The International Women’s Day (IWD) is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, while also making a call to action for strengthening gender equality and accelerating women’s empowerment.

Since 2020 marks also the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which took place in Beijing in September 1995, this year’s IWD presents a unique opportunity to review the global progress made on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the last 25 years, identify the gender gaps that still remain, and outline the way forward.

In observance of the United Nation’s IWD 2020 “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights” the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) are pleased to invite Members to participate in the event to discuss how we can close the existing gender gaps in agriculture and rural livelihoods, and how doing so will contribute to achieving progress for all. New findings about the different roles of women and men in agriculture, food security and nutrition will be presented.

**Draft Agenda**

- Music prelude
- Welcome by Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO
- Statement by Representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD
- Statement by Representative from World Food Programme, WFP
- Address by Keynote Speakers
- Video
- Session moderated by Yasmina Bouziane, Deputy Director, Office for Corporate Communication

Time: 9.45 - 11.05
Thematic panel discussion

- Shraddha Joshi, Executive Director, Women’s Development Agency of the State of Maharashtra (MAVIM), India - Programmes that are advancing Gender Equality: Maharashtra Rural Women’s Empowerment Programme in India

- Ilaria Bottigliero, Director, Policy, Research and Learning, International Development Law Organization (IDLO) - Achieving justice for rural women and girls. Promising actions to accelerate progress

- Jolanta Reingardé, Programme Coordinator, Research and Statistics, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - Policies that are advancing Gender Equality: Lessons from European Union Countries

- Jemimah Njuki, Senior Programme Specialist, Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) - Gender Equality in Rural Africa. What lessons can we learn?

- Session moderated by Katherine Wilson, Writer and Commentator

Time: 11.05 - 12.25

Closing by Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources

Time: 12.25 - 12.30

Reception

Time: 12.30 - 13.30