



CARE International

Chemin de Balexert 7- 9

CH – 1219 Châtelaine/ Geneva

Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 795 10 20

Fax +41 22 795 10 29

www.care-international.org

Madam Chairperson and Committee members,

CARE International welcomes this opportunity to contribute to this day of general discussion on rural women.

CARE welcomes the CEDAW concept note for the general recommendation on article 14 which provides an excellent analysis of issues faced by rural women and how their rights are not sufficiently addressed at different levels.

As noted in the concept note and in the discussions today, rural women in the developing world – many of whom are engaged in agriculture - continue to face many barriers preventing them from fulfilling their potential as farmers and entrepreneurs and undermining their food security, nutrition, health and incomes as well as that of their families and communities.

In addition to its written submission, CARE International would like to encourage the CEDAW committee to include the following guidance for States in the General recommendation as we believe they are cornerstone to ensure the respect of the rights of rural women:

- 1 States should address discrimination in land ownership and tenure** by taking immediate steps to guarantee equal rights to land, property and inheritance for men and women, independent of their civil status; and implement policies and programmes to facilitate women's access to and control over land, water and other natural resources.
- 2 States should engage women in policy-making and planning processes** at all levels, for example by establishing quotas and targets for women in decision-making roles, legislating to remove barriers, and encouraging the establishment of effective collective structures that are gender-sensitive.
- 3 States should increase investment in women smallholders and ensure funding is gender-sensitive and reaches women smallholders.** Particularly, they should use sex-disaggregated data to track funding and improve planning and policymaking, as well as track progress against gender specific indicators.

But policies that specifically target women are not enough. States should address existing policies that intentionally and unintentionally reinforce gender discrimination.

To address embedded gender barriers such as these, governments should implement planning processes that identify the constraints rural women face to accessing information, markets and natural and productive resources.

Thank you