

## **Multi- Stakeholder Forum**

**CSW62 Priority theme: “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”**

### **Panel discussion – Panel 2**

Empowering rural women and girls through quality education and access to information and communications technologies (ICT)

Monday, 25 January, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **MODERATOR’S NOTES**

Her Excellency, Ms. Koki Muli Grignon (Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya, Vice-Chair of CSW62)

Excellences, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to moderate the second panel of UN-Women’s Multi-Stakeholder Forum, focusing on “Empowering rural women and girls through quality education and access to information and communications technologies (ICT)”.

Kenya is a MIC whose population of almost 50 million people has grasped the importance of quality education and ICT and fully embraced both. We are a nation that invented Mpesa – Mobile banking and table-banking. There is hardly any village without an Mpesa kiosk and many households have mobile phones, which are also used for buying, selling of commodities and for investments. People also pay bills, school fees, hospital and other expenses through mobile phones. Rural women sell and buy merchandise through their phones even marketing their produce. ICT is now used teaching, treating, manufacturing, industry, infrastructure and leisure, among other uses. Therefore, quality education and ICT are critical enablers in empowering rural women and girls and transforming lives. Many originally rural girls like me can attest to this.

We are very fortunate to have an impeccable panel of widely knowledgeable and tremendously experienced speakers. We are grateful to the panelists for having made time to be here to discuss this topic in the lead-up to the sixty-second session of CSW and to share their experiences. Thank you Excellences.