

Spain supports the draft MYPoW 2020-2023 prepared by the Secretariat and the changes proposed by the Presidency and the Secretariat during the last Open Session on 17th April. A great effort of prioritization has been done and we believe that the document is balanced and realistic taking into account the limited resources with which the CFS has to undertake its huge mandate.

Regarding the work stream on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment in the context of FSN:

In some countries, women contribute up to 70% of the labor force in agriculture, whereas hunger and poverty affect disproportionately to women and girls, as a result of inequalities and gender discrimination. That is why, the gender perspective is one of the pillars of our cooperation for development, particularly regarding FSN. And that is why we joined the three RBAs in proposing a work stream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of FSN for the CFS MYPoW 2020-2023.

During the first open meeting on the 25th of January, the gender proposal received many expressions of support by different CFS stakeholders. Moreover, the results of the written feedback showed that this proposal, as a stand-alone work stream, is supported by a high number of stakeholders. This outstanding support for this workstream is the best starting point to create a successful product of the CFS.

This doesn't mean that the previous work on gender was not successful, but on the contrary, it means that most stakeholders consider that we need to take another step upwards in the form of Voluntary Guidelines (VG).

There is now a large body of evidence on the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to achieve FSN. This vast global knowledge will allow us to develop the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition without overloading the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work.

The workstream on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition will consolidate all the work that has been done by CFS on the topic and thus it will truly add value to existing policy work of the CFS.

The VG will help Governments and other development partners to translate their political commitment into concrete actions to remove the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition, such as gender inequalities. They will provide guidance on how to address gender inequalities and different forms of discrimination (such as the lack of right to land ownership or the "invisible" dual load of work – at home and in agriculture) as part of their efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and how to monitor country level progress.

This work stream will also become a great example of RBA collaboration. Three RBAs will actively work together to technically support the workstream and the development of the Voluntary Guidelines. The workstream will have full access to the knowledge and expertise of the three RBAs, who stand ready to provide all the necessary technical support to develop the Guidelines as well as technical guides to support the VGs' implementation at country level.

Considering that gender inequality is the most pervasive form of inequality around the world, it is important that the CFS applies a dual pronged approach, as proposed in the Beijing Platform for Action, where gender mainstreaming in all CFS products and activities is complemented and reinforced by this workstream dedicated specifically to gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of FSN. This would enable the Committee to focus on transformative change through specific policies and positive/affirmative actions needed to truly eliminate structural discrimination against women and girls contributing both to the achievement of SDG 5 as a specific goal and to mainstreaming gender in other areas of Agenda 2030, such as SDG 2.

We finally would like to recall the 49th paragraph of the agreed conclusions of the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2019) in which the CSW "calls upon the UN system entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to support Member States...to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".