

**Comments of the Holy See Delegation on the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women's and Girls' in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition**

The Holy See Delegation welcomes the First Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition and takes note of the improvement made.

The Holy See Delegation reiterates the importance of promoting women's and girls' empowerment with regard to food security and nutrition for all. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable in crisis contexts, where they need specific protection. Moreover, the role of women is undeniable in families, communities and societies and it is necessary, therefore, to assure their access to food distribution processes, as well as to good nutrition and healthy diets. On the one hand, women play a unique role in informal care settings, as well as in domestic work, and their social protection needs to be assured. On the other hand, their involvement in food systems as producers and entrepreneurs needs to be recognized and their access to education and to job opportunities enhanced. Promoting women's involvement in policy- and decision-making bodies is also crucial so that they may realize their full potential and decisively contribute to the common good of society. In this context, the Holy See strongly supports and actively promotes equality in dignity and rights between men and women, while not denying their specificity and complementarity.

As regards the proposed Voluntary Guidelines First Draft, the Holy See Delegation reiterates the comments made regarding the previous Zero Draft version, and encourages using a precise and adequate language in conformity with international law, in order to reach consensus and to effectively address the challenges women and girls face.

In particular:

- The reference in the text to expressions such as “gender mainstreaming” (parr. 26, 30 vi), “gender transformative interventions and innovative solutions” (parr. 11, 22, 31 ii, 47 vii), “positive masculinity” (parr. 31 ii, 47 vi), “women and girls in all their diversities” (par. 30 ii), “sexual and gender's-based violence” (guideline n. 3.3) find no clear and agreed definition in international law and are well known as confusing and widely controversial. Therefore, the Holy See Delegation requests that these expressions may be removed from the draft.
- For the same reasons, the Holy See Delegation requests to replace the expressions “intersectionality” and “multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination” (parr. 8, 25, 62, 109) with the phrase “all forms of discrimination”.
- Moreover, the Holy See would prefer to refer to the phrase “disaggregated data according to sex” rather than to “gender-disaggregated data” (par. 27).
- The reference to “sexual and reproductive health and sexual and reproductive rights” (in parr. 5, 33 and 108) is also unacceptable to our Delegation as it is not defined nor recognized in international law. In this regard, the Holy See delegation insists on the need to

maintain a holistic approach to the health of the person, considering the interdependence of her body and soul.

In conclusion, the Holy See Delegation underlines the importance to ensure the widest consensus and to exclude any controversial language from the Voluntary Guidelines, in order to maintain the focus in line with the CFS mandate, and to keep the discussion oriented towards the purpose of producing a policy product that may widely serve as a practical reference in the context of food security and nutrition.

Thank you.