



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



### 2022 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7 July, 9 AM – 12 PM, CR 4

#### SDG 5 AND INTERLINKAGES WITH OTHER SDGS - GENDER EQUALITY

(What are the most promising strategies and actions today for overcoming gender inequality and discrimination? How can the empowerment of women and girls accelerate SDG progress and recovery from COVID-19?)

*Statement for Mary Robinson, representative of the Farmers' Major Group*

Thank you Chair. I am Mary Robinson, a farmer from Canada, here representing the Farmers' Major Group.

Empowering women and protecting their rights to achieve gender equality is a crucial step towards the achievement of sustainable development and the inclusive and efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Indeed, it is recognized that if women farmers had the same access to opportunities and resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million<sup>1</sup>. Also, reducing the gender gap in the labour force by 25 % by 2025 could raise global GDP by 3.9 %<sup>2</sup>, meaning that a lot more could be done by 2030.

For much of the globe, women are the backbone of rural communities. However, in the agricultural sector in many Countries, women under patriarchal norms still face immense barriers in accessing resources, land ownership and use, infrastructure, education, leadership opportunities, technology, and funding. This reality has been further exacerbated by the Covid19 pandemic. The pandemic has specifically impacted rural women by limiting their access to health and services, disrupting vital value chains, as well as exposing them to increased levels of gender-based violence. On the flipside,

<sup>1</sup> [FAO - News Article: Women hold the key to building a world free from hunger and poverty](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/10/1075472>

women, for the vast majority, have the burden of taking care of their families, thereby contributing at a comparably higher level to the livelihoods of their local rural communities.

Although progress has been made so far, achieving SDG 5 will be a significant challenge, with only 8 years to 2030. Only a strong political will of all parties can result in achieving this critical goal.

Women farmers across the world are stewards of local traditions, culture, land, biodiversity, coping with enormous responsibilities that unfortunately, especially in some areas of the world, remain deep-rooted and hidden.

Therefore, it is key that women farmers get increasing opportunities to participate in leadership and policy-making processes at regional, national and global levels, through equitable and just policies, legislation, investments, programs, training, and social measures.

We, farmers of the world, call on Governments and all other stakeholders to:

- Join efforts to create, everywhere in the world, an enabling environment that fosters women's empowerment, increases their self-esteem and entrepreneurial skills, and makes them able to get the opportunities they deserve;
- To eliminate discriminatory social norms and stereotypes, as well as strongly and effectively condemn every form of gender-based violence; and
- Make sure women have decent livelihood, social protection, same job opportunities and salaries as men, as well as equal access to all services, both financial and non-financial.