

**MS. AMINA MOHAMMED**  
**DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**The Deputy Secretary-General's**  
**Message on the occasion of the**  
***Fifty-first session of the Committee on World Food***  
***Security***

**Date: 24 October 2023**

Excellencies,

It is my pleasure to join you today.

Women are at the center of food systems. As producers, consumers, entrepreneurs. Yet, despite their critical contributions, they still do not reap equal benefits.

Often, women's contributions are not recognized; they earn less; are less likely to own land; and businesses owned by women are less profitable.

Women and girls remain disproportionately affected by poverty, inequalities, exclusion and the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

Structural barriers and discriminatory social norms continue to constrain women's decision-making power and participation at all levels.

In the midst of a combined global food, cost-of-living and the triple planetary crisis, the UN system and all stakeholders must act decisively to achieve our common goals to end hunger, ensure food security and nutrition, and promote the right to food for all.

Today, you have a unique opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to achieve these goals by formally endorsing the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*.

The Guidelines provide a blueprint on how to advance gender equality, women's and girls' rights, and women's empowerment as part of national efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Guidelines will be extremely useful in supporting national strategies for women's and girls' empowerment and to protect their rights – especially the rights to land and tenure security; to adequate food and nutrition; and to a life free of all forms of violence, discrimination and harmful practices.

I call on all stakeholders to invest in the implementation of the Guidelines.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for sustainable food systems and for building a prosperous, equitable and peaceful future for all on a healthy and resilient planet.

By working together, we can advance gender equality, realize human rights and achieve food security for all.

Thank you.