

# *UN Forum seeks help for rural women*

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New York, March 13 (RHC)-- The United Nations body dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment opened its annual session on Monday hearing calls to help women, especially those in rural communities, and secure an end to the male-dominated power dynamic.

"Across the world, women are telling their stories and provoking important and necessary conversations – in villages and cities; in boardrooms and bedrooms; in the streets and in the corridors of power," said Secretary-General António Guterres, opening the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62).

Under the Commission's theme 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls,' the UN chief observed that although a marginalized group, they were often the backbone of their families and communities, managing land and resources.

Guterres said that supporting these women is essential to fulfilling our global pledge to eradicate poverty and to create a safer, more sustainable world on a healthy planet – 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Guterres painted a picture of a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture in which centuries of patriarchy and discrimination have left a damaging legacy.

Calling it "the greatest human rights challenge of our time," he said "progress for women and girls means changing the unequal power dynamics that underpin discrimination and violence."

“Discrimination against women damages communities, organizations, companies, economies and societies,” he continued. “That is why all men should support women’s rights and gender equality. And that is why I consider myself a proud feminist.”

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