

Malaysia would like to refer to the draft Terms of Reference (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 welcome the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the draft TOR.

Malaysia supports the notion expressed in paragraph 16 that the guidelines "...should be interpreted and applied consistent with existing obligations under national and international law...". On this note, it is crucial that the terms and definitions used in this draft be consistent with multilaterally agreed terms and definitions.

According to UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,
Gender: *refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a women or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age.*
(Source: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>)

This definition is further confirmed by the factsheet entitled "Gender Mainstreaming: Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality", which can be accessed at <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/factsheet1.pdf>

There is a slight difference in the definition used in the current draft. For consistency and to avoid confusion, Malaysia stresses the need to ensure that the draft only include concepts and definitions that have been agreed at multilateral level.