

**STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security**  
**Agenda 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)**  
October 24, 2023, FAO-Rome Plenary Hall

Esteemed Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues and Delegates, warm greetings to all.

1. The Philippines is pleased with the adoption of CFS 2023/51/3 – the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, in support of country-led efforts towards achieving food security and nutrition.

2. We wish to thank the work of the open-ended working group and the leadership of the Chair, Co-Chairs, and Co-facilitators in arriving at these voluntary guidelines that can serve as a key inter-governmentally agreed global policy framework to promote the empowerment of women and girls in the context of food security and nutrition. It was a privilege as well for the Philippines to have contributed to this work.

3. The Voluntary Guidelines contain valuable examples of substantive content that can be shared worldwide to contribute towards achieving three key Sustainable Development Goals, namely Gender Equality, Zero Hunger, and Poverty Alleviation.

4. Among others, the Guidelines recognize the issues, challenges, policies and strategic approaches to uplift the lives of rural women and their families, such as in the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work, women's access to and control over natural and productive resources, and appropriate technologies.

5. The Philippines also sees the voluntary guidelines as a means to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters, especially for countries most vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change.

6. The Guidelines recognize the importance of gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in the successful implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. Provisions such as promoting cross-sectoral and policy dialogue towards resilient and productive employment of women in food systems and supporting investments in gender-responsive climate change resilience and adaptation measures responsive to local needs, priorities, capacities, and circumstances are acknowledged.

7. We also appreciate that the voluntary guidelines integrate the promotion of knowledge and technology exchange and effective adaptation practices; and that

the guidelines recognize the key role of women and girls in climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction, and the need to support their full and meaningful participation in discussions and decisions on climate-related policies.

8. The Philippines looks forward to the eventual uptake of these Committee on World Food Security “Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition” by stakeholders who will utilize their respective capacities and capabilities to expedite the enhancement of the lives of women and their families, and in promoting a more food secure world.

Thank you. END