



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**50th Committee on World Food Security  
(10-13 October 2022)**

**Item III: The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's  
and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and  
Nutrition – Draft Decision**

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. Please allow me to start by thanking the Co-Chairs, Tanja Gren and Tomas Duncan, as well as the CFS Chair, Gabriel Ferrero, and the whole CFS team, for all their efforts in the CFS workstream on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.
4. Achieving full gender equality and the empowerment of all women's and girls' is fundamental to the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and to ensure the right to adequate food. Empowering women is indispensable to ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and to achieve SDG 2.
5. The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWGE) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition devote special attention to women and girls in the contexts of humanitarian emergencies, crises and conflict. Against the backdrop of the impact of COVID-19 and the escalating food crises, such CFS Voluntary Guidelines can give useful guidance to governments and other stakeholders.

6. We believe that the voluntary nature of the guidelines can provide a vision and strategy that each country can build on to enhance policies and practices.
7. We therefore regret that it was not possible to establish a consensus on the Voluntary Guidelines at the end of July.
8. Even so, we strongly believe that it is vital to continue to reach an agreement on CFS Voluntary Guidelines on GEWGE.
9. We recommend building on the around 80 % of the draft text that was agreed ad referendum in July. We encourage CFS Members and other stakeholders to complete the process that we all agreed on when adopting the 2020-2023 MYPoW at CFS 46 (2019).
10. The Terms of Reference (ToR) adopted at CFS 47 (2021) and the UN-agreed language (including UNGA resolutions and CSW65) should be used as a basis for negotiations. We cannot accept that the ToR or the UN-agreed language used and anchored in the GEWGE text are questioned. This would be a retrograde step and would undo the progress achieved in other UN fora.
11. We consider it essential to agree on ambitious principles that can be used to underpin the Voluntary Guidelines and that these principles should be based on a rights-based approach.
12. It is also essential that the Voluntary Guidelines clearly recognise that women and girls often experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, as well as sexual and gender-based violence.
13. We appreciate the priority that was given to gender transformative approaches in the draft for negotiations and we would like to keep focusing on that aspect.
14. We believe that this process is at the heart of the CFS. We value the inclusive space to discuss and search solutions for challenges in the context of food security and nutrition that require a multilateral and multi-stakeholder response.
15. We stand ready to engage constructively with all CFS members and stakeholders to secure agreement on the ambitious CFS Voluntary Guidelines

on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (GEWGE) in the context of food security and nutrition by the latest at CFS51, as well as to advance gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in this regard. This is all the more important given the global challenges that affect us all.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.