

Aide Mémoire

The issues relating to the situation of rural women were considered in the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1985), throughout the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and in the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000). The emphasis was put on their equal access to productive resources, such as land, capital, credit and technology as well as on gainful employment, decision-making, education and health services.

The Beijing Platform for Action called for the formulation and implementation of “policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women’s incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives” (See para 58 n).

The outcome document adopted by the twenty-third special session of General Assembly emphasized that there were still too many rural women working in the informal economy with low levels of income and little job and social security and often with no rights to own land including through the right to inheritance. (See paras 71 (b), 81 (b), 92 (c) and 92 (e)). It further outlined microcredit and other financial instruments as “successful strategies” for economic empowerment for women living in poverty in particular in rural areas (See paras 7 and 21).

The situation of rural women has been extensively addressed in the Secretary General's reports to the General Assembly (see A/40/239 and Add.1, 1985; A/44/516, 1989;

A/40/570 and A/41/501, 1988; A/42/501, 1989; A/43/501, 1990; A/44/501, 1991; A/45/501, 1992; A/46/501, 1993; A/47/501, 1994; A/48/501, 1995; A/49/501, 1996; A/50/501, 1997; A/51/501, 1998; A/52/501, 1999; A/53/501, 2000; A/54/501, 2001; A/55/501, 2002; A/56/501, 2003; A/57/501, 2004; A/58/501, 2005; A/59/501, 2006; A/60/501, 2007; A/61/501, 2008; A/62/501, 2009; A/63/501, 2010; A/64/501, 2011; A/65/501, 2012; A/66/501, 2013; A/67/501, 2014; A/68/501, 2015; A/69/501, 2016; A/70/501, 2017; A/71/501, 2018; A/72/501, 2019; A/73/501, 2020; A/74/501, 2021; A/75/501, 2022; A/76/501, 2023; A/77/501, 2024; A/78/501, 2025; A/79/501, 2026; A/80/501, 2027; A/81/501, 2028; A/82/501, 2029; A/83/501, 2030; A/84/501, 2031; A/85/501, 2032; A/86/501, 2033; A/87/501, 2034; A/88/501, 2035; A/89/501, 2036; A/90/501, 2037; A/91/501, 2038; A/92/501, 2039; A/93/501, 2040; A/94/501, 2041; A/95/501, 2042; A/96/501, 2043; A/97/501, 2044; A/98/501, 2045; A/99/501, 2046; A/100/501, 2047; A/101/501, 2048; A/102/501, 2049; A/103/501, 2050; A/104/501, 2051; A/105/501, 2052; A/106/501, 2053; A/107/501, 2054; A/108/501, 2055; A/109/501, 2056; A/110/501, 2057; A/111/501, 2058; A/112/501, 2059; A/113/501, 2060; A/114/501, 2061; A/115/501, 2062; A/116/501, 2063; A/117/501, 2064; A/118/501, 2065; A/119/501, 2066; A/120/501, 2067; A/121/501, 2068; A/122/501, 2069; A/123/501, 2070; A/124/501, 2071; A/125/501, 2072; A/126/501, 2073; A/127/501, 2074; A/128/501, 2075; A/129/501, 2076; A/130/501, 2077; A/131/501, 2078; A/132/501, 2079; A/133/501, 2080; A/134/501, 2081; A/135/501, 2082; A/136/501, 2083; A/137/501, 2084; A/138/501, 2085; A/139/501, 2086; A/140/501, 2087; A/141/501, 2088; A/142/501, 2089; A/143/501, 2090; A/144/501, 2091; A/145/501, 2092; A/146/501, 2093; A/147/501, 2094; A/148/501, 2095; A/149/501, 2096; A/150/501, 2097; A/151/501, 2098; A/152/501, 2099; A/153/501, 2100; A/154/501, 2101; A/155/501, 2102; A/156/501, 2103; A/157/501, 2104; A/158/501, 2105; A/159/501, 2106; A/160/501, 2107; A/161/501, 2108; A/162/501, 2109; A/163/501, 2110; A/164/501, 2111; A/165/501, 2112; A/166/501, 2113; A/167/501, 2114; A/168/501, 2115; A/169/501, 2116; A/170/501, 2117; A/171/501, 2118; A/172/501, 2119; A/173/501, 2120; A/174/501, 2121; A/175/501, 2122; A/176/501, 2123; A/177/501, 2124; A/178/501, 2125; A/179/501, 2126; A/180/501, 2127; A/181/501, 2128; A/182/501, 2129; A/183/501, 2130; A/184/501, 2131; A/185/501, 2132; A/186/501, 2133; A/187/501, 2134; A/188/501, 2135; A/189/501, 2136; A/190/501, 2137; A/191/501, 2138; A/192/501, 2139; A/193/501, 2140; A/194/501, 2141; A/195/501, 2142; A/196/501, 2143; A/197/501, 2144; A/198/501, 2145; A/199/501, 2146; A/200/501, 2147; A/201/501, 2148; A/202/501, 2149; A/203/501, 2150; A/204/501, 2151; A/205/501, 2152; A/206/501, 2153; A/207/501, 2154; A/208/501, 2155; A/209/501, 2156; A/210/501, 2157; A/211/501, 2158; A/212/501, 2159; A/213/501, 2160; A/214/501, 2161; A/215/501, 2162; A/216/501, 2163; A/217/501, 2164; A/218/501, 2165; A/219/501, 2166; A/220/501, 2167; A/221/501, 2168; A/222/501, 2169; A/223/501, 2170; A/224/501, 2171; A/225/501, 2172; A/226/501, 2173; A/227/501, 2174; A/228/501, 2175; A/229/501, 2176; A/230/501, 2177; A/231/501, 2178; A/232/501, 2179; A/233/501, 2180; A/234/501, 2181; A/235/501, 2182; A/236/501, 2183; A/237/501, 2184; A/238/501, 2185; A/239/501, 2186; A/240/501, 2187; A/241/501, 2188; A/242/501, 2189; A/243/501, 2190; A/244/501, 2191; A/245/501, 2192; A/246/501, 2193; A/247/501, 2194; A/248/501, 2195; A/249/501, 2196; A/250/501, 2197; A/251/501, 2198; A/252/501, 2199; A/253/501, 2200; A/254/501, 2201; A/255/501, 2202; A/256/501, 2203; A/257/501, 2204; A/258/501, 2205; A/259/501, 2206; A/260/501, 2207; A/261/501, 2208; A/262/501, 2209; A/263/501, 2210; A/264/501, 2211; A/265/501, 2212; A/266/501, 2213; A/267/501, 2214; A/268/501, 2215; A/269/501, 2216; A/270/501, 2217; A/271/501, 2218; A/272/501, 2219; A/273/501, 2220; A/274/501, 2221; A/275/501, 2222; A/276/501, 2223; A/277/501, 2224; A/278/501, 2225; A/279/501, 2226; A/280/501, 2227; A/281/501, 2228; A/282/501, 2229; A/283/501, 2230; A/284/501, 2231; A/285/501, 2232; A/286/501, 2233; A/287/501, 2234; A/288/501, 2235; A/289/501, 2236; A/290/501, 2237; A/291/501, 2238; A/292/501, 2239; A/293/501, 2240; A/294/501, 2241; A/295/501, 2242; A/296/501, 2243; A/297/501, 2244; A/298/501, 2245; A/299/501, 2246; A/300/501, 2247; A/301/501, 2248; A/302/501, 2249; A/303/501, 2250; A/304/501, 2251; A/305/501, 2252; A/306/501, 2253; A/307/501, 2254; A/308/501, 2255; A/309/501, 2256; A/310/501, 2257; A/311/501, 2258; A/312/501, 2259; A/313/501, 2260; A/314/501, 2261; A/315/501, 2262; A/316/501, 2263; A/317/501, 2264; A/318/501, 2265; A/319/501, 2266; A/320/501, 2267; A/321/501, 2268; A/322/501, 2269; A/323/501, 2270; A/324/501, 2271; A/325/501, 2272; A/326/501, 2273; A/327/501, 2274; A/328/501, 2275; A/329/501, 2276; A/330/501, 2277; A/331/501, 2278; A/332/501, 2279; A/333/501, 2280; A/334/501, 2281; A/335/501, 2282; A/336/501, 2283; A/337/501, 2284; A/338/501, 2285; A/339/501, 2286; A/340/501, 2287; A/341/501, 2288; A/342/501, 2289; A/343/501, 2290; A/344/501, 2291; A/345/501, 2292; A/346/501, 2293; A/347/501, 2294; A/348/501, 2295; A/349/501, 2296; A/350/501, 2297; A/351/501, 2298; A/352/501, 2299; A/353/501, 2300; A/354/501, 2301; A/355/501, 2302; A/356/501, 2303; A/357/501, 2304; A/358/501, 2305; A/359/501, 2306; A/360/501, 2307; A/361/501, 2308; A/362/501, 2309; A/363/501, 2310; A/364/501, 2311; A/365/501, 2312; A/366/501, 2313; A/367/501, 2314; A/368/501, 2315; A/369/501, 2316; A/370/501, 2317; A/371/501, 2318; A/372/501, 2319; A/373/501, 2320; A/374/501, 2321; A/375/501, 2322; A/376/501, 2323; A/377/501, 2324; A/378/501, 2325; A/379/501, 2326; A/380/501, 2327; A/381/501, 2328; A/382/501, 2329; A/383/501, 2330; A/384/501, 2331; A/385/501, 2332; A/386/501, 2333; A/387/501, 2334; A/388/501, 2335; A/389/501, 2336; A/390/501, 2337; A/391/501, 2338; A/392/501, 2339; A/393/501, 2340; A/394/501, 2341; A/395/501, 2342; A/396/501, 2343; A/397/501, 2344; A/398/501, 2345; A/399/501, 2346; A/400/501, 2347; A/401/501, 2348; A/402/501, 2349; A/403/501, 2350; A/404/501, 2351; A/405/501, 2352; A/406/501, 2353; A/407/501, 2354; A/408/501, 2355; A/409/501, 2356; A/410/501, 2357; A/411/501, 2358; A/412/501, 2359; A/413/501, 2360; A/414/501, 2361; A/415/501, 2362; A/416/501, 2363; A/417/501, 2364; A/418/501, 2365; A/419/501, 2366; A/420/501, 2367; A/421/501, 2368; A/422/501, 2369; A/423/501, 2370; A/424/501, 2371; A/425/501, 2372; A/426/501, 2373; A/427/501, 2374; A/428/501, 2375; A/429/501, 2376; A/430/501, 2377; A/431/501, 2378; A/432/501, 2379; A/433/501, 2380; A/434/501, 2381; A/435/501, 2382; A/436/501, 2383; A/437/501, 2384; A/438/501, 2385; A/439/501, 2386; A/440/501, 2387; A/441/501, 2388; A/442/501, 2389; A/443/501, 2390; A/444/501, 2391; A/445/501, 2392; A/446/501, 2393; A/447/501, 2394; A/448/501, 2395; A/449/501, 2396; A/450/501, 2397; A/451/501, 2398; A/452/501, 2399; A/453/501, 2400; A/454/501, 2401; A/455/501, 2402; A/456/501, 2403; A/457/501, 2404; A/458/501, 2405; A/459/501, 2406; A/460/501, 2407; A/461/501, 2408; A/462/501, 2409; A/463/501, 2410; A/464/501, 2411; A/465/501, 2412; A/466/501, 2413; A/467/501, 2414; A/468/501, 2415; A/469/501, 2416; A/470/501, 2417; A/471/501, 2418; A/472/501, 2419; A/473/501, 2420; A/474/501, 2421; A/475/501, 2422; A/476/501, 2423; A/477/501, 2424; A/478/501, 2425; A/479/501, 2426; A/480/501, 2427; A/481/501, 2428; A/482/501, 2429; A/483/501, 2430; A/484/501, 2431; A/485/501, 2432; A/486/501, 2433; A/487/501, 2434; A/488/501, 2435; A/489/501, 2436; A/490/501, 2437; A/491/501, 2438; A/492/501, 2439; A/493/501, 2440; A/494/501, 2441; A/495/501, 2442; A/496/501, 2443; A/497/501, 2444; A/498/501, 2445; A/499/501, 2446; A/500/501, 2447; A/501/501, 2448; A/502/501, 2449; A/503/501, 2450; A/504/501, 2451; A/505/501, 2452; A/506/501, 2453; A/507/501, 2454; A/508/501, 2455; A/509/501, 2456; A/510/501, 2457; A/511/501, 2458; A/512/501, 2459; A/513/501, 2460; A/514/501, 2461; A/515/501, 2462; A/516/501, 2463; A/517/501, 2464; A/518/501, 2465; A/519/501, 2466; A/520/501, 2467; A/521/501, 2468; A/522/501, 2469; A/523/501, 2470; A/524/501, 2471; A/525/501, 2472; A/526/501, 2473; A/527/501, 2474; A/528/501, 2475; A/529/501, 2476; A/530/501, 2477; A/531/501, 2478; A/532/501, 2479; A/533/501, 2480; A/534/501, 2481; A/535/501, 2482; A/536/501, 2483; A/537/501, 2484; A/538/501, 2485; A/539/501, 2486; A/540/501, 2487; A/541/501, 2488; A/542/501, 2489; A/543/501, 2490; A/544/501, 2491; A/545/501, 2492; A/546/501, 2493; A/547/501, 2494; A/548/501, 2495; A/549/501, 2496; A/550/501, 2497; A/551/501, 2498; A/552/501, 2499; A/553/501, 2500; A/554/501, 2501; A/555/501, 2502; A/556/501, 2503; A/557/501, 2504; A/558/501, 2505; A/559/501, 2506; A/560/501, 2507; A/561/501, 2508; A/562/501, 2509; A/563/501, 2510; A/564/501, 2511; A/565/501, 2512; A/566/501, 2513; A/567/501, 2514; A/568/501, 2515; A/569/501, 2516; A/570/501, 2517; A/571/501, 2518; A/572/501, 2519; A/573/501, 2520; A/574/501, 2521; A/575/501, 2522; A/576/501, 2523; A/577/501, 2524; A/578/501, 2525; A/579/501, 2526; A/580/501, 2527; A/581/501, 2528; A/582/501, 2529; A/583/501, 2530; A/584/501, 2531; A/585/501, 2532; A/586/501, 2533; A/587/501, 2534; A/588/501, 2535; A/589/501, 2536; A/590/501, 2537; A/591/501, 2538; A/592/501, 2539; A/593/501, 2540; A/594/501, 2541; A/595/501, 2542; A/596/501, 2543; A/597/501, 2544; A/598/501, 2545; A/599/501, 2546; A/600/501, 2547; A/601/501, 2548; A/602/501, 2549; A/603/501, 2550; A/604/501, 2551; A/605/501, 2552; A/606/501, 2553; A/607/501, 2554; A/608/501, 2555; A/609/501, 2556; A/610/501, 2557; A/611/501, 2558; A/612/501, 2559; A/613/501, 2560; A/614/501, 2561; A/615/501, 2562; A/616/501, 2563; A/617/501, 2564; A/618/501, 2565; A/619/501, 2566; A/620/501, 2567; A/621/501, 2568; A/622/501, 2569; A/623/501, 2570; A/624/501, 2571; A/625/501, 2572; A/626/501, 2573; A/627/501, 2574; A/628/501, 2575; A/629/501, 2576; A/630/501, 2577; A/631/501, 2578; A/632/501, 2579; A/633/501, 2580; A/634/501, 2581; A/635/501, 2582; A/636/501, 2583; A/637/501, 2584; A/638/501, 2585; A/639/501, 2586; A/640/501, 2587; A/641/501, 2588; A/642/501, 2589; A/643/501, 2590; A/644/501, 2591; A/645/501, 2592; A/646/501, 2593; A/647/501, 2594; A/648/501, 2595; A/649/501, 2596; A/650/501, 2597; A/651/501, 2598; A/652/501, 2599; A/653/501, 2600; A/654/501, 2601; A/655/501, 2602; A/656/501, 2603; A/657/501, 2604; A/658/501, 2605; A/659/501, 2606; A/660/501, 2607; A/661/501, 2608; A/662/501, 2609; A/663/501, 2610; A/664/501, 2611; A/665/501, 2612; A/666/501, 2613; A/667/501, 2614; A/668/501, 2615; A/669/501, 2616; A/670/501, 2617; A/671/501, 2618; A/672/501, 2619; A/673/501, 2620; A/674/501, 2621; A/675/501, 2622; A/676/501, 2623; A/677/501, 2624; A/678/501, 2625; A/679/501, 2626; A/680/501, 2627; A/681/501, 2628; A/682/501, 2629; A/683/501, 2630; A/684/501, 2631; A/685/501, 2632; A/686/501, 2633; A/687/501, 2634; A/688/501, 2635; A/689/501, 2636; A/690/501, 2637; A/691/501, 2638; A/692/501, 2639; A/693/501, 2640; A/694/501, 2641; A/695/501, 2642; A/696/501, 2643; A/697/501, 2644; A/698/501, 2645; A/699/501, 2646; A/700/501, 2647; A/701/501, 2648; A/702/501, 2649; A/703/501, 2650; A/704/501, 2651; A/705/501, 2652; A/706/501, 2653; A/707/501, 2654; A/708/501, 2655; A/709/501, 2656; A/710/501, 2657; A/711/501, 2658; A/712/501, 2659; A/713/501, 2660; A/714/501, 2661; A/715/501, 2662; A/716/501, 2663; A/717/501, 2664; A/718/501, 2665; A/719/501, 2666; A/720/501, 2667; A/721/501, 2668; A/722/501, 2669; A/723/501, 2670; A/724/501, 2671; A/725/501, 2672; A/726/501, 2673; A/727/501, 2674; A/728/501, 2675; A/729/501, 2676; A/730/501, 2677; A/731/501, 2678; A/732/501, 2679; A/733/501, 2680; A/734/501, 2681; A/735/501, 2682; A/736/501, 2683; A/737/501, 2684; A/738/501, 2685; A/739/501, 2686; A/740/501, 2687; A/741/501, 2688; A/742/501, 2689; A/743/501, 2690; A/744/501, 2691; A/745/501, 2692; A/746/501, 2693; A/747/501, 2694; A/748/501, 2695; A/749/501, 2696; A/750/501, 2697; A/751/501, 2698; A/752/501, 2699; A/753/501, 2700; A/754/501, 2701; A/755/501, 2702; A/756/501, 2703; A/757/501, 2704; A/758/501, 2705; A/759/501, 2706; A/760/501, 2707; A/761/501, 2708; A/762/501, 2709; A/763/501, 2710; A/764/501, 2711; A/765/501, 2712; A/766/501, 2713; A/767/501, 2714; A/768/501, 2715; A/769/501, 2716; A/770/501, 2717; A/771/501, 2718; A/772/501, 2719; A/773/501, 2720; A/774/501, 2721; A/775/501, 2722; A/776/501, 2723; A/777/501, 2724; A/778/501, 2725; A/779/501, 2726; A/780/501, 2727; A/781/501, 2728; A/782/501, 2729; A/783/501, 2730; A/78

Globalization poses both major challenges and unprecedented opportunities for rural women, and identifying policies that maximize the beneficial effects while curtailing those that are negative remains a major challenge. The objective of the expert group meeting is:

- to examine the impact of major global trends, such as the growth in rural non-farm economic activities, the liberalization of trade and markets for agricultural products, the commercialization of agriculture, and the rapid diffusion of products, technologies, information, consumption patterns and the flexibilization of the labour market on the situation of rural women; and
- to propose a policy agenda to maximize the beneficial effects for women within the context of ongoing rural, social and economic changes.

Market integration and trends associated with globalization will have a pervasive impact on the lives and the livelihoods of rural households. Market orientation of agricultural production can favour large-scale commercial farming and export cash cropping, traditionally the domain of men, over household subsistence production, traditionally the domain of women, and have a negative impact on women's livelihood. For example, women may be responsible for the labour intensive tasks in cash crops production, or male labour mobility may leave women fully in charge of agricultural production, while women do not have the necessary access to information, resources and inputs. Emerging agro-processing industries in rural areas may provide new employment opportunities, with women as the preferred labour force. Such processes directly affect the household division of labour. Rural women's work patterns, employment opportunities, income, conditions of work and household food security may change dramatically. For example, new opportunities for wage labour may increase women's income and their status within the household, but at the same time impose a heavy burden of paid work, unpaid work and housework.

Rural women have an unrecognized economic potential that represents an efficiency loss for the household, society and economy as a whole. Women overall have lower levels of education and training than men, less time to spend on productive activities, and more limited command over productive resources such as land and capital (sometimes including the control over the income from their labour). Similarly their ability to take advantage of the emerging trends associated with globalization is less. The challenge is to assess the new demands placed on rural women and their response patterns and survival strategies in different settings across major regions of the world.

Different patterns of livelihood predominate in rural areas: nomadic pastoralism, subsistence agriculture, commercial farming and wage employment, including labour migration. While one pattern may be more prevalent in a given location, usually all elements coexist side by side. In order to understand the situation of rural women, the meeting will address how these livelihood patterns are affected by globalizing markets. At the same time, trends across socio-economic groups and different age groups will be addressed.

The emphasis of the expert group meeting will be placed on:

- The household division of labour
- The household resource base
- Access to land, property and other household or public resources
- Patterns and conditions of work
- Labour mobility and labour migration

The expert group meeting will aim to produce policy recommendations to promote a more even distribution of opportunities and benefits associated with globalization. The

