

62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women Side Event on

## Economic empowerment for rural women in the MENA region

Date: Tuesday 13th March 2018, 3 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.

Venue: United Nations Headquarters - Conference Room 12

The governments of Italy and Tunisia, in cooperation with UNIDO, UN Women and FAO, are organizing a side event on “Economic empowerment for rural women in the MENA region.” This side event features high level speakers from Italy, the MENA region, UN agencies and NGOs who will showcase success stories of the region in the area of economic empowerment for rural women.

### Speakers will discuss:

- The most updated policies and strategies in support of rural women and girls’ empowerment in the MENA region;
- Good practices in the area of value chain development for women in the agricultural sector;
- Successful experiences in facilitating access to markets for women entrepreneurs;
- The relevance of combined provision of targeted financial and non-financial services in supporting rural women’s entrepreneurship development;
- The role of business networks and institutional partnerships in empowering rural women.

### Agenda:

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations

### Welcoming remarks:

- H.E. Teresa Bellanova, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Government of Italy
- H.E. Neziha Laabidi, Minister of Woman, Family and Childhood of the Government of Tunisia

### Discussion:

- Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director of Corporate Management and Operations, UNIDO
- Mr. Mohammed Naciri, Regional Director for Arab States, UN Women
- Ms. Susan Kaaria, Senior Gender Officer of Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, FAO
- Dr. Hania Hammoud, Managing Partner, Hammoud Law Firm, Lebanon
- Ms. Elisabetta Illy, Fondazione Illy, Italy
- Mr. Emanuele Santi, Founder and President, Afrilanthropy

**To participate please RSVP [here](#)**