



Economic empowerment of rural women

Venue: UNITED NATIONS HQ – New York – NY

Hosts: Brazil Government, WfWP, Soroptimist International, International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

Date: March 15, 2018 - 11:30am – 12:45 pm

Place: CR - Conference Room 11

[RSVP here!](#)

Rural women are the key agents in sustainable development and their empowerment is vital to achieving the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Access to basic services and natural resources, including water and sanitation, are key elements in this process.

Rural women and girls are crucial contributors, implementers and beneficiaries of sustainable development. Empowering them is important not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce and care throughout the world. All women and girls need basic services such as water and sanitation, quality education, equal opportunities and their empowerment is essential. However, rural women have more difficulty accessing financial services, natural, economic and productive resources. And this reality is not just about women in developing countries. The way women perceive and manage their resources is linked to their circumstances both geographically, socially and economically.

This event explores ideas and examples of how access to water and sanitation can promote their lives and how partnerships and cooperation are key strategies for sustainable development.

Program

- 11:00am Arrival
- 11:30am Welcome and keynote – **Fátima Pelaes** – Head of Brazilian Delegation and National Secretary of Women's Policies
- 11:40am **Mariet Verhoef-Cohen** - President of Women for Water Partnership and Soroptimist International:
Framing the issue
- 11:45am Representative of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP)
- 11:54am Representative of Brazilian Federal Parliament
- 12:01pm **Willemien Koning**, women representative of the Netherlands to the UNGA, President of the Dutch Women Farmers (LTO-NL), Board member of the Committee of European Women Farmers (Copa):
Gender equality, women farmers influence decision-making processes and the empowerment of rural women and girls
- 12:08pm Moderate discussion on key messages to CSW based on the recommendation of speakers and previous written input from different support organizations. The audience will be invited to give their ideas and comments.
- 12:40pm Closing comments and conclusions.

