Rural women play a key role in their households and communities. They make a vital contribution to food and nutrition security, they generate income, and they improve rural livelihoods and overall well-being. They do a large part of the work involved in agricultural production and rural enterprises, and they provide the bulk of the care work in rural areas, thus supporting local and global economies. Although rural women are not listed as one of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, their issues have been mainstreamed throughout the Platform. Looking back over the last 20 years, it is true to say that rural women and food and nutrition security have received increased attention at the global policy level and in intergovernmental processes. But much more is needed. For the Rome-based United Nations agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP), the key message for Beijing+20 is “Empower rural women to achieve food and nutrition security” and they have ongoing joint efforts to reach that goal. This side event will explore the achievements and challenges related to empowering rural women and achieving food and nutrition security. The event will also contribute to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Speakers:

Chair: His Excellency Od Och, Ambassador of Mongolia
Opening statement: Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP
Speakers: Lynn Brown, Chairperson, Agriculture and Nutrition, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
Violet Shivtuse, Coordinator, Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS International), Kenya
Closing remarks: Brave Rona Ndisale, Deputy Director, Social Protection Division, FAO