

### **Agenda 3 - EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Intervention:

Thank you Chair.

Kiribati believes in the old African proverb: open quote “If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family (nation)” close quote.

Kiribati’s Education Strategy had provided a free education system to all. The strategy is developed to encourage parents to send their children boys and girls alike as to support the literacy among our female population. Nowadays Mr. Chair, I can proudly say to this forum that our women are able to occupy high positions in government. Nonetheless it had to be noted that there are still some professions that need our female to challenge. It is not because they are discriminated against but it is of their own choice.

However, Mr. Chair, in our Kiribati society, and I guess a lot of other societies as well, a woman has the role of caring for the family. She raises children and ensures the food for the family is cooked and ready while the man ensures he goes out to get all the food that is required by the entire family. Nowadays, our women are also bread winners as they get good education and have decent jobs to get good income but the role of cooking is still theirs.

Coming back and tired from her job she still expected to cook for the family. Most of the time, convenient foods are the means to get her by and whether these convenient foods are nutritious for the family – that’s up to her. If she knows how to prepare the food to be tasty, I don’t think anyone will complain but the question still remains whether the food served is nutritious for the entire family.

In saying this, Chair, Kiribati would request if convenient foods are made to be nutritious – if they had to be fortified – let them be but they have to be affordable while those that impose health issues are made to be expensive.

### **Agenda 5 - DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TOOLS**

Intervention:

Thank you Chair for the opportunity.

Since Kiribati is the new member to CFS this year and although we haven’t viewed the policy that stated, we are in the position to support these initiatives or the policy that developed given our context and our need to establish a frequent data collection and analysis. The raw data itself will have no meaning or meaningless unless they are well analyzed which is a key ingredient for well informed decisions. We also anticipate that this policy will give the opportunity to train and build the capacity of our on-the- ground Officials in the collecting and analyzing of raw data.

Chair, currently our agriculture data collection is usually done by our National Statistics Office (NSO). The NSO or this Office does the population census every 5 years and as such carries this agriculture census as well. Five years is a long time and we really in need for a more frequent data collection. With the 3Cs (Climate change, COVID19 and Conflicts) as our IFAD speaker puts it, we need data to make timely decisions.

The mVAM tool that had been introduced to us by FWP are the type of data collection tools that are much needed. The analytical skills that come with it is much more needed as it helps us to prepare and develop appropriate actions needed from the impacts.

Chair, Kiribati supports the policy and welcomes partners to assist us in implementing the policy in our own context as it is encouraged to be done so.

Thank you