



The Permanent Mission of the
Kingdom of Morocco to the
United Nations in New York

MOROCCO SIDE EVENT ON THE MARGINS OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) 2026

Women at the Heart of Africa's Food Security Transformation

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Time: 10:00am to 11:15am
Location: Conference Room 11 (UNHQ)

INTRODUCTION:

Africa stands at a pivotal crossroads in the final stretch toward 2030. As progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals remains off track globally, the continent's rapid population growth, vast yet underutilized agricultural potential, and rising exposure to climate shocks place Africa at the center of both the challenge and the solution. Advancing a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agricultural transformation is therefore not only essential for Africa's long-term stability, food security and development, but also for reinvigorating global efforts to deliver on the SDGs.

Furthermore, Africa's agricultural systems are under growing strain. Rapid population growth, declining soil fertility, low productivity, rising food imports, and intensifying climate shocks are making it increasingly difficult for farmers to feed their communities. Yet Africa's future is not defined by crisis alone. The continent holds extraordinary assets: vast arable land, abundant renewable energy, and a young, dynamic population, that position it to become a global leader in sustainable and climate-resilient food production.

Closing yield gaps, restoring soils, and building local agro-industrial value chains are practical and achievable pathways to advancing SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by

strengthening food security and nutrition, SDG 1 (No Poverty) by raising rural incomes and livelihoods, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by generating productive employment and inclusive economic opportunities across Africa.

At the center of this transformation are women smallholder farmers. They produce much of Africa's food and sustain household nutrition, yet their contributions remain undervalued and constrained by unequal access to land, finance, technology, legal protection, and decision-making. In this context, empowering women, particularly in the rural areas, with climate-smart practices, digital tools, quality inputs, and financial services is not only a matter of equity, but also one of the most effective strategies to boost productivity, strengthen resilience, and accelerate progress toward the SDGs in the final stretch to 2030.

Encouragingly, concrete progress is already visible across the continent. Programs are expanding women's access to improved seeds and fertilizers, several initiatives, and agreements in the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation are regenerating farming training, digital agricultural services, entrepreneurship support, and market linkages. These initiatives and programs are transforming agriculture from labor-intensive survival farming into more efficient agricultural ecosystem, knowledge-driven, and climate-resilient livelihoods, delivering higher yields, reduced losses, and improved incomes for families and communities.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF THE EVENT:

Morocco is honored to convene this event, reflecting the high priority the Kingdom places on women's empowerment and on advancing their central role in food security and food-systems transformation. The 70th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) held under the theme: “ ***Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers***”, generates a renewed political momentum to address the structural barriers that disproportionately affect women, particularly in Africa, including in agriculture, climate resilience, and food systems.

In this context, this event is a timely platform to promote the role of Women in the Africa's food security transformation through:

1. **Highlight practical and African country specific initiatives** and examine how they can be scaled across the Continent through supportive policies, targeted investments, and strengthened partnerships.
2. **Explore how progress on gender equality (SDG 5) underpins Zero hunger (SDG 2), promotion of decent work (SDG8) and climate action (SDG 13).** The event will highlight practical examples from policymakers and private sector leaders who are advancing scalable, women-centered innovations that are reshaping agricultural landscapes across Africa.
3. **Showcase how the UN development system, through FAO, UNOSSC, and UN Women and OSSA,** catalyzes sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agricultural transformation in Africa by enhancing access to knowledge, training, and market opportunities, particularly for women and smallholder farmers.
4. **Galvanize the role of South-South and Triangular cooperation, Private-public partnerships and investments** and collaboration with local institutions. Encourage targeted financing and technology transfer that prioritizes women's empowerment, climate resilience and inclusive markets.
5. **Highlight the role of the private sector in driving agricultural innovation and productivity in Africa** by providing fertilizers, improved seeds, technology solutions, infrastructure, and market linkages, while fostering sustainable, climate-smart, and commercially viable farming systems.

Guiding Questions for the event's discussion:

- What successful, women-centered agricultural initiatives in African countries can be scaled across the continent, and what policy, investment, and partnership frameworks are needed to support their implementation?
- How does advancing gender equality in agriculture strengthen sustainable food systems, promote decent work, and enhance climate resilience, and what practical examples demonstrate this intersection in action?
- How can the UN Development system, South-South and Triangular cooperation, and private-sector partnerships work towards accelerating women's access to knowledge, technology, and markets, while ensuring inclusive, climate-resilient agricultural solutions?