

# Canada



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## Celebrating the 2015 International Day of Rural Women

*Ensuring the Empowerment of Rural Women through the Sustainable Development Goals*

**Date and Time: Thursday 15 October, 2015 13.15—14.30**

**Venue: United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 7**

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### Event Objectives

The International Day of Rural Women offers an important occasion to celebrate gains made to empower rural women and focuses dialogue on eliminating intransigent discrimination. The 2015 celebration, the first since the adoption of Agenda 2030, will:

1. Explore how Agenda 2030 can be leveraged to respond to current challenges faced by women living in rural areas;
2. Highlights the responsibility of governments and the role of the international development community to improve the situation of rural women through the implementation of Agenda 2030; and
3. Outline avenues in Agenda 2030 for ensuring improved collection of adequate, reliable sex-disaggregated statistics that have a bearing on rural women.

### Background

The International Day of Rural Women (IDRW) was established by the General Assembly, Resolution 62/136 December 2007, and is now celebrated annually on 15 October. From as early as the First World Conference on Women, held in Mexico in 1975, and later again in the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the situation and challenges faced particularly by rural women have been a focus of the international community.

Rural women, as farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, service providers, and more, are agents of change. Yet, they continue to be burdened by persistent constraints preventing them from fully participating in socioeconomic and political life and from contributing to the improvement of their situation. They suffer from discrimination and unequal treatment, have limited access to land and productive resources such as

agricultural inputs and extension services, credit and savings, deprived of adequate water and sanitation, information and technology, and incur disproportionate amounts of time on unpaid domestic and care work.

*Transforming Our World: Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development* adopted by Member States of the United Nations presents a significant opportunity to implement the new development agenda with and for the benefit of rural women. With the prioritization of gender equality and women's rights cross-cutting throughout every part of the 2030 Agenda, the proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 Targets. Rural women are vital to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as well as one on achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

The 2015 Secretary General's Report on *Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas* identifies key recommended actions for the development community and the United Nations system to implement lasting impactful changes to improve the status of women in rural areas.. The report underscores the key action points: (a) ensuring effective, sustainable and gender-responsive agricultural and rural development; (b) recognizing and redistributing rural women's unpaid care work; (c) promoting rural women's employment, decent work, and social protection; (d) ensuring rural women's access to land and productive resources; and (e) increasing rural women's food and nutrition security. Along the objectives of the SG Report, the 2015 Commemoration of the International Day for Rural Women aims to highlight the persistent barriers faced by rural women, and to explore solutions to attain sustainable progress for them. Specifically, it aims to:

### **Participants**

The 2015 Commemoration will bring together UN Member States and representatives of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sectors.

### **Venue and Event Duration**

The Panel Discussion will take place in Conference Room 7 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It starts at 13:15 and concludes at 14:30 hours.