

30 Oct 2020

Finland's comments on the draft ToR for the 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