

## **Concept Note**

### ***“Women in Coffee – Book Launch”***

**Side event on the margins of the Sixty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63)**

**When: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm**

**Where: Millennium Hilton New York One UN Plaza- New York, NY, 10017**

#### **Introduction:**

Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, to achieve gender equality, and Goal 8, to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all; also Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on food security, Goal 3 on ensuring health and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities. In order to leave no one behind it is important to support and work in all areas and segments. In particular rural women have limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Climate change exacerbates these gender inequalities in rural communities as women face the loss of land, livelihood and security due to scarcity of resources and structural barriers.

According to International Coffee Organization Coffee, the Coffee Sector plays an important role in the economy of many tropical countries by providing livelihoods for an estimated 25 million rural households. Between 20% and 30% of coffee farms are female-operated and up to 70% of labor in coffee production is provided by women, depending on the region.

Economic empowerment of women and rural women are 2 key areas of UN Women agenda. In 2018 UN Women started a 3 years programme, in partnership with European Union and International Labor Organization, called WIN-WIN: gender equality means good business focused on women economic empowerment and has been supporting activities to strengthen women in coffee industry, through International Women Alliance of Coffee (IWCA).

International Women Alliance of Coffee (IWCA) leads women's empowerment in the international coffee industry by supporting a global network of independent, self-organized, self-governing, organizations, called IWCA Chapters. IWCA vision is “be the platform for women’s empowerment and inclusion to achieve sustainability across the coffee industry and communities.

Giving visibility to women in the Coffee Sector, telling their stories, is a key initiative to inspire other women to pursue their professional ambitions, to demonstrate the challenges and how women have been managing them.

#### **Objective:**

This side-event will launch the Women in Coffee in Brazil Book and promote a discussion of the importance of promoting women empowerment in the Coffee Sector.

The book was a joint initiative of International Women Alliance of Coffee (IWCA), Embrapa – The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply,



and its version in English was sponsored by UN Women. The book intends to dimension the important role women play in the coffee sector. It is product of many people and institutions: a multidisciplinary network with women artists, film-makers, photographers, researchers, agronomists, social scientists, domestic economists, biologists, historians, statisticians, geographers, political scientists and journalists, who, from a joint effort, were able to offer a first portrait about the women in coffee in Brazil, with emphasis on rural women.

### **Expected outcome:**

The side-event will provide learning opportunities to other countries and by sharing women in coffee in Brazil stories it will inspire women of other countries and other sectors highly depending on agriculture.

### **Format:**

- Roundtable with Representatives from International Women Alliance of Coffee (IWCA), Embrapa – The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, UN Women Americas and Caribbean and International Organization will share their visions and initiatives to continue to promote women’s empowerment in the coffee sector
- Q & A session

### **Key Partners:**

The event will be co-organized by Embrapa, International Women Alliance of Coffee (IWCA) Brazil, IWCA Global, International Coffee Organization and Mission of Brazil to the United Nations and UN Women Americas & Caribbean

**Opening remarks:** Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations (TBC)

### **Panelists:**

- Mrs. Luiza Carvalho, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean
- Mrs. Josiane Cotrim Macieira, Founder of IWCA Brazil and co-author of the book Women in Coffee (TBC)
- Mrs. Kellem Agnew Emanuelle – President of IWCA
- Mrs. Helena Maria Ramos Alves – co-author of Women in Coffee Book and Researcher of Embrapa - Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
- Mr. José Sette – President of International Coffee Organization