

Preliminary Input¹ of Indonesia Permanent Representation to the FAO
to 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

Principal Position

1. We note that the intention of the CFS, which we support, to develop a CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition. Consequently, the TOR of the Open-Ended Working Group to develop such Voluntary Guidelines should be in line with and focus on the CFS' intention and mandates of FAO which is food security and nutrition.
2. We strongly suggest that the terminologies used in the TOR are taken from UN treaties i.e. CEDAW and/or intergovernmentally-agreed-by-consensus documents i.e. Beijing Platform for Action and SDGs/Agenda 2030.
3. In this regard, we are of the position that the TOR should avoid any element that goes beyond the mandate of CFS and FAO, including elements that are being debated and have not reached intergovernmental consensus in UN intergovernmental mechanisms in Geneva and New York. Following this position, we strongly suggest that the TOR avoids using terminologies that do not enjoy intergovernmental consensus and/or that are construed/linked to the issues that are still being debated and have not reached intergovernmental consensus in Geneva and New York.

Specific Comments

Section A

4. Para 5. A large body of evidence demonstrates the positive links between gender equality and food security and nutrition. Gender equality ~~is not only a fundamental human right, it is also~~ instrumental for poverty reduction and economic growth. Achievement of gender equality has a positive correlation with increased household welfare, production and improved efficiency in many sectors, including agriculture, where gender inequality in access to and control over resources continues undermining performance, leading to below-potential economic outcomes.
5. Para 6. Women also play important roles in sustainable natural resource management, **economic empowerment**, mitigating and adapting to climate change and conserving biodiversity. Considering all the above, investing in women and promoting gender equality and **women's empowerment** is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.
6. Para 8. Despite positive progress made over decades ~~in narrowing gender gaps, gender inequality persists as~~ women continue to face discrimination in many areas - including access to and control over key productive resources, assets, services and economic opportunities, and participation in decision making processes at household, community and national levels – that negatively impacts the four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability.

¹ As this is the preliminary input, we will convey subsequent inputs, if any.

7. Para 9. Discrimination **against women also occur** ~~also results in a gender gap~~ in accessing food, with higher prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition among women. The **discrimination gender gap** increased from 2018 to 2019 and is expected to widen as the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it are having a negative and gender differentiated impact on food security and nutrition. Systemic deprivation and discrimination perpetuates the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.

Section B

8. Para 12. The Guidelines will provide concrete **voluntary guidelines** ~~policy guidance~~ based on **relevant** best practices and lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming, gender transformative interventions and innovative solutions, with the aim of improving legal and policy framework and policies, institutional arrangements, national plans and programmes, and promoting increased investments in human and financial resources.
9. Para 13. The Guidelines aim to foster greater policy coherence between gender equality and **women empowerment** and food security and nutrition agendas and promote mutually reinforcing policy measures. Generating and disseminating evidence on opportunities and constraints helps to raise awareness and supports the development of policies and programs that coherently integrate gender equality **and women's empowerment** with food security and nutrition objectives.

Section C

10. Para. 15.1. Outline women's fundamental contributions to, and roles in, achieving food security and nutrition, as well as to reducing poverty, **economic empowerment**, addressing climate change and fostering sustainable development. They will emphasize that full and equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men is essential for achieving these objectives.
11. Para 15.2. Consolidate all previous work of the CFS on gender, including: the CFS Policy recommendations on Gender and Food Security (2011), and the background document and outcomes of the 2017 CFS Forum on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, **as appropriate**.
12. Para 15.4. Identify opportunities to promote gender equality **and women's empowerment** and suggest strategies to overcome ~~gender discrimination~~ **against women** and structural barriers in key areas of food security and nutrition, including (but not limited to):
- In division of labour between men and women in relation to food security and nutrition at household and community levels, considering both productive and reproductive roles;
 - In access to markets and value chains, and decent work;
 - In access to and control over productive resources, such as land, agricultural inputs, credit and other financial services;

- In women's and men's participation in decision-making, leadership and representation and agency in shaping public policies;
 - In access to capacity building, training, education, rural advisory services, knowledge and information;
 - In access to technology, including ICT-based, digital and agri-innovations; and
 - In social protection schemes and food assistance.
13. Para 15.5 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 and impact evaluation.
14. Para 15.6. Promote context-specific actions with a focus on women in situations of vulnerability recognizing that women are not a homogenous group, but they often experience different, multiple ~~and intersecting~~ forms of discrimination across and throughout countries.
15. Para 15.9. Highlight the need to work towards the implementation of the UN ~~General~~ Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ~~especially its General Recommendation 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women and other legally binding international conventions,~~ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
16. Para 15.10. Complement and contribute to the effective implementation of existing [CFS policy products](#) and ~~forthcoming products such as: Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches.~~

Section E

17. Para 19. The Guidelines are intended for all stakeholders that are involved in addressing, or are affected by, gender equality and women's empowerment. ~~They primarily address governments at all levels to help design and implement public policies, as their primary objective is to provide concrete instruments to build policy coherence between and across public sector policies at national, regional and global levels. They are also of value to other actors involved in policy discussions and policy implementation processes.~~ These actors include:
- a) ~~Governments~~ ~~at actors, including relevant ministries and national, sub-national and local institutions;~~
 - b) Intergovernmental and regional organizations, including UN agencies and bodies with a mandate in food security and nutrition;
 - c) Civil society, including women's and farmers' organizations;
 - d) Private sector;
 - e) Research organizations and universities;
 - f) Development agencies, including international financial institutions; and
 - g) Philanthropic foundations.

Annex

18. We are of the view that definitions of key terms should derive from UN treaties or multilaterally agreed documents. We also view that the definitions should be more focus on key terms related to food security and nutrition as the intention of the Voluntary Guidelines. Thus, we suggest that this section is discussed in the substantive negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines. We do not see the urgency to put the key definitions in TOR of the OEWG.