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PRESS RELEASE

International Day of Rural Women an opportunity to highlight role of rural women in responding to climate change

(Daegu, 15 October, 2013) – On the International Day of Rural Women, the UN’s top climate change official Christiana Figueres drew attention to the important role of rural women in responding to the challenge of climate change. Speaking from Daegu, the Republic of Korea, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Christiana Figueres said:

“Climate change adds to the challenges facing rural women, as social and economic inequalities mean the climate impacts will often fall heavily upon women. At the same time, women play a critical role in the fight against climate change because they often have a more direct approach to sustainability and valuable sets of skills and knowledge in their communities. Women have great potential as agents of change, as their actions can improve their own lives and the lives of others. Women all over the world are already taking action on climate change, but more is needed and I would like to see women worldwide coming together to address climate change and improve their communities.”

The UNFCCC secretariat showcases women’s action through its “Momentum for Change” initiative that is designed to raise awareness about mitigation and adaptation activity around the world. One of the three Momentum for Change pillars is ‘Women for Results’, which recognizes and celebrates the leadership and participation of women in addressing climate change.

An example of empowering rural women to act on climate change is Solar Sister, founded in Uganda in 2009. Solar Sister is in the process of building an Africa-wide network of women clean energy entrepreneurs by providing training and support and a start-up ‘business in a bag’.

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw (11 to 22 November), the UNFCCC secretariat’s “Momentum for Change” initiative will showcase further “lighthouse activities” in the area of women’s action on climate change. The initiative will also showcase activities in the areas of improving the lives of urban poor and innovative climate finance. In addition, the “Momentum for Change” initiative will launch a new pillar that will focus on contributions the



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information and technology sector is making to curb emissions and increase adaptive capacity to respond.

For further information and to schedule interviews with Christiana Figueres specifically on the issue of the role of women in combating climate change and other Momentum for Change activities, please contact Sarah Marchildon at momentum@unfccc.int.

Further press contacts:

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About Solar Sister

Chosen in 2012 as one of a limited number of UNFCCC Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities, Solar Sister is a leading example of climate change action from around the world. It is an innovative social enterprise with a mission to achieve sustainable, scalable impact at the nexus of women's empowerment, energy poverty and climate change.

About Momentum for Change

Momentum for Change aims to create a public platform that raises awareness about concrete mitigation and adaptation actions being implemented by a wide range of stakeholders at regional, national, or local level.

About the UNFCCC

With 195 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments. In Doha in 2012, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period under the Protocol. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

See also: <http://unfccc.int/press/items/2794.php>

UNFCCC on Twitter: @UN_ClimateTalks

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres on Twitter: @CFigueres

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