

Contribution of the EU Delegation Rome
for the Terms of References for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and
Nutrition -
Open Ended Working Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment on
30.10.2020

We congratulate the Co-chairs and the CFS Secretariat for their work on the Terms of References for the preparation of these CFS Voluntary Guidelines.

It is clear that gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition comprises a complex set of issues and dynamics. Especially in the rural sector women play an important role in agriculture and nutrition security. Conventional gender approaches have failed to address the underlying structural causes to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Therefore, the European Commission explicitly funds a joint RBA programme on the "Gender transformative approaches for food security and nutrition". We are looking forward to the further collaboration.

Section A of the TORs: Background and Rationale:

Generally, it is essential that the ToRs reflect more the idea of gender transformative approaches for food security and nutrition throughout the text. These approaches, beyond reaching and benefiting women and girls, have the objective to tackle the underlying causes of inequalities (i.e. social norms, attitudes and behaviours) and to promote lasting changes.

Section B: Objective of the Guidelines

The following comment can be made here and touches upon Section E. There it is mentioned that the "Guidelines are intended for all stakeholders that are involved in addressing, or are affected by, gender equality and women's empowerment", including Civil society, women's and farmers' organisations. However, it seems that overall the **role** of civil societies and women's organisations is not really mentioned or described. Both of those categories play an important role in the implementation and reporting in the current EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III) and therefore we wondered if there is a reason why they are not considered for these voluntary guidelines?

Section C: Scope of the Guidelines

We propose some additions.

Add in 15.4 (4. bullet point): In women's and men's participation in decision-making, leadership and representation and agency in shaping public policies, **in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources;**

15.5 add reporting after monitoring:

Underline the importance of collecting, analysing and using relevant gender-, sex- and age-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policies, programmes, plans and strategies and adequate monitoring, **reporting** and impact evaluation.