

Specific Comments on the Terms of reference for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition

The Permanent Mission of Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and has the honour to transmit herewith attached the specific comments on the text of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.

- At paragraph No. 5 of the ToRs, it has been included the sentence “Measures are also required to improve women’s maternal health while recognizing women’s sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” that was not in the previous version, discussed by the Open-Ended Working Group. It does not add much to the nutrition issue and contains controversial language, which is unacceptable and might weaken the whole document. The whole sentence should be removed.
- At paragraphs No. 8 and No. 14 lett. h) of the ToRs, it has been re-entered the reference to the intersectionality approach and the multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations, that remains an ambiguous expression, on which there is no international consensus. It should be changed with “all forms of discriminations”.
- At paragraph No. 14 lett. k) of the ToRs, the mention to the General Recommendation No. 34 (2016) of the CEDAW on the rights of the rural women is, in our point of view, inappropriate. In fact, General Recommendations are not negotiated documents and are not the fruit of any international consensus. Similarly, the reference to Regional Strategies does not seem suitable. The Gender Strategy of the Africa Union 2017-2027 is not the result of international consensus, contains many problematic issues and its focus is not specifically on food security and nutrition and not appropriate in a document like the ToRs that have a universal vocation.
- At paragraph No. 14 lett. l) of the ToRs, the conclusions of the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) should not be mentioned in this text because it contains controversial language.

The Permanent Mission of Holy See to FAO, IFAD and WFP avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security the assurance of its highest consideration.