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Intervención de  
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**Multi- Stakeholder Forum**

CSW62 Priority theme: “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”

**Panel discussion – Panel 1**

Ensuring rural women’s land rights and tenure security and strengthening food security and nutrition for rural women and girls work for all women

Monday, 25 January, 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to moderate the first panel of UN-Women’s Multi-Stakeholder Forum, which will focus on **“Ensuring rural women’s land rights and tenure security and strengthening food security and nutrition for rural women and girls work for all women”**.

We are grateful to the panelists for having made time to be here to discuss **this topic in the lead-up to the sixty-second session of CSW**.

**Land is the most important household asset.**

# COLOMBIA



It is very appropriate to start this Forum addressing women's land rights and strengthening food security and nutrition. Let explain me explain why in Colombia's view:

**Women have fewer land rights than men, and they are often restricted to so-called secondary land rights**, meaning that they hold rights through male family members and risk losing those rights in the case of divorce, widowhood or the migration of the male relative.

**Women are susceptible to dispossession because they lack inheritance rights;** The land rights of most women are curtailed by customary law even when recognized by statutory law or as part of legal reforms. Women are susceptible to dispossession because they lack inheritance rights;

**On the side of food insecurity and malnutrition. rural women and girls continue to suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition** Different causes can be named but this is causing that nearly one of every four children worldwide is stunted, which increases the risks of impaired cognitive ability, poor school and work performance and death from infections. A third of women of reproductive age worldwide suffer from anemia, threatening their own health and their children's nutrition and health

In Colombia, rural women play an important role and their contributions to economic growth are fundamental:

**We have 5.3 million women living in rural areas. And their contribution is fundamental as 36.6% of agricultural**

# COLOMBIA



**production in the country is in the hands of women, but this is not enough.**

**Women in Colombia were the most affected by the armed conflict. Of the almost 6 million victims registered in the Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims, 51% are women, mostly of rural origin.**

I would like to highlight the experience of Colombia in negotiating the Peace Agreement in our country. **Women played an important role during the negotiation and are having it now in the implementation phase, including the one part of the Agreement on Integral Rural Reform**, where rural women are central.

On the other hand, **it is necessary to mention that the economic empowerment of rural women continues to be a challenge for all of us.** To overcome this, it is necessary that States and all interested parties deepen their efforts to guarantee their access to economic and productive resources, including access to land, its possession and control, property and inheritance rights, natural resources, new information technologies and financial services, including microfinance, and equal opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for women, among others.

# COLOMBIA



**Closing the gender gap in access to land and productive resources is not only important for advancing towards gender equality and the autonomy of rural women; it is also necessary for them to develop their full potential and contribute even more to agricultural and rural development and food security in their homes and communities.**

Before turning to the panelists, I would like to invite Ms. Carla Mucavi, Director, FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations, to briefly introduce the topic.