

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*



Fifty-second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women**

Statement delivered by

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New York, 28 March 2008

Mr. Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as the Commission takes up the important topic of "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women."

As a UN agency and an international financial institution, IFAD finances gender equality and the

target poor women. It also increases financing for gender equality through ongoing efforts to ensure the mainstreaming of gender perspectives throughout its operations.

There are few sectors with greater potential to contribute to the economic empowerment of rural women than agriculture. In most developing countries, smallholder farming largely has a woman's face. In Africa, women provide an estimated three-fourths of the labour for food production. In Asia, women work as hired agricultural labourers or unpaid family workers, especially in the rice sector.

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