

24.10.2023

Check against delivery

## Statement by Finland

### V. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (for decision)

Mr. Chair,

Excellencies, esteemed attendees,

- Finland fully aligns itself with the Statement by the European Union.
- First of all, we want to thank all the CFS members, secretariat, co-chairs and co-facilitator for the enormous work for preparing the Voluntary Guidelines. In particular, we want to thank the CFS Chair, Mr. Gabriel Ferrero, for his commitment and leadership.
- Finland was fully committed to finalizing the Guidelines. The **current food security crisis has demonstrated the urgency of enhancing gender equality** and empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity in the context of food security and nutrition. Challenges are many and serious, but there are **some positive signs** too, such as the slightly narrowing gender gap in food insecurity at the global level.
- The Voluntary Guidelines can be a transformative tool for enhancing women's role in resolving these challenges. In order to achieve sustainable results, it is of utmost important to **address the root causes** of gender inequalities, such as discriminatory structures, social norms and gender stereotypes.
- At the same time, we must ensure that no one is left behind. Therefore, **Finland emphasizes the need for an intersectional approach**. It is with delight that we are ready to adopt the guidelines, which state that **special attention should be given to women and girls who are at risk to suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**. In particular, we would like to emphasize the needs and rights of **women and girls with disabilities** in the context of food security and nutrition.
- We also stress the significance of **tackling all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, offline and online**, as well as the sexual and reproductive health and rights, to achieve gender equality in the context of food security and nutrition.
- Women's restricted access to and control over key natural and productive resources undermine their rights and economic capacity, affecting the efficiency of the agricultural sector and limiting economic growth overall. Therefore, we **highlight the importance of women's access to and control over land and other resources**, such as sufficiently secure land tenure.

- Last but not least, Finland stresses that women's and girls' access to formal **education** is critical. As one of the Co-Chairs of the School Meals Coalition Finland wishes to raise the importance of daily **school meals** which are not only food on the plate but they promote gender equality and are a powerful social protection mechanism.