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to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by The Network of Rural Women Producers, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago Statement: NRWPTT Continues to be a driver in advocating for human rights, economic development, the environment and climate change, peace building, ending violence and empowerment for rural women, while some of these agents of economic, social and environment change have provided some positive aspects in greatly enhancing the livelihood of the rural women and their rural communities there are also some adverse effects directly impacting rural women welfare.

In Trinidad and Tobago, a significantly large proportion of women are involved in the agrifood sector at every point in the agrofood chain; from supply inputs into production at the farm and processing level, as well as in marketing and distribution. Their involvement maybe full-time or on a part-time basis. The agrifood sector therefore plays an important role in supporting the lives and livelihoods of many rural women.

However, adverse factors such as variations in weather patterns associated with climate change has had significant impact on the productive capacity of the land and other resources of the environment to sustain the productive base of the agrifood sector exemplified by frequent flooding, higher than usual temperature erosion and conditions for the emergence of pests and diseases and water for irrigation. Low lying communities are particularly vulnerable.

The fall in government's revenue from energy sector has impacted directly on its ability to continue to fund many of the established social programmes; Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the State, one initiative is the establishment of a Ministry of Rural Development with a view to strengthening the infrastructural capacity of rural communities thereby enhancing the opportunities for income generation and rural well-being. In this regard, work has significantly advanced on the development of a Policy for Rural Development which is being pursued through a multi-sectoral consultative approach giving close attention to Land Management, Physical Infrastructure and Transportation, Social Infrastructure, Financial Services, Information and Communication Technology, and general Institution Capacity-building and strengthening, giving due consideration to vulnerable groups and is paying special attention to the empowerment of rural women, given the critical role they play in family and social development, projects and programmes will accordingly be tailored to harness the skills and strengths of rural women and to increase their capacities for capitalising on new training, employment and investment opportunities. such as enhancing their local scenes, sounds and sights to attract local tourism equal participation in decision making efforts to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and CEDAW 4 LOCAL CITIES AND REGIONAL CORPORATIONS.