

# **BRAZIL**

## **Committee on World Food Security - CFS 49th Plenary Session Oct 11-14, 2021**

### **V.b) Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment Workstream**

Data from FAO and ECLAC estimate that, in Latin America and the Caribbean alone, around 75 million people may live in extreme poverty due to the effects of the pandemic. In rural areas, this situation may become even more serious. Extreme rural poverty could increase to an unprecedented 42%. This means 10 million people, of which 6 million are women and girls. This shows us that even in a health crisis, women and girls are the most affected. And that the right to food of women's and girls' is central to the fight of food insecurity and malnutrition. In this sense, we welcome the Draft Zero of the Voluntary Guidelines and commend the Technical Task Team for its preparation.

Since 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil and FAO have been partners in the campaign "Rural Women, Women with Rights", focused on giving visibility to women who live and work in a context of structural inequalities and social, economic and environmental challenges.

In order to promote the full autonomy of rural women, it is necessary to guarantee access to resources for investments to promote their agri-food work, rural tourism, handcrafting, among others. This is one of the purposes of Pronaf Mulher, a credit line of the National Program for Strengthening Family Farming aimed at rural women, regardless of their marital status.

In addition, Brazil also develops public policies to reduce inequality and expand access to land, credit and technical assistance to women: Empowering rural women is promoting agricultural productivity and the country's growth. Brazil deems paramount that programs and actions aimed at fostering investments in agricultural and non-agricultural activities in rural areas prioritize women, including access to credit and transfer of non-reimbursable financial resources for investment in productive enterprises - in the case of families in vulnerable socio-economic situation.

We want more women managing rural properties, working in cooperative management, fishing, planting and harvesting. More women recognized for their vital role in promoting the country's sustainable development. It is fundamental to increase the participation of women in institutions that provide rural training and technical assistance.

Empowering women and girls necessarily involves, first and above all, building better living conditions for them, a key step towards sustainable rural development and for the future we want. In addition to our recognition, rural women and girls need our action. Fighting poverty, especially women's poverty, and, in particular, rural women's and girls' poverty, is one of the most effective actions for sustainable development and for guaranteeing their food and nutritional security.

For these reasons, Brazil supports and fully engages in this policy convergence process of Gender Equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment for food and nutrition security. We see with appreciation that combatting women's and girl's poverty and the promotion of their right to adequate food guides the document, as the base for their sustainable development as a whole.