

V. PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (GEWGE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION. Berioska Morrison, Co-facilitator.

1. The Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition are intended to provide concrete policy guidance for mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and interventions across agriculture and food systems, at all levels.
2. They encompass a wide spectrum of factors and address various vital aspects for gender equality in food security and nutrition: from equitable access and control over resources, education, and health, to meaningful participation, voice and leadership. From economic and social empowerment, capacity-building, social protection, to the crucial issue of unpaid care work.
3. These CFS Voluntary Guidelines are aimed at fostering greater policy coherence and promoting coordination and mutually reinforcing policy measures that support women's and girls' participation and empowerment and creates impetus to address the root causes of gender inequalities across a range of connected issues.
4. These Guidelines have been developed through an inclusive and transparent process, bringing together the expertise and experiences of member states, UN agencies and bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations and their networks, international agricultural research systems, international and regional financial institutions and representatives of private sector associations and private philanthropic foundation, all gathered in an Open-Ended Working Group under the guidance of the Co-Chairs Tanja Gren of Finland and Tomas Duncan Jurado of Panama, and successively by the CFS Chair and me as co-facilitator.

5. This was an arduous negotiation and I come here recognizing that we all have different objectives and perspectives on this topic. Nevertheless, and even if the outcome we've reached with this product may not fulfill everyone's wishes, it undoubtedly constitutes a collective consensus and a **significant achievement that we should all be proud of as it represents the essence of what multilateral negotiations actually mean: compromise.**
6. Today, as we conclude the policy convergence process around the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality, I'm reminded of the incredible journey we've undertaken.
7. But our journey doesn't end here. The adoption of this document at this plenary can mark a pivotal moment, but it's just a beginning. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will continue to evolve, at different speeds, in different national contexts. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with other Member States, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations in the uptake and implementation of these Voluntary Guidelines to drive this agenda forward and make progress in achieving greater gender equality within our food systems.
8. In closing, please allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who made this journey possible: the dedicated Secretariat, the invaluable support services at FAO, our esteemed Chair and Co-chairs and all the participants. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been instrumental in guiding us through this challenging and substantial process.
9. Let us now take this forward, working hand in hand towards a brighter and more equitable future. Thank you!