

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 37th Session, 2011, endorsed the following recommendations on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition.¹



The Committee recognized that achieving food security and adequate nutrition for women, men and their families are inter-linked with comprehensive development efforts and urges all stakeholders to take concrete actions to improve women's health, educational and nutritional status.

It called upon Member States, international organizations, and other stakeholders, to recognize that advancing human rights is critical for achieving world food security and nutrition.

The Committee urged Member States, through measures including affirmative action, when appropriate, to:

1. Ensure women's meaningful participation in all decision making processes related to achieving women's progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security, and nutrition;
2. Ensure that women have equal access to health, education, land, water and other natural resources, including by enacting gender-sensitive legislation.

It urged Member States to actively promote women's leadership and to strengthen women's capacity for collective organizing, especially in the rural sector.

The Committee urged Member States to develop a policy and legal framework with appropriate compliance-monitoring to ensure women's and men's equal access to productive resources including land ownership and inheritance, access to financial services, agricultural technology and information, business registration and operation, and employment

opportunities, and to enact and enforce laws that protect women from all kinds of violence. Where appropriate, Member States should audit all existing laws for discrimination and amend discriminatory laws.

It urged Member States to involve women in the decision-making process with regards to national and international responses to global challenges to food security and nutrition.

It called upon Member States, international organizations, and other stakeholders, to include improvement of women's, adolescent girls', infants' and child's nutritional status, including hidden hunger or micronutrient deficiencies and obesity as a new manifestation of malnutrition, as an explicit goal and expected outcome of agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes, emergency responses, strategies and policies, from design to implementation

The Committee recalled the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, and in particular its recommendations for advancing women's food security under the strategic objectives on macroeconomic and development policies (A1), vocational training and continuing education (B3), health (C1), access to resources, employment, markets and trade (F2) and sustainable development (K2).

It urged the Bureau to encourage and engage as appropriate with UN Women in the development

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¹ Excerpt from the CFS 37 Final Report

of specific indicators, targets and time tables to measure progress made towards advancing women's food security, and to invite UN Women to report on progress at the 39th session of CFS.

The Committee took note of the report and recommendations relating to gender, food security and nutrition resulting from the Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition for the Near East and North Africa Region that took place on 3-4 October 2011 in Cairo under the CFS umbrella.

It called upon Member States to support the adoption and implementation of maternity and paternity protection legislation and related measures that allow women and men to perform their care giving role and therefore provide for the nutritional needs of their children and protect their own health, whilst protecting their employment security.

The Committee urged Member States, international organizations, and other stakeholders to work together to promote synergies and avoid wasteful duplication to identify and support strategies, policies and actions to further strengthen gender-sensitive food security and nutrition, health and education interventions that scale-up practical solutions for women, including:

- Statistics with regard to food security and nutrition should be sex and age-disaggregated;
- Gender analysis and nutrition impact assessments should be conducted to inform food security and nutrition policy, programme and project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including the use of appropriate indicators, gender targets and funding;
- Agricultural investments should take into account the specific needs of both women and men, bearing in mind that investments in land and other natural resources have impact on women's food security. Moreover, agricultural investment plans, policies and programmes should be designed so that women and men have equal access to programme services and operations, being cognizant of women's and men's commitments to household economies and to child-rearing and recognizing their different needs;
- Smallholder women farmers should be prioritized in agricultural programming

to foster equity while taking into consideration the specific food and nutrition needs of women, men and children; and

- Support adoption of safety net programmes including home-grown school feeding and school gardens, which encourages girl's attendance at school and links economic empowerment of women smallholders, food security and nutrition of girls in school, and improved education outcomes

The Committee recommended that gender is included in the monitoring mechanisms of current and future Voluntary Guidelines, including the "The Progressive Realization of the Right to adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security", and "Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" and similar initiatives that will be discussed or endorsed by CFS.

It requested the Bureau, in consultation with the Advisory Group and joint Secretariat, as well as with relevant international organizations, in particular World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to propose options on the meaning and different uses, if any, of the terms "Food Security", "Food Security and Nutrition", "Food and Nutrition Security" and "Nutrition Security" to the CFS Session for the standardization of the official terminology that the Committee should use taking into account that nutrition is a key pillar of "Food Security" as officially defined.

The Committee requested the CFS Secretariat, in collaboration with the Advisory Group, and based on information made available by the relevant stakeholders, to prepare a general report on the state of implementation of the above recommendations to be presented to CFS.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

CFS is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all. CFS endorses policy recommendations on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics.

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