

**Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-sixth session
H. E. Ms. Marjon V. Kamara
Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women
Closing remarks
15 March 2012**

**Distinguished delegates,
Under-Secretary-General,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

We have come to the end of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I would like to thank all the participants for their most valuable contributions to this session: the government delegations, the members of non-governmental organizations, the experts and panellists, and the rural women who inspired us and brought a sense of reality and perspective to our proceedings.

I extend my personal appreciation and that of the Bureau and Member States to UN-Women, and in particular to Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Michelle Bachelet and her staff for the excellent preparations and the invaluable and tireless support during the session. I thank the Commission's Secretary, Mr. Otto Gustafik and his team, the interpreters, conference officers and all other staff that ensured that the session proceeded smoothly.

This session focused on a priority theme that is crucial to one quarter of the global population –rural women and girls. Rural women have a key role

I extend my appreciation to H.E. Mr Carlos Garcia Gonzalez, Vice-Chair of the Commission, who facilitated the negotiations, for the excellent and hard work, and the very long hours trying to achieve an outcome. And while we do not have a set of Agreed Conclusions to propel us forward, there were many