Distinguished Chairperson and delegates. I speak on behalf of our trade union coalition: ITUC, PSI and EI (as well IUUF) who together represent 70 million women workers world-wide, of whom 7 million are rural women workers. The economic empowerment of rural women workers requires adequate policies and action. Like millions of rural women have the longest working day - despite being constrained by lack of access to productive resources, public goods and services, markets and land tenure rights needed to reach their productive potential. According to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), rural poverty is deeply rooted in the imbalance between what women do and what they have.

A Majority of rural women workers are in the agriculture industry, yet public investment agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa constitutes only 4 percent. Aside from their lack of capital, these rural women workers are too frequently deprived of basic human rights, including the right to freedom of association; the right to bargain collectively for better working conditions; the right to live and work free from violence; the right to medical care and necessary social services; the right to social protection; and the right to an adequate standard of living. Chair, this list is simply too long.

Poor Occupational Health and Safety standards also remain a major concern with women paying for woeful standards with their health and sometimes their lives.

We, as trade unions, together with women working in rural areas, emphasise the need for decent work including access to social protection, public services such as health, clean water, sanitation, energy and quality education.

The global trade union movement calls on Member States at this 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women to:

i. Ensure that the concept of decent work and the creation of decent jobs are fully incorporated into rural development strategies and strengthen rural labour inspection

ii. Invest in building the necessary social infrastructure, including health, education, social care, water, sanitation, energy, transportation and other social protection mechanisms, in order to ensure sustainable economic and social development in rural areas

iii. Review, extend and effectively implement national legislation that covers all rural women workers, including agricultural workers, and ratify and implement ILO Conventions

iv. Ensure that gender-responsive budgeting, gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive employment policies are systemically integrated into the design and the implementation of rural development policies, programmes and budgets
Thank you very much.

hunger and poverty.

shoulders that we shall achieve our goals of making the world free of

reduce the foundations of rural women. Because it is on their

and be able meet certain global challenges, then the world has no chance

Truly if we want to eradicate hunger and poverty,

against hunger and poverty.

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as

powerful and effective catalysts for sustainable development and

Organisation. We, as trade unions, recognize that rural women are

States, the emphasis on food security, and women are

the minimum requirements. In this respect, we draw Member

security

recognized link between rural employment, poverty reduction and food

opportunities and qualifications with employment promotion, which is a

will develop and combine rural vocational educational training

professional to work in rural and isolated areas and introduce measures

market make a difference

for further education and training, and access and entry to the labor

adequate facilities, qualified teachers, good sanitation and safe

v. Ensure the provision of public quality education free of charge and with