

UK Statement

Agenda item III: *Empowering women and girls and promoting gender equality. Update and discussion on the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*

Mr Chair,

- As noted in the joint statement delivered by the Ambassador from South Africa, the United Kingdom supports the proposal to reconvene and develop an agreed way forward to reach consensus on the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* as soon as possible.
- We all agree that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is critical – without it, ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all will never be achieved
- We thank the co-chairs for their work on progress made so far *and call on all members of the CFS* to renew their collaboration to conclude this important work.
- With food insecurity rising due to climate change and conflict, and the war in Ukraine driving up global prices, it is women who face the highest risk of hunger, and also of violence.
- That risk of violence multiplies for those who are LGBT+, live with a disability, or belong to a minority ethnic or religious group.
- Our response must go beyond providing food assistance or cash transfers, to preventing Gender Based Violence and providing protection for women and girls.
- We must also recognise women's rights organisations for their essential role in addressing the worst impacts of food insecurity. It is critical that women and girls are included in both the planning and delivery of actions to combat food insecurity.
- Given this, the need to agree *the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* is all the more pressing.
- We look forward to the discussion being reignited and to all stakeholders coming together to finalise the Guidelines for adoption – and implementation.

Thank-you very much