Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women CSW Side Event

Tuesday, 28 February 2012 from 3.00 to 4.30 pm in NLB CR 5

I. Background

Economic empowerment of rural women and girls is critical for addressing today's global challenges including food and nutrition insecurity, inequality,

on rural women's economic empowerment. This interactive event provides an opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to engage in a dialogue and bring this momentum forward.

II. Objective, focus and format of discussion

The event will address the following key issues with the view to identify key joint actions:

- Legislative and policy reforms to unlock the bottlenecks to rural women's and girls'
 economic empowerment; and opportunities to create and promote gender-responsive public
 policies using innovative approaches and partnerships, and with the active participation of
 rural women and girls in the decision-making processes.
- Scale up of initiatives to expand rural women's access to productive resources, finance, markets, services, infrastructure, and global and regional value chains;
- Proactive strategic approaches—short and long term—to strengthen rural women's and girls'
 livelihood resilience in the context of the world financial and economic crisis, the volatile
 food and energy prices and food and nutrition insecurity.

The speakers and participants will engage in an interactive dialogue without formal presentations. The moderator will ask speakers and participants to respond to specific questions relevant in line with the above issues.

III. Speakers and participants

Opening remarks: Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director, UN-Women

Ms. Sheila Sisulu, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme