

## **Ambassador Haslach Talking points:**

- I would like to thank the organizers of this event, WOCAN, for convening this side event where we can discuss the importance of gender equality in agriculture-and some specific actions we can do to make sure the gender discussion is “mainstreamed” rather than be a “box ticking” exercise.

- As Secretary Clinton has repeatedly said, women are front and center in the USG’s development and diplomatic strategy. They are the drivers of FTF -- as agricultural producers, entrepreneurs and caretakers of this generation and the next. They work in the fields, right alongside men, and in most developing countries, women produce 60 to 80 percent of the food. Increasing women’s control over resources -- including seeds and land -- raises output significantly more than comparable increases among men. When women earn more income, they spend more on food and their children’s health and education. By investing more in women, we amplify benefits across families and generations.

- We all know the proverb that speaks to a central lesson of development: “Give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day, but teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime.” Secretary Clinton has offered an addition to that proverb: if you teach a woman to fish, she’ll feed her whole village. A woman-centered approach to agriculture development is not about giving preference for the sake of giving preference; it’s about being more effective in implementing programs.

- **However, women's contributions to agriculture often go unrecognized. Women often have limited input into economic and financial decisions, and few are paid for their labor. As a result, women's access to land and other resources such as equipment and various financial services are severely limited.**
- **Therefore, it's critically important that women are sufficiently represented at CFS. We believe that a successfully reformed CFS must ensure that all stakeholders, particularly women's groups, are provided an opportunity to engage on issues where they have valuable and unique perspectives.**
- **We believe a successfully reformed CFS will serve as an important global forum for sharing best practices, identifying gaps, and supporting country-led processes; none of this, however, can be accomplished without significant engagement from women.**
- **The commitment of Secretary Clinton and Administrator Shah to integrate gender into all of our development efforts addresses these gaps directly. By integrating gender into all of our investments we do more than commit specific resources to women and girls. We recognize the importance of understanding gender roles -- of women and men -- to creating sustainable investments that lead to development impacts and greater gender equality. We need to integrate gender into all of our investments.**

- **I like the metaphor that Ritu Sharma of Women Thrive Worldwide uses. Gender is as important as an IT department. You need IT specialists who go into every single department to make sure IT needs are met and everything is running smoothly. We have a gender integration team that will help ensure that gender is a part of everything we do.**
- **One of the FTF fundamental Rome Principles is country ownership. I know for some people this raises the concern that country ownership equals the government, which may not adequately reflect women's interests. Women's lack of representation in decision-making structures necessitates our emphasis on an inclusive stakeholder consultation. Having a robust and sustainable country-led plan requires the input and support of all stakeholders. This means we will strive for gender equality in all stages of planning, including the promotion of a gender-sensitive consultative process.**
- **Beyond the planning process, we are working to expand the involvement and participation of women in all levels of decision-making and to ensure that women have equal access to assets, inputs, technologies and markets. This includes financial services such as savings and credit. Mobile innovations such as "smart cards" allow women to deposit money into their accounts and control their earnings.**

- **Our efforts also include policy reforms and programs to help ensure that countries have strong and clear property rights for women and men. We acknowledge that this is a longer-term effort that involves systemic change. Strong and clear property rights for all -- in law and in practice -- are the hallmark of an environment that is conducive to private sector investment and thus of truly sustainable development.**
- **In our Feed The Future Results Framework, we have committed to monitoring and collecting sex-disaggregated statistics to ensure that we know what works and what doesn't work, ensuring that women are empowered to use the full potential of their roles in the community.**
- **In measuring improved nutritional status, we will monitor the prevalence of underweight children and women.**
- **In measuring inclusive agriculture sector growth, we will measure the change in rural incomes, disaggregated by sex and income. This will allow us to track what works for women, including women who are very poor.**
- **In addition, we will measure output indicators -- such as women trained through agricultural extension services and women benefiting from financial services. By tracking output and outcome indicators, we can tell a**

**story about how our programs have empowered rural women in practical and sustainable ways.**

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- **Thank you so much. It is an honor to be here and I look forward to our discussion today and in the future.**