

## **47th Committee for Food Security**

**Agenda item IV CFS Multy-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020-2023 : 09 February 2021 ( 14.30-17.30)**

**Intervention of the Permanent Observer at the UN Agencies in Rome of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Ambassador Gabriele Checchia**

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor.

Let me express first of all the Sovereign Order's strong appreciation -and I join in doing this other distinguished colleagues - for the CFS decision to put on today's agenda the discussion on the adoption of Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

As you may know the Sovereign Order is fully committed across the globe - in the frame of its long- standing humanitarian action- to the objective of women empowerment, wherever necessary, as a cross- cutting issue in all the relevant sectors: from health to education to access to food and water to quote but a few.

We believe that the development of Voluntary Guidelines by the CFS may in fact represent a major tool in our common efforts to bolster the role of women across the board, in particular in achieving food security .

The proposed draft decision on the Terms of Reference is in our view a good text and an equally good working basis for achieving consensus within the Committee.

That said, we also believe that the document - as it is now the case- should deal exclusively with issues directly related to food security : it should in other words be fully consistent with the CSF mandate.

We fear in fact, like the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Holy See, that unduly broadening the rationale of the document would weaken the scope and effectiveness of the Guidelines. And undermine , in the end, our joint efforts in favour of women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

Thank you