees and workers who are not employees from taking leave for family responsibilities. The
- 194 organization can describe how it encourages men employees and workers who are not employees to



- 195 take leave for family responsibilities by creating a supportive work culture and amending its leave
- 196 policies so that they are more inclusive for men.

197 Guidance to PARE 1-c

- 198 Examples of reintegration after taking leave for family responsibilities include phased return-to-work
- options, such as gradually increasing working hours or workload, and flexible working time
- arrangements.

201 Guidance to PARE 1-d

- 202 Working arrangements include arrangements on working time and space. Flexible working
- arrangements, such as part-time hours, compressed work weeks, or remote work. Flexible working
- time arrangements help employees and workers who are not employees to combine work with their
- 205 family responsibilities.
- 206 For working time policy, see Disclosure REWO 2 in GRI REWO: Remuneration and Working Time
- 207 202X

208 Guidance to PARE 1-d-i

- 209 Breastfeeding and lactation policies bring more satisfied workers, retention of women workers,
- reduction of sick leave taken for children's illnesses, and reduction of absenteeism and turn over rate.
- 211 Breastfeeding and lactation breaks are reductions of working hours provided for breastfeeding or
- 212 expressing milk during working hours. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that
- 213 infants exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of their lives. Often, women return to work during
- 214 this period, so it is essential for working mothers to find ways to continue breastfeeding after returning
- to work. According to the ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183) [1], workers are
- 216 expected to be given the right to one or more daily breaks or a daily reduction of working hours to
- 217 breastfeed their child, and these breaks or reduced daily hours of work count as working time and are
- 218 remunerated accordingly.
- 219 See resources [5] in the bibliography.

220 Guidance to PARE 1-d-ii

- 221 Employer-supported childcare can include providing on-site childcare facilities, referrals to childcare
- 222 services, and subsidies for childcare costs.

223 Guidance to PARE 1-e

- The organization can report how often it adjusts its paid leave policies for employees and workers
- 225 with family responsibilities based on consultations with workers' representatives to ensure alignment
- with benchmarks.
- The organization can also report whether it considers any other stakeholder feedback, such as from
- 228 civil society organizations, in developing paid leave policies for employees and workers who are not
- 229 employees with family responsibilities.



2. Topic disclosures

- An organization reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards is required to report any disclosure
- from this section (Disclosure PARE-2) that is relevant to its impacts on working parents and
- 233 caregivers.

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Disclosure PARE 2 Maternity, paternity, and parental

- 235 leave
- 236 REQUIREMENTS
- 237 The organization shall:
- a. report, for each significant location of operation, the percentage of employees entitled to:
- 239 i. paid maternity leave that took paid maternity leave:
- ii. paid paternity leave that took paid paternity leave;
 - iii. paid parental leave that took paid parental leave and a breakdown by gender;
- 242 b. report, for each significant location of operation, the average number of paid weeks an
 243 employee takes for leave as an absolute number and percentage of the maximum number
 244 of weeks of paid leave for:
- i. maternity leave;
- 246 ii. paternity leave;
- 247 iii. parental leave and a breakdown by gender;
- c. report the retention rate of employees that remain in an employment relationship one year after returning from maternity leave;
- 250 d. report the definition used for 'significant locations of operation';
- 251
 e. report contextual information necessary to understand how the data has been compiled,
 including standards, methodologies, and assumptions used.
- 254 **GUIDANCE**
- In addition to reporting maternity, paternity, and parental leave metrics, the organization can report caregiver leave metrics, and maternity, paternity, parental, and caregiver leave for workers who are not employees. For example, the percentage of employees or workers who are not employees entitled to caregiver leave that took it, or employees or workers who are not employees take caregivers' leave as a percentage of the maximum number of days of caregiver leave.
- 260 Guidance to PARE 2-a
- Employees entitled to leave are those eligible for paid leave according to national laws as well the organization policies. The percentage of employees who are entitled to and took each type of leave is calculated using the following formula:

Percentage of employees	=	Total number of employees that took paid leave	X 100
who are entitled to and that took paid leave for family responsibilities		Total number of employees entitled to paid leave	





265 Guidance to PARE 2-b

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The average number of weeks an employee takes for paid maternity, paternity, and parental leave is calculated using the following formula:

Average number of weeks an employee takes for paid leave	=	Total number of weeks of paid leave taken by employees
		Total number of employees that took the leave

268 Guidance to PARE 2-a and PARE 2-b

Therefore, in the context of these requirements, paid leave is considered leave where employees receive at least 70% of their basic pay.

271 See Table 1 for an example of how to present the information on PARE 2-a and PARE 2-b.

Table 1. Example template for presenting information on maternity, paternity, and parental paid leave

Percentage of employees that are entitled and took the paid leave														
	Maternity	Paterr	nity	Parental leave (PARE 2-a-iii)										
	leave	leave		Total		Men		Won	nen	Othe	r*	Not		
	(PARE 2- a-i)	(PARE ii)	(PARE 2-a- ii)				•		C				disclosed**	
Significant location A						N	0)							
Significant location B						5								
Significant location C				ر ک										
Average number of paid weeks an employee takes for maternity, paternity, and parental leave as an absolute number and as a percentage of the maximum number														
	Maternity	leave leave (PARE 2-b-		Parental leave (PARE 2-b-iii)										
				Total		Men		Women		Other*		Not disclosed**		
	No. %	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Significant location A	6													
Significant location B														
Significant location C														

^{*} Gender as specified by the employees themselves.

The organization is free to choose how to report the breakdowns by gender. It is not required to report the four categories suggested in Table 1. For example, instead of an 'other' category, the organization can report any gender category as specified by employees.

Guidance to PARE 2-c

In accordance with the *ILO Maternity Protection Convention*, 2000 (No. 183) [1], employees returning after maternity leave have the right to the same or equivalent role, paid at the same rate at the end of their maternity leave.



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^{**} Gender is not disclosed by the employees themselves.

283 The retention rate of employees who remain a year after returning from maternity leave is calculated 284 using the following formula:

employees that remain a	Total number of employees that remain a year after returning from maternity leave	X 100
year after returning from maternity leave	Total number of employees that returned from maternity leave in the previous reporting period	
	matering reason was provided reporting period	
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Glossary 286 287 This glossary provides definitions for terms used in this Standard. The organization is required to apply these definitions when using the GRI Standards. 288 289 The definitions included in this glossary may contain terms that are further defined in the complete 290 GRI Standards Glossary. All defined terms are underlined. If a term is not defined in this glossary or in 291 the complete GRI Standards Glossary, definitions that are commonly used and understood apply. 292 collective bargaining 293 all negotiations that take place between one or more employers or employers' organizations, on the 294 one hand, and one or more workers' organizations (e.g., trade unions), on the other, for determining 295 working conditions and terms of employment or for regulating relations between employers and 296 workers Source: International Labour Organization (ILO), Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154); 297 298 modified 299 discrimination 300 act and result of treating persons unequally by imposing unequal burdens or denying benefits instead 301 of treating each person fairly on the basis of individual merit Discrimination can also include harassment, defined as a course of comments or 302 303 actions that are unwelcome, or should reasonably be known to be unwelcome, to the 304 person towards whom they are addressed. 305 306 employee 307 individual who is in an employment relationship with the organization according to national law or 308 practice 309 impacts 310 effect the organization has or could have on the economy, environment, and people, including on 311 their human rights, which in turn can indicate its contribution (negative or positive) to sustainable 312 development 313 314 Note 1: Impacts can be actual or potential, negative or positive, short-term or long-term, 315 intended or unintended, and reversible or irreversible. 316 Note 2: See section 2.1 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021 for more information on 'impact'. 317 318 human rights rights inherent to all human beings, which include, at a minimum, the rights set out in the United 319 320 Nations (UN) International Bill of Human Rights and the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental 321 Principles and Rights at Work 322 323 324 United Nations (UN), Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Source: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, 2011; Modified 325 326 327 Note: See Guidance to 2-23-b-i in GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021 for more information on 328 'human rights'. 329 330 Note: See section 2.2 in GRI 1: Foundation 2021 and section 1 in GRI 3: Material Topics 331 2021 for more information on 'material topics'.

material topic 334 topics that repr

topics that represent the organization's most significant impacts on the economy, environment,

and people, including impacts on their human rights



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temporary employee
<u>employee</u> with a contract for a limited period (i.e., fixed term contract) that ends when the specific time period expires, or when the specific task or event that has an attached time estimate is completed (e.g., the end of a project or return of replaced employees)
parental leave
leave granted to men and women employees on the grounds of the birth of a child
part-time employee employee whose working hours per week, month, or year are less than the number of working
hours for full-time employees
worker representative
person who is recognized as such under national law or practice, whether they are:
 a trade union representative, namely, a representative designated or elected by trade unions or by members of such unions; or
 an elected representative, namely, a representative who is freely elected by the workers of the undertaking in accordance with provisions of national laws, regulations, or collective agreements, whose functions do not include activities which are recognized as the exclusive prerogative of trade unions in the country concerned.
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Bibliography

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This section lists authoritative intergovernmental instruments and additional references used in developing this Standard.

Authoritative instruments:

- 1. International Labour Organization (ILO), Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183).
- 2. International Labour Organization (ILO), Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156).
- 3. International Labour Organization (ILO), *Maternity Protection Recommendation*, 2000 (No. 191).
- International Labour Organization (ILO), Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135)

Additional references:

- 5. International Labour Organization (ILO), Resolution concerning gender equality at the heart of decent work, 2009.
- 6. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World, 2011.

Resources:

- 7. International Labour Organization (ILO), *Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy*, 2017.
- 8. International Labour Organization (ILO), Equal Pay An introductory guide, 2013.
- 9. International Labour Organization (ILO), Working time and Work-Life Balance Around the World, 2023.
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