

Statement of the Head of Department on EU Affairs, International Cooperation, Fisheries, Swantje Nilsson, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 50) from 10 to 13 October 2022 in Rome (hybrid) – Item III: Empowering women and girls and promoting gender equality

Check against delivery!

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Opening remarks

- I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir.
- Germany aligns itself with the Statement by the EU and its Member States.
- We welcome the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women and therefore today's session.

II. Global Relevance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

- Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls - **in all their diversity** - especially in rural areas, is not only key in fighting hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and therefore the realization of the right to adequate food.
- It is also central to SDG 2 and 5 and for achieving the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

- Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment as well as overcoming intersectional discrimination are core concerns of the German foreign and development policy and its feminist orientation.
- **Worldwide, women's engagement in food systems is key.**
- But the ability of women to engage in food systems and to contribute to food security and nutrition **is still too often critically limited– due to limited access to decision-making processes**, education or resources compared to men.
- To better support women in agriculture in Germany, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture initiated a study about their living and working conditions.
- More than 7000 female farmers took part in online interviews. The results were presented a few weeks ago.
- The study shows **that also in Germany action is needed** to advance gender equality - for example
 - in terms of ownership of farms,
 - coaching for start-ups,
 - access to land,
 - provision for old age,
 - financial protection in case of divorce or death of the spouse or partner,
 - as well as health care.
- This study focusing on Germany, confirms the general need to advance gender equality worldwide. Obviously, needs and solutions look different in different contexts and jointly we can make it work.

- Accordingly, it was the right decision that the CFS and its Members and Stakeholders decided to make gender a priority and to jointly agree to develop Voluntary Guidelines on this topic.
- Today, we are facing a global food security and nutrition crisis.
- Without ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls - in all their diversity - as well as fighting all forms of intersecting discrimination, we will neither overcome the current crisis, nor will we reach the 2030 Agenda.
- **We thank the Co-Chairs of the CFS Gender Workstream for the hard work done** as well as the CFS Chair for his engagement in promoting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment for food security and nutrition.
- We regret that it has so far not been possible to find consensus. We very much hope that we will agree to resume negotiations soon – without rushing the process.
- The so far agreed text is an important achievement and an essential basis for the upcoming process.
- In this regard, we highlight the agreed Terms of Reference of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment from February 2021.
- Moreover, we underline the use of UN agreed language in order for the CFS not to step back from what has been achieved in other international UN fora.

III. Closing remarks

- Germany stands ready to further engage with the CFS and its Members and Stakeholders in continuing the process.
- The CFS is a unique intergovernmental and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform that develops strategies for food security and nutrition based on the human right to adequate food.

- We therefore very much appreciate that CSIPM is now ready to support the **Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition**. We need all stakeholders around the table to achieve our common goals!
- The Federal Government will therefore further strengthen the CFS in the future, in particular through additional financial support for CFS work.
- Thank you.