

## PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS CONCERNING CFS THEMATIC WORKSTREAMS

### PROPOSAL A

#### **Policy Guidance (voluntary guidelines) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition**

##### **a) Proponents**

The proponents of this proposal are: FAO, IFAD, WFP and the Government of Spain.

##### **b) Outputs associated with the proposed thematic workstream**

The workstream is intended to contribute to output 2.1 (global policy guidance).

##### **c) Rationale for including the proposed thematic workstream, based on the prioritization criteria and building on CFS main comparative advantages, as described in Annex B of the CFS Evaluation Implementation Report**

By building on existing CFS policy recommendations in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment, the workstream will consolidate all the work that has already been done by CFS into a globally accepted voluntary guidelines (VGs) on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition (VGGewe).

The main added value of developing the VGs in the context of the CFS will be the inclusive and consensus-based process through which it will be formulated. It will be the first global policy convergence document on this topic negotiated and agreed upon by all 130 member states of the CFS as well as the other CFS constituencies, including the civil society, the private sector and financial institutions. This will ensure the legitimacy of the VGs and facilitate their uptake at country level.

Therefore, developing the VGGewe in the context of the CFS will make it possible to raise global awareness about the importance of gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment issues in relation to achieving FSN and will mobilize the necessary political attention, commitment and, prospectively, resources.

Considering that gender inequalities are a key driver of food insecurity and malnutrition, and that women and girls, more than men and boys, are disadvantaged, excluded and discriminated against in all regions of the world, the workstream will contribute to the CFS vision and overall objective to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition with a focus on the people most affected. Given that the proposal is submitted jointly with the three Rome-based Agencies, the workstream will have full access to the RBAs knowledge and technical expertise.

In view of the important role women play in family farming as well as in securing household food security and nutrition, the empowerment of women is a priority also of the UN Decade of Family

Farming and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The workstream will therefore support the implementation of both United Nations Decades. The workstream will also enhance the implementation of other global priorities, such as the gender equality related recommendations of the CFS HLPE Reports and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16.

The VGGWE will complement and contribute to the effective implementation of existing standard-setting documents, such as the VGGT, PRAI, FFA and the Right to Food Guidelines.

The workstream and the VGs will build on the CFS Policy Recommendations on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 2011/Final Report) and the background document (CFS 2017/Inf 21) and the outcomes of the CFS Forum on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 2017/44/Report). Moreover, the workstream will expand on the following themes: i) the underlying causes of gender inequality, lack of fulfillment and protection of women's rights, women's disempowerment and their impact on food security and nutrition; ii) women's participation in decision-making and leadership; iii) access to and control over natural and productive resources and access to productive services, iv) access to decent work and markets, iv) women's role in food utilization; and, v) enabling policy and institutional environment.

**d) Expected results and how they will contribute to the achievements of the CFS MYPoW Strategic Objectives and FSN-relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda**

The objective of the proposed workstream is to develop voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, to be presented for endorsement at the CFS Plenary in October 2023. It will contribute to all three Strategic Objectives of the CFS, taking advantage of and building on the Committee's convening power, capacity to develop policy coherence and foster the uptake of CFS products.

The CFS provides the most expedient platform to develop voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, by being the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

The principle of "leaving no one behind" guides the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and gender equality is essential for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the VGs will support the country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by helping to achieve all the SDGs, with particular focus on SDG 2 on zero hunger.

**e) Potential activities that could be considered after the adoption of the CFS policy product to promote its use and application**

The VGs will be designed to support countries in advancing gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment as part of their efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Therefore, the dissemination, use and application of the VGs will be encouraged through the organization of workshops, trainings and other capacity development activities, including the development of a technical guide to support the VGs' implementation at country level. Its use will be promoted also through major FSN programmes and projects of the three Rome-based Agencies and other partners. To celebrate the endorsement of the VGs, raise awareness of their

objectives and kick-off their implementation, the RBAs will partner with Member States and other partners to organize a special event during the CFS Plenary Session in 2023.

**f) Budget estimate, human resources and timeline**

Timeline (2 years): i) TORs developed for the task team/open-ended working group; ii) preparation of an annotated outline; iii) development of first, second and final draft of the voluntary guidelines; iv) organization of expert meeting; v) e-consultation; vi) regional consultations; vii) finalization of the voluntary guidelines and presentation for endorsement at the CFS Plenary in October 2023; viii) special event during CFS Plenary.

Costs: intersessional meetings, expert meetings (at least one), e-consultation, five regional consultations, translation of documents, interpretation, printing; special event during the CFS Plenary 2023. Estimated budget: 700,000 - 800,000 USD.

**g) Indications on whether the preparation of a HLPE report is foreseen and its potential contribution to the proposed CFS thematic workstream**

For this thematic workstream there is no HLPE report foreseen. The preparation of the voluntary guidelines will build on the existing knowledge and experience of the development agencies and institutions, Member States as well the private and civil society sectors. The solid technical knowledge of the three RBAs and their vast experience in promoting gender equality, women's and girls' rights and women's empowerment for improved FSN will be shared with CFS stakeholders during the process and will be essential for developing the guidelines.