

## **Empowering women and girls and promoting gender equality (kl 11.00-11.50)**

Thank you very much chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I think we can agree that we are at a time of multiple global crisis, including food crises where the right to food is compromised. But to agree on solutions we first need to agree on description of the problem. And it is difficult to find those solutions if the description of the problem has shortcomings.

To overcome the hard times, including the food crises, we need to know more about how women and men are affected, and affected differently, by today's crises, including in the case of Russia's war against Ukraine.

The international food security classification – which you all know well as IPC - does not provide a gender disaggregated view of food security. And I'm afraid that this is likely to hide a serious gender dimension to food security.

So we need good data to be effective in our policies and measures.

We need to understand who, what, when and how food is produced, distributed, and consumed.

So Norway works closely with the Rome-based organizations to strengthen the gender evidence, within their respective areas.

But hhis said, weakness in data and statistics is no excuse for not acting now – using the information we that we already have.

We know that women in all our diversity lack access to and control over essential assets, resources, and services. The gender gap is particularly evident when it comes to rights to own and use natural resources in agriculture and fisheries.

So, the solutions – although complex – are at the same time right there in front of us: Because we do know something about the potential that women possess, when we are allowed to contribute on an equal footing with men.

In that regard, it is pertinent to remind ourselves how important it is that women's sexual and reproductive rights are realized.

Based on the experience of the development of the economy of my own country, Norway, I can put my hand on my hear and say that: *A society that allows women's rights, allows itself prosperity.* The evidence is crystal clear.

And it is this potential that we must unleash at a time when the world is on fire, from war, from the climate crisis, from hunger and from injustice.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let's lift women up and forward in agriculture and fishery policies, and most of all allow us to lift ourselves. We are already doing the work, but our work must be recognized in economic, social, and legal terms.

Let's ensure that girls and boys in the countryside get adequate nutrition, education, and equal opportunities for a good childhood.

I certainly see the work of developing the guidelines for women's and girl's empowerment and gender equality in food security as one important contribution to unleash this potential. And friends, I would like to call on all members to support brave and useful guidelines, in line with the terms of reference for the process building on UN agreed language.

And I would also like to say that Norway supports and appreciate the chairs efforts to reach consensus, and we will certainly be very constructive in the upcoming discussions.

At home, we are carving out a new strategy on food security within our development policy. The strategy will have a strong emphasis on gender, in order to make sure that our initiatives on food security place gender equality front and center.

So, ladies and gentlemen, fulfilling women's and girl's rights is not as a sidetrack. It is key to global food security.

Thank you!