

23 February 2018

**Invitation to International Women's Day Event
8 March 2018**

Distinguished representatives,

I have the pleasure to invite you to celebrate the International Women's Day 2018 (IWD) at an event on the theme "Empowering rural women and girls through ICTs". The event, jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), will be hosted at IFAD Headquarters, Via Paolo di Dono, 44, Rome on Thursday, 8 March, from 10:00 to 12:00 hours in the Italian Conference Room.

In line with the review theme for the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the IWD event will focus on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), media and digital technologies and the role they play in empowering women and girls.

A number of experts and champions will share experience, good practices and innovative interventions that have empowered women, made a difference to their livelihood and contributed to eradicating poverty, ending hunger, and achieving food security and improved nutrition.

Following the event, there will be a Gender and ICTs Share Fair showcasing how it is possible to enhance the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women and girls.

Your participation would positively contribute to our discussions.

The draft agenda of the event is attached hereto.

Kindly confirm your participation to the Member States Liaison and Protocol Unit of the Office of the Secretary (e-mail mslp@ifad.org). For further information on the event, please contact the IFAD Gender Team at gender@ifad.org cc v.camaleonte@ifad.org

We look forward to welcoming you at this event.

Accept, Distinguished representatives, the assurances of my highest consideration.



William Skinner
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Secretary

To all representatives
of IFAD's Member States