Finland’s comments on the draft ToR for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition

- We strongly support the initiative of elaborating the abovementioned guidelines. Enhancing GEWE should happen through gender specific as well as gender mainstreamed activities.
- While relevant aspects of wider gender equality should be considered as necessary, it is of utmost importance that the guidelines remain focused on food security and nutrition.
- Terminology should be based on agreed language.
- We suggest clearly state the human rights based approach in the ToR
- Use of gender transformative interventions and approaches is very welcome and could be further enhanced in the document.
- Policies, programmes, plans, etc. should be based on evidence. Therefore, the collection and use of disaggregated data, not only by sex, but also by age and disability, is fundamental.
- Involvement of men and boys is crucial in order to achieve sustainable changes, including those that requires changes of social norms.
- Societal norms that impedes the realization of full potential of women and girls are one of the root cause of gender inequality. Without addressing them in a relevant manner in food and nutrition context, it is not possible to achieve gender equality.
- Gender inequalities and resulting discrimination start already in childhood. Therefore the guidelines should cover girls, not only women.
- We suggest to include gender-based violence is a serious human right violation and its physical, psychological and economic consequences at family, community and society level are wide.
- We strongly support the inclusion of food and nutrition related technology and innovation in the guidelines as it can provide great potential for enhancing gender equality.
- Women (and girls) are not a homogenous group; their needs, constraints, etc. vary. Therefore it is important that women and girls are considered in all their diversity throughout the guidelines.
- Women and girls may face discrimination on multiple grounds in addition to gender (age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.). Intersectionality should be integral part of the guidelines.
- Health aspects should include SRHR.