UN WOMEN’s support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

Support to the establishment of the Rural Women Fund: Following UN Women’s participation in the NEPAD Conference on Women in Agriculture entitled “Investing in African Women: Opening the Space for Agribusiness” on 9-10 October 2014, in Durban, South Africa, a fund for capacity development of Rural Women was established by NEPAD to support smallholder farmers in Agri-business activities. UN Women was invited to be part of the governance system of the fund through which activities of the UN Women Rural Women Program could contribute substantively to and also benefit from.

Technical Support to Grantees of the NEPAD/Spanish Fund: In order to access funding through the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for the Empowerment of African Women, UN Women provided technical support to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) and Business Development Fund (BDF) in Rwanda to coordinate the NEPAD Guarantee fund for the women in informal cross border trade in the country. Funds were disbursed through this grant to Community Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) in 6 Districts namely Rubavu, Rusizi, Kirehe, Bugesera, and Nyagatare. UN Women supported MINICOM to report to NEPAD and participated in Mid Term evaluation for the Guarantee fund.

Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture: UN Women supported NEPAD in the development of the NEPAD Gender mainstreaming framework in agriculture which was piloted through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This Gender mainstreaming program will be presented next year by the African Union Commission to be adopted by all member states. Active participation of UN Women in NEPAD consultations have provided further opportunities to integrated gender in the agriculture sector.

Supporting NEPAD consultations on Gender and Climate Change: UN Women is also collaborating on the NEPAD consultations for its gender and climate support programme which is aimed at ensuring that important knowledge on climate adaptation is made accessible to women farmers.