

CFS Open Ended Working Group – 5 July 2021

2nd version of the Zero draft of the

CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition

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Overview comments

- FAO welcomes the Zero Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines and appreciates the work of the CFS Secretariat.
- FAO is particularly pleased with Part 2 on the core principles, which includes, among others reference to:
 - ✓ gender transformative approaches,
 - ✓ policy coherence,
 - ✓ the collection and use of gender statistics
 - ✓ intersectionality, and
 - ✓ multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnership.

We consider this draft as a very good starting point. At the same time, FAO recommends the following revisions to be made, in order to ensure that an improved document is available for the Regional Consultations.

General Comments on Part 3:

- The Guidelines should focus on the mandate of the CFS in all the different thematic areas. Specifically the policy areas need to be on issues related to food security and nutrition and the agri-food system.
- It is important to ensure that the narratives and policy areas are evidence-based and build on innovative literature and experiences.
- Similarly, there should be better coherence between the narratives and their proposed policy areas. In this regard, FAO suggests that all issues raised in the narrative need to have corresponding policy areas which are evidence and science based.

Structural comments on Part 3:

In the development of the next draft, consider re-structuring Part 3. In particular:

- Section 3.3 on “Access to education, capacity building, training, knowledge and information”. The current narrative does not reflect all the issues mentioned in the title. FAO suggests that this section is divided into four sub-sections to ensure that the following areas are adequately addressed i) access to basic education, ii) access to advisory and extension services (in relation to access to capacity building, training, information, and knowledge), iii) access to financial services and iv) access to ICTs. FAO also suggests that “services” be included to the title, which would make it broad enough to cover the various services, including ICTs.
- Section 3.4 on “Access to appropriate technologies, including ICT-based, digital and innovations”. FAO suggests moving this as a sub-section under section 3.3, as it is related to access to knowledge, information, services and capacity building. The broader issue of technologies could

be tackled as a new sub-section under Section 3.6 on, “*access to and control of productive resources*”.

- Section 3.5 on, “*Women’s economic empowerment in the context of food systems*”, consider including text on the challenges that women face in relation to participating in producer organizations and cooperatives, as this influences their ability to engage as business partners and accessing lucrative markets.
- Section 3.6 on “*Access to and control over natural resources, including land*”, FAO suggests dividing this section into two separate sections: (i) A section on access to and control over natural resources, including Land, Water, Fisheries and Forestry, where each theme is a sub-section, to ensure adequate coverage, as these areas are key to the CFS mandate. (ii) Another section on access to and control over productive resources, which includes inputs, improved technology (improved crop varieties, livestock breeding, etc.), mechanized tools and livestock. As indicated above, FAO suggests moving both the sub-sections 3.6.1 on advisory services and 3.6.2 on financial services, to section 3.3
- Section 3.8 on “*Recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work*”. FAO suggests revising this section to expand the narrative beyond domestic and unpaid care work. The section needs to focus on women’s overall work burden including the burden linked to agricultural and productive activities, as women are often confined to perform manually labor-intensive tasks in food systems. The section should also include aspects, such as, the equitable distribution of household care responsibilities; access to and adoption of efficient, women friendly labor-saving technologies and practices; and, access to adequate infrastructure.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm FAO’s commitment to supporting the work of the CFS and the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition.