

Inter-American Model Law on Care

Recognizing and valuing the invisible work of women

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About the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)

- Established in 1928 as the first inter-governmental agency created to promote women's rights, a result of hemispheric partnership by the feminist movement.
- Joined the OAS in 1948 as an “autonomous and decentralized organization.”



Mission: Support Member States in their compliance with their respective international and inter-American commitments on women's human rights and gender equity and equality

The disproportionate amount of care work carried by women in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Approximately

60%

of women in households with the presence of children under the age of 15 state that they do not take part in the labour market due to family responsibilities

Women dedicate

between 6.3 and 29.5 more hours per week

than men to domestic and care work.

That's to say, women dedicate:

19.6%

of their time to unremunerated domestic and care work (vs. a comparative 7.3% by men).

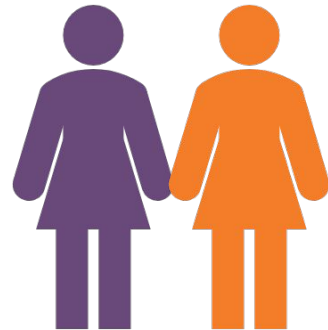
Calculations show that care work contributes between 15.9% and 27.6% to GDP.

Our logic: Care as a barrier to women's labour force participation

117 million women are part of the LAC labour force – the highest figure in history.

The quantity is
not all that
counts

1 of every 2 women
continues to be outside
the labour market



The salary gap between
women and men is as
high as:

22%

on average in LAC.



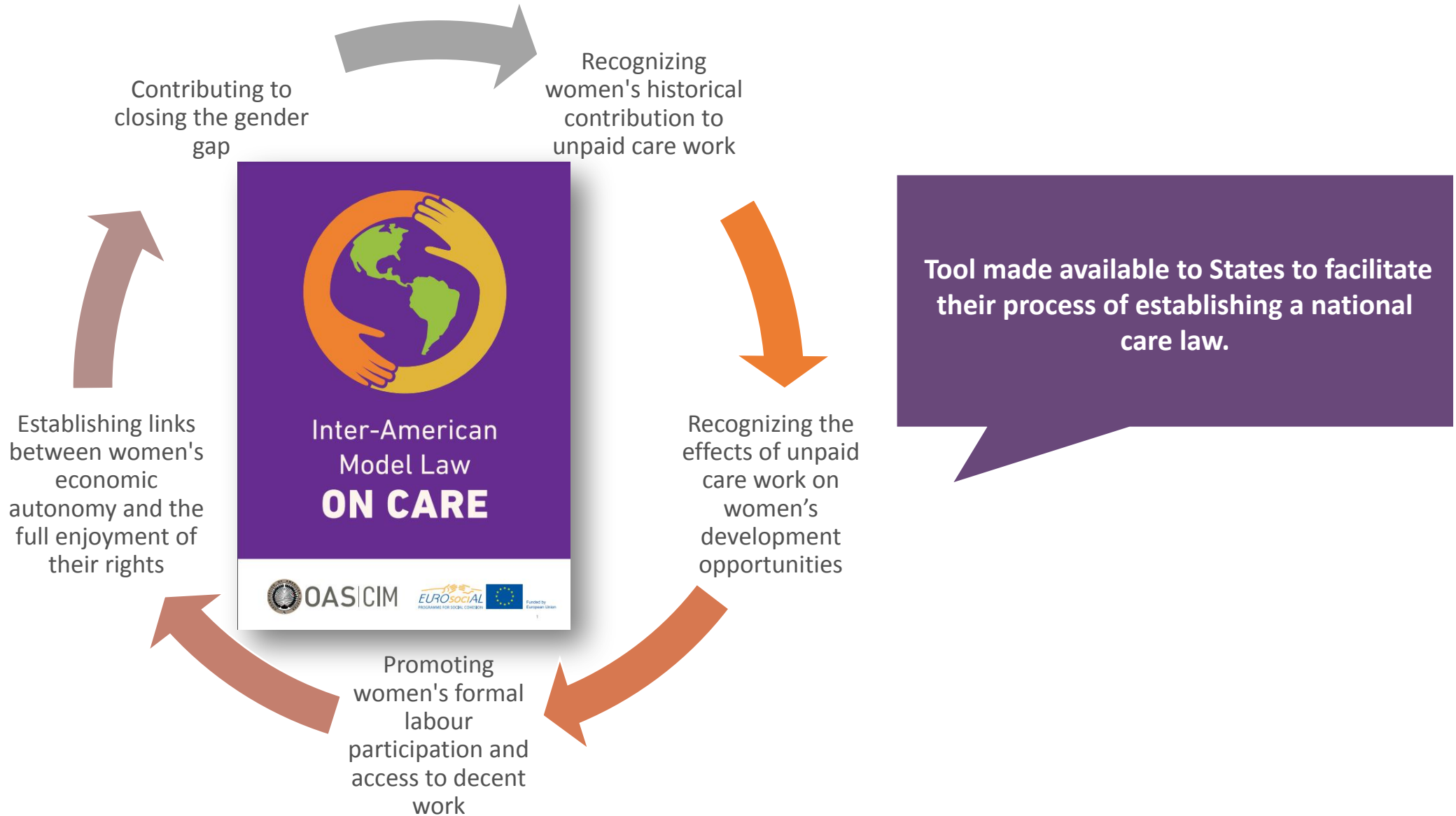
Inter-American Model Law on Care:

The need for **new gender pacts** → care.

It is a **transformation towards** a new ethic: taking this out of the private world and bringing into the public sphere.

This signifies a **major fracture of classical paradigms** and an **opening up**, which means...





Why a Model Law on care?

The interpretation and application of regulations is the institutional mechanism by which formal equality is translated into substantive equality.

- **Existing instruments** have been insufficient in addressing women's realities in a comprehensive manner.
- Legal norms are an **expression of a society at a given moment in history** and represent, in democratic and inclusive States, the demands of important sectors of the citizenry, such as women.
- Regulatory changes are understood as the permanent and urgent **assertion of women's rights at the structural level that makes up state power** and define the obligations and competencies of the State in relation to the citizenry.

5 critical points of the Inter-American Model Law on Care (LMIC)

1. The right of persons to **give and receive care**, and the right to **self-care**.

2. Care as an **integral part of social protection systems**, emphasising universality.

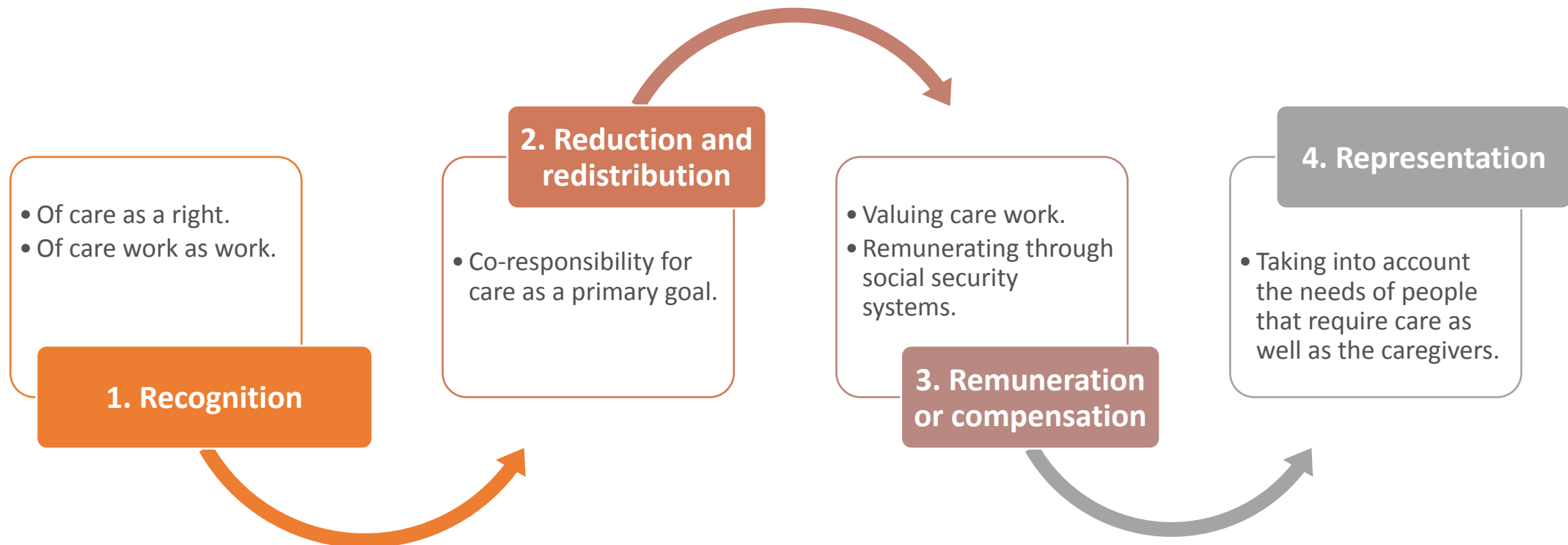
3. Legal principles of **family and social co-responsibility** for care.

4. Care as the basis of the **economic system**.

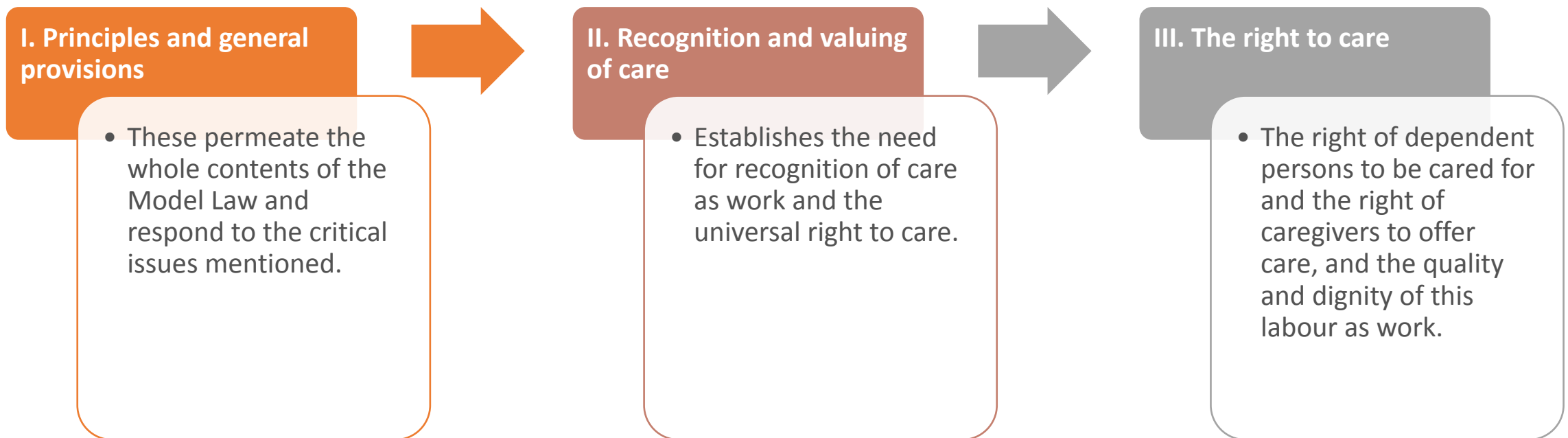
5. Care as a transversal axis of governance **based on human rights and gender equality**.

4 pillars of the Inter-American Model Law on Care:

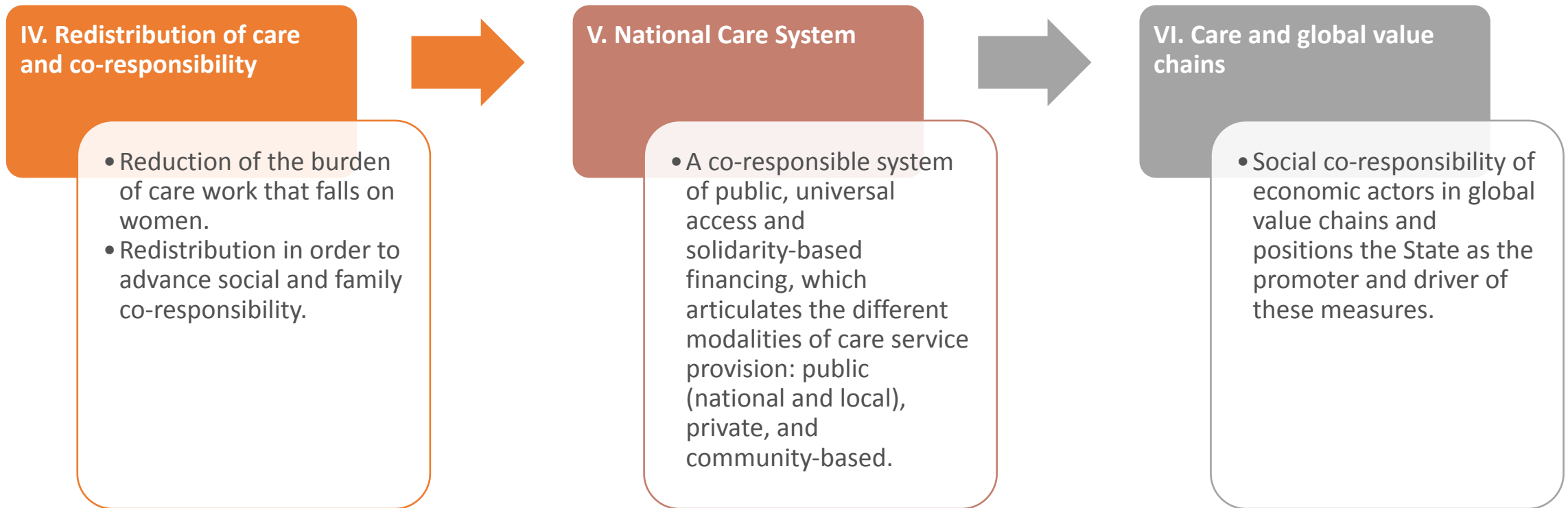
Foundational premise: Redefining care work, which lays the foundation for a new understanding of social organization and the economy, by focusing on life-sustaining processes.



Structure of the Model Law:



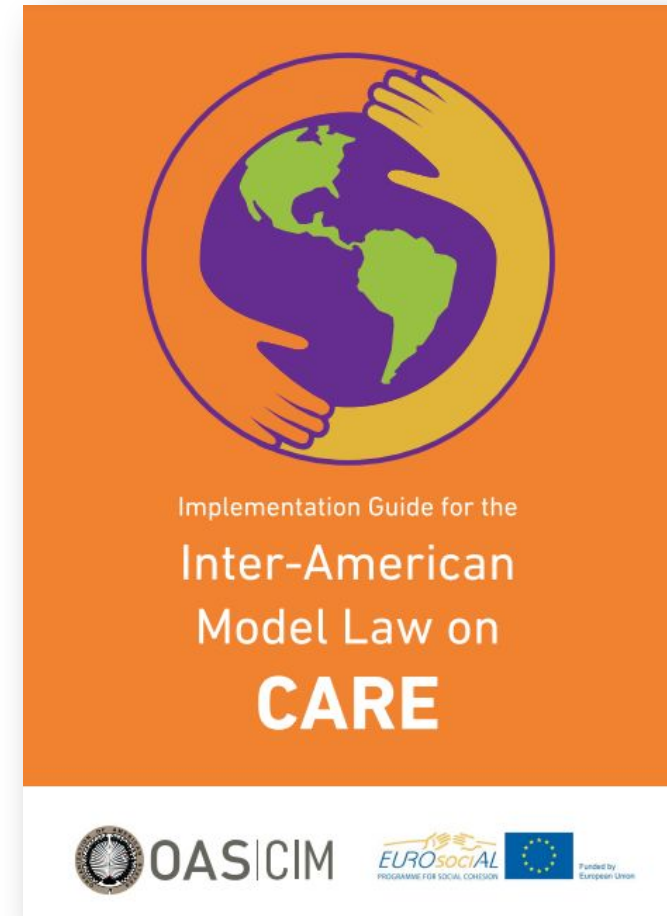
Structure of the Model Law:



Implementation Guide for the Inter-American Model Law on Care:

Includes the highest standards of care and co-responsibility.

- Practices in the region - an overview of the standards and experiences of countries that have already begun taking action.
- Reference point for countries seeking to initiate progress on care, establishing a minimum basis for policy and regulatory change.
- Presents the advances and experiences of European countries.





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