

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

AGENDA

Regional Consultations - Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition

North America

15-16 November 2021, 10.00 to 13.00 (New York time)¹

Welcome to the CFS Regional Consultation for the North America region. The consultation is part of the process for the preparation of the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*.

OBJECTIVE OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

The Regional Consultation is an opportunity for CFS to receive inputs, comments and suggestions from regional stakeholders on how best to align the future *CFS Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition* with regional and national priorities and needs. See the [webpage](#) dedicated to the CFS Regional Consultations for more information.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

The Regional Consultation will consist of presentations and plenary discussions framed by the [Zero Draft of the Guidelines](#). **Participants are encouraged to read the Zero Draft of the Guidelines before the Regional Consultation.**

The Zero Draft is made up of four parts:

The **first part** provides the background and rationale of the Guidelines, its objectives and information on its nature as well as its intended users.

The **second part** presents the core principles that underpin the Guidelines, taking into account CFS Vision of ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all, and for the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The **third part** is organized into nine sections/themes. Each section presents a problem statement, a narrative and related policy areas for discussion. This part is intended to frame the discussions in the

¹ Please note that registered participants are invited on both days to log-in 30 minutes in advance for security verification and admission into the Zoom meeting.

consultations and inform the preparation of the upcoming versions of the document. It presents initial ideas regarding the issues and topics to be considered and discussed by CFS stakeholders. It does not present suggested text for the future Guidelines.

The **fourth part** includes provisions regarding the implementation of the future Guidelines and the monitoring of their use and application.

TIMETABLE (see [preliminary timetable](#))

Note: On Day 1 during the plenary discussion, participants will be invited to share their general comments, guided by the indicative questions provided in the box below. While on Day 2, the plenary discussion will focus on the sections/themes of the Zero Draft which were indicated as most relevant for the region by the participants at the time of registration. Information on the selected sections for discussion on Day 2 will be posted on this [webpage](#) a few days before the consultation.

Day 1:

- Welcome and introduction to the CFS policy process by the Chair of the CFS Open Ended Working Group on Gender (OEWG Chair).
- Keynote speeches on gender equality by renowned personalities.
- Presentation of the Zero Draft of the Guidelines by the OEWG Chair - Questions and Answers.
- Plenary discussion, led by the Facilitator: participants will be invited to share their general comments, referring to the Zero Draft of the Guidelines. The Facilitator will remind participants to strictly adhere to timekeeping rules (three minutes or less per intervention, as per the Facilitator's instructions).

Indicative guiding questions for plenary discussion:

- Does the Zero Draft appropriately capture the main challenges and barriers that hinder progress in achieving gender equality and the full realization of women's and girls' rights in the context of food security and nutrition in the region? If not, what do you think is missing or should be adjusted?
- Does **Part 2 of the Zero Draft** satisfactorily reflect the core principles which should underpin the Guidelines? If not, how do you propose to improve these principles?
- Do the nine sections of **Part 3 of the Zero Draft** comprehensively cover the policy areas to be addressed to achieve gender equality and the full realization of women's and girls' rights in the context of food security and nutrition? If not, what do you think is missing?

[Please note that the plenary discussion on Day 2 will focus on some of the sections/themes of Part 3, selected by participants at the time of registration – please keep your specific comments on these sections for Day 2].

- Does **Part 4** of the Zero Draft provide all the elements necessary for effective implementation and monitoring of the use and application of the Guidelines? If not, what do you propose to add or change?

- Wrap-up of Day 1 by CFS Senior Gender Expert.

Day 2

- Facilitated plenary discussion on 2-4 sections of Part 3 of the Zero Draft selected by participants at the time of registration. Each section will be introduced by a speaker, referring to the Zero Draft of the

Guidelines. Discussion questions will focus on policy areas and the recommendations to be prioritized taking into account regional circumstances.

- Wrap-up of the day and of the consultation by the CFS Senior Gender Expert.
- Closing remarks by the OEWG Chair.

REPORTING

The results of the Regional Consultation will be documented in a summary of the OEWG Chair, which will be made available soon after the consultation.

LOGISTICS

Dates: Monday, 15 November and Tuesday, 16 November 2021.

Time: 10.00 to 13.00 (New York time).

*Please note that registered participants are invited on both days to **log-in 30 minutes in advance** for security verification and admission into the Zoom meeting.*

Participation and languages: The Regional Consultation is open to CFS member and non-member countries and CFS Participants. The session will also be available via webcast for observers. Interpretation will be provided in English, and French.

Hosting: The Regional Consultation will be hosted as a ZOOM meeting and will be open to registered participants. See [guidance](#) on effective participation in Zoom meetings.

High-level participation: In the event that a Member delegation will include senior-level participation such as a Minister, Vice Minister, State Secretary (or equivalent), those delegations should inform the CFS Secretariat at latest 10 days before the event to be afforded priority protocol consideration on the speakers' list.

Deadline for registration: Participants are invited to register by **7 October**, responding to the invitation sent by the Chair of the Committee to CFS stakeholders.

More information: Please visit the [dedicated webpage](#) or contact CFS-Regional-Consultation@fao.org. Latest news, documents and updates will be posted on this webpage.

Timekeeping: The regional consultation provides an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and interaction. As time is limited, participants are asked to keep their interventions succinct (three minutes or less, as per the Facilitator's instructions) and relevant to the item under discussion. Lengthy interventions may be interrupted.

Social media: Connect with us on social media! Tag us @UN_CFS in your tweets and use the hashtag #CFSGender in your social media outreach. A social media toolkit will be posted on the [dedicated web page](#).

Enquiries: Please contact the CFS Secretariat at CFS-Regional-Consultation@fao.org.