

**Contribution of the EU Delegation Rome
for the revised Terms of References for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on
Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and
Nutrition -**

**Second Open Ended Working Group on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls'
Empowerment on 09.12.2020**

We congratulate the Co-chairs and the CFS Secretariat for their work on the Terms of References for the preparation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment. We acknowledge the improvements made compared to the first version, especially with highlighting not only women's but also girls' empowerment. We would prefer a consistent and coherent wording and to include "girls" always in the text when talking about "women's empowerment" (for ex. in paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 14.5, 14.6). We would like to propose specific additions in the text below in **bold** and we are looking forward to the further collaboration.

After the discussion during the OEWG and in the spirit of compromise, we propose the wording for 14.2 and 14.5. below.

Section A of the TORs: Background and Rationale

Paragraph 5

A large body of evidence demonstrates the positive links between gender equality and food security and nutrition. Gender equality **and women's and girls' empowerment** is not only fundamental to the realization of human rights, it is also essential for poverty reduction, economic growth, sustainable natural resource management, mitigating and adapting to climate change, protecting ecosystems and conserving biodiversity. Empowering women is one of the most effective ways to improve nutrition outcomes not only of women but of all family members, lowering infant mortality and reducing child malnutrition, thereby helping to break intergenerational cycles of malnutrition. Investing in women and girls and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment are not only the right things to do to achieve food security and nutrition, they are the smart things to do.

Section B: Objective of the Guidelines

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Section C: Scope of the Guidelines

Paragraph 14.2

Outline women's and girls' fundamental contributions to, and roles in, achieving food security and nutrition, as well as to reducing poverty, addressing climate change and fostering sustainable development **and the sustainable management of natural resources**. The Guidelines will emphasize that fulfilment of full and equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for all is essential for achieving these objectives.

Paragraph 14.5

Identify opportunities to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and suggest strategies to overcome institutional and structural barriers and gender discrimination in the context of food security and nutrition, including in (but not limited to) the following areas:

NEW:

- **Strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and the sustainable management of natural resources;**

Section D: Type of instrument

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Section E: Intended users

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Section F: Process, tentative timeframe and budget estimate

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