

## NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Dear CFS stakeholders,

We are pleased to share additional information on the schedule, format and specific modalities of the negotiations on the *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*. These modalities are based on the general principles provided in the [Guidance Note on CFS Principles and Guidelines on Negotiations Modalities](#) endorsed by the CFS Bureau in March 2022, providing more specific information for these negotiations.

We encourage Members and Participants to carefully review the [Draft for Negotiations](#) of the Guidelines available in all FAO official languages, in order to start the negotiations with sufficient understanding of its structure and content. More information on the Guidelines and the inclusive process that was followed for their preparation is available in the [working space of the CFS Website](#). The Guidelines for Participants in Zoom meetings are also available in all languages in the [working space of the CFS Website](#).

### 1. Schedule

The confirmed dates and times of the negotiation sessions are the following:

Dates	Times (Rome time)
4-5-6 May 2022	9.30-12.30; 14.30-17.30
27-28-29 June	9.30-12.30; 14.30-17.30
30 June	9.30-12.30
1 July	9.30-12.30; 14.30-17.30
26-27-28-29 July	9.30-12.00; 14.30-17.00

Punctuality is required due to the schedule for interpretation.

Please note that the negotiation session that was originally scheduled for the first week in August has been moved to the last week of July, to accommodate requests from various delegations.

### 2. Format

The first round of negotiations (4-6 May) will be convened in a fully virtual format, using Zoom videoconferencing platform. The second (27 June–1 July) and third round (26-29 July) will both be held in person at FAO headquarters, with registered observers able to passively follow the sessions remotely via Zoom. Additional details on these arrangements will be shared at a later point with the OEWG.

### 3. Modalities

a) Negotiations will be led by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on Gender, Ms Tanja Grén, Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO, WFP and IFAD, and Mr Tomas Duncan Jurado, Permanent Representative of Panama to FAO, WFP and IFAD, with the support of the CFS Secretariat and the Technical Task Team. The CFS Chair will closely monitor progress and process.

b) CFS stakeholders are asked to refrain from making opening or general statements. Inputs should be focused on specific text amendments that do not unnecessarily add to an already lengthy document. Interventions should, ideally, be accompanied by concise substantive rationales for new text proposals.

- c) In the interest of time and efficiency, interventions will be limited to **three minutes**. A timer will be displayed on the screen.
- d) Where possible, Members, Regional Groups and Participant constituencies are asked to coordinate responses in advance and to have only one delegate taking the floor on the same topic to avoid multiple interventions on the same topic or paragraph.
- e) Proposals by Participants that do not find Member support, will receive no further consideration, per standard practice.
- f) Following a first reading of the text and OEWG interventions, the Co-Chairs will offer re-formulated text proposals, where appropriate, that reflect comments and suggestions made, projecting their proposals on the screen for Members' review and agreement. The CFS Secretariat will take careful note of all text proposals and delegations will be provided time for internal consultations on those new text proposals.
- g) Absent agreement, the Co-Chairs may call for an additional round of focused interventions, after which new text proposals may be formulated and presented on screen.
- h) If no agreement is reached following this second round, the Co-Chairs may choose to "park" the unresolved text until a later time, or request that it be addressed in bilateral or small-group discussions. If/when appropriate, they may choose to convene a Friends of the Co-Chairs discussion, to address specific unresolved text, bearing in mind that final agreement must be reached in formal OEWG negotiation sessions.
- i) Sessions will be convened as agreed with FAO (as per the schedule provided above). Formal sessions will be interpreted in FAO's six official languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian). Punctuality is required due to the limited schedule for interpretation.

Regarding virtual negotiations:

- a) Zoom calls will be set for each session for all registered participants who will be given a password to access the sessions.
- b) Observers will be allowed to passively access the virtual sessions via Zoom, pending registration, in line with paragraph 13 of the CFS Reform Document.
- d) All participants in the virtual meeting will be visible to one another and able to turn their video and audio on/off. All participants are encouraged to remain in mute mode until given the floor to speak, and to keep their videos on to ensure a constructive dialogue.
- e) All participants are requested to indicate the name of their Member Nation or their Participant/Observer constituency, followed by their full name.
- f) Please note that poor sound quality is the biggest impediment to interpretation in a virtual meeting, therefore it is recommended to speak slowly and to use a USB-headset or earphones with integrated microphone (not Bluetooth), or use a USB clip-on or personal external microphone.

We strongly recommend all delegations participate in the negotiations with a spirit of mutual understanding and collaboration, with the aim of reaching consensus in the most effective and efficient way, within the limited time available.

We thank you in advance for your commitment and support,

Tanja Grén and Tomàs Duncan Jurado