

**Interactive Expert Panel 2**

**The empowerment of rural women and their role in  
poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges**

**Focus: The role of gender-responsive governance and institutions  
for the empowerment of rural women**

*Wednesday, 29 February 2012, 3 - 6 p.m.*

**Panellists**

**Ms. Bintou Nimaga** is a Technical Advisor on gender and women's economic empowerment at the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs in Mali. Throughout her career, she has been involved with rural development, agriculture, and natural resource management. She has worked with various ministries, including the Planning and Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment. Ms. Nimaga has carried out various assignments with United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations, dealing with participatory approaches to local development and capacity strengthening of women's groups. She is a member of the micro-finance committee of the Administrative Council of Soro Yiriwasso, and of the African Evaluation Network (AFREA).

**Mr. Andres Wehrle Rivarola** is Vice-Minister of Agriculture, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay. He is a founding member of the Centre for Education, Training and Rural Technology (CECTEC), a non-governmental organization that has developed significant experience in youth education for both women and men in sustainable agricultural development. Mr. Wehrle Rivarola has authored several publications on rural technologies, education and sustainable rural development. He is also the National Coordinator of the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR (REAF/MERCOSUR), on behalf of Paraguay, and the Coordinator of the National Programme for the Promotion of Family Agriculture for Food Production.

**Mr. Victor Lutenco** is Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister of Moldova, where he covers the social and health sectors as well as supervises relevant policy units on public administration reform and aid coordination. As part of a team of advisors, he is currently working on the implementation of a Government programme that aims to change the development paradigms of the country: a one-window model for information and service provision. Mr. Lutenco has extensive experience in the social development field, having previously worked for a non-governmental organization, for the International Organization for Migration, and for UNFPA, where he focused on population policies. He earned a Master's degree in Political Science from the State University of Moldova.

**Ms. Lilly Be'Soer** is the founder of 'Voice for Change', a non-governmental organization focusing on women's human rights that operates in Papua New Guinea. She is also the General Secretary of a newly established regional network, the Highlands Regional Human Rights

**Commission on the Status of Women**

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Defenders Network, established with the support of UNHCHR and UN Women. She collaborates with the Pacific network of women working to end violence against women, and with various rural women's groups focused on agriculture and markets. In 2010, she broke new grounds for women leaders in the highlands of Papua New Guinea when she received a Pacific Human Right Award.