

Intervention Norway

Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 23-27 October 2023

“Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women`s and Girls Empowerment”.

- Dear Colleagues and delegates

It is an honor to address you on such an important topic as we are discussing here today. Food security and gender equality are top priorities in Norway`s foreign and development policy.

- It is a well-documented fact that gender equality and women`s empowerment is a requirement for increased food security.
- Hence, Norway welcomes the “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women`s and Girls Empowerment”.
- We welcome the way the Guidelines address the important synergy between food security and gender equality, and that they urge a transformative agenda.
- Norway also supports the human rights approach, even though we ideally would have wanted to address a broader set of issues, including non-binary gender. Norway would also have preferred to see stronger links to pregnant and lactating women, as well as access to SRHR.

### **Chair**

- We know that poverty has the face of a woman.
- Even though food systems are a major employer for women all over the globe, women`s roles tend to be marginalised.
- A large percentage of women only produces raw materials and have poor access to resources that can increase the value of their products.

- The gender gap is a reality. If we neglect the need to empower women; we pay for that neglect by weakening our countries' performance.
- While some gender gaps have been reduced over the last decade, little or no progress have been made in others.
- Gender equality is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. The potential is enormous. According to FAOs recent report on this issue:
  - “Closing the gender gap in farm productivity and the wage gap in agrifood systems employment would increase global gross domestic product by 1 percent (or nearly USD 1 trillion.”
- These Guidelines draw us closer to realising this enormous potential.
- The emphasis (in the Guidelines) on the need to break down structural barriers and deal with the root causes of gender inequality is of vital importance.
- So are the recommendations related to women's economic justice like the need for women to access financial services.
- We are also pleased that the guidelines recognise the need for disaggregated data. This has been essential for policy development and achieving gender equality in the agricultural and fisheries sectors in Norway.
- Norway welcomes these guidelines.
- Thank you!