

**50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security  
(CFS 50)**

**Pre-recorded Remarks**

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*Ambassador Ferrero, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,  
Dear Colleagues,*

- Thank you very much for the opportunity to address the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security. It is an honour, as well a responsibility, that I undertake on behalf of UN Women and the world's women and girls whom we serve.
- In the midst of a global food crisis and a cost-of-living crisis, all stakeholders must mobilize to end hunger, ensure food security and nutrition, and protect and promote the right to food *for all*.
- To do this, we must recognize that structural gender inequalities underlie our food systems.

- We know the devastating, disproportionate impacts of the crisis on women and girls and widening gender gaps on all fronts. UN Women’s new policy brief assesses the “Global Gendered Impacts of the Ukraine Crisis on Energy Access, Food Security and Nutrition”, and makes concrete, evidence-based solutions.
  - Ladies and Gentlemen,
- What do we know about the inter-relationship between food security and gender equality? Data tells us that countries with high gender inequality are more food insecure.
- The evidence demonstrates that food systems embed multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls *and* that women and girls crucially contribute to food security and nutrition.
- We know that women are constrained from equally accessing productive resources, such as land, financing and credit, extension services, information, technology, and markets. This has significant impacts on their food security and nutrition outcomes as well as on their productivity, incomes, and resilience.

- Food insecurity also makes women and girls more vulnerable to crises, conflict, disasters, including climate change and environmental degradation, which are among the drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition and which increase risks of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Gender gaps in food insecurity have grown from 1.7 per cent in 2019 to more than four per cent in 2021, meaning over 126 million more women than men are hungry.
- Food insecurity is even more acute for older and indigenous women, women of African descent, gender-diverse persons, persons with disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas.
- The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition are crucial normative tools to help guide all of our policy and programmatic interventions.
- The Voluntary Guidelines represent the very lives at the nexus of food insecurity, the aspirations of the women and girls who eat least and last, and the promise of sustainable, nutritious and affordable food for productive, safe, dignified lives, as mandated in our UN Charter and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

- It is abundantly clear that our shared goals can only be reached if women and girls are at the centre.
  - Excellencies,
- I urge all of you to reaffirm and reenergize our collective commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals by agreeing on the way forward to adopt the Voluntary Guidelines, building consensus in favour of women, girls and gender-diverse persons worldwide and ending hunger for all.
- As we look forward to implementing the Voluntary Guidelines, UN Women stands ready to work with all of you to advance gender equality, realize rights and achieve food security and nutrition for all.
- I thank you.