



Landsbygds- och infrastrukturdepartementet
Sekretariatet för EU och internationella frågor
Departementssekreterare
Alexander Bång Bergström
alexander.bang.bergstrom@regeringskansliet.se

Statement of Sweden on item 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

Check against delivery.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Sweden aligns itself with the statement of the EU and its 27 member states.

We would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. Chair, for your dedication to this workstream and the CFS secretariat for all its efforts. Your hard work has been fundamental for the development of these voluntary guidelines.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the co-facilitators for their instrumental role in the negotiations.

Achieving gender equality is integral to sustainable development. It is a vital part of the 2030 Agenda and a prerequisite for the full and equal enjoyment of human

rights, for safeguarding food security, and for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

In April I had the pleasure of speaking at the launch of the FAO report on the Status of Women in Agrifood Systems. The report shows that sustainable and resilient food systems and agriculture depend on the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality.

Gender equality is a long-standing priority for Sweden. We have been engaged throughout the process of developing these Voluntary Guidelines and are proud to have contributed financially to this workstream together with Finland, France and Spain.

While we would have wanted a more ambitious document, we are content that the Voluntary Guidelines are a step in the right direction.

We are particularly pleased that the Guidelines address the root causes of gender inequality such as gender-based violence, including sexual violence. The recognition that women suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination is also key if we want to achieve change, as is the reference to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

By addressing these issues, and more, we are convinced that the Voluntary Guidelines will be an important tool for countries in their endeavours to achieve gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

Although the guidelines focus on the context of food security and nutrition, gender equality must be viewed and addressed with the whole of society in mind. We look forward to working with others to support the uptake and implementation of the guidelines.

With those words, Sweden endorses the “CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition”.

Thank you.