

# CSW56

## Commission on the Status of Women

27 February - 9 March 2012

Rural women  
Empowerment  
Poverty reduction  
Rural development

The 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW56) will be held in New York from 27 February to 9 March 2012, in conjunction with the 67th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the media and the voluntary sector. The meeting at United Nations Headquarters will be the first of its kind, as it will be the first time that the Commission will meet in New York. The Commission will focus on the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.

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United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for the Advancement of Women  
Office of the Executive Secretary



Rural women constitute one-fourth of the world's population. They are leaders, decision-makers, producers, workers, entrepreneurs and service providers. Their contributions are vital to the well-being of families and communities, and of local and national economies.

Yet rural women's rights, contributions and priorities have been largely overlooked. Rural women have also been hard hit by the economic and financial crisis, volatile food prices and export-driven agri-



