

**EXPLANATION OF POSITION ON THE ENDORSEMENT OF
THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY
AND WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN
THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

**DELIVERED BY INDONESIA ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALGERIA,
CAMEROON, KUWAIT, MALAYSIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
SUDAN AND SENEGAL**

Thank you, Chair.

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of **Algeria
Cameroon, Kuwait, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sudan,
Senegal**, and ourselves.

At the outset, allow me to thank the Facilitators for facilitating and guiding us to finally adopting the Voluntary Guidelines.

Accordingly, Indonesia and countries alike have engaged constructively and in good faith throughout the negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines, with a view to reaching a balanced, substantive, and consensus-based outcome document.

Despite the efforts to construct a universally and consensually agreed elements, the Voluntary Guidelines contains a concept that does not necessarily reflect universal consensus of all member states.

The debate over this element continues to diverge and divide the view of states.

Thus, our delegations would like to reserve our position on the reference of **“Multiple and Intersecting Forms of Discrimination (MIFD)”**.

Nonetheless, nothing in this explanation of position would prevent us from undertaking our commitment in advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

Finally, we would like to request the Chair and the CFS Secretariat to register this explanation of position to be included in CFS51 Report and as the official annex of the said report.

Thank you.

Having said that, I would now like to hand over the mic to my colleague to convey the statement in our national capacity...

Chair, these guidelines are important in ensuring gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and will contribute to ending hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all.

This includes women and girls who **are suffering as the result of the attacks in Gaza. We must ensure the unimpeded access to nutritious, safe, adequate, and healthy foods as well as the rights to water and the rights to development of all Palestinians.**

With these in mind, we would like to share 2 points on the adoption of these Voluntary Guidelines today:

First, the importance of implementing this document to be guided by national priorities and context.

In Indonesia, there are 25.4 million farmers and 24 percent of them are women. **2.8 million Farming households are led by women.**

However, despite their significant contribution to the agricultural landscape, they are facing many challenges.

We believe that education is key. This is why Indonesia allocates 20% of the State and Regional Budgets for education in the country. We also prioritize various capacity-building programs for rural women to become more effective and sustainable farmers, be able to create small and medium enterprises, as well as to increase their access to financial support.

All Ministries in Indonesia, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, through various strategic programs in their Strategic Plan for 2020-2024, are committed to implementing gender mainstreaming strategies in agricultural development programs at every stage.

Second, implementing these guidelines to expand access and opportunity for women in all aspects of life.

More Indonesian women are holding public positions. Women's representation in the national parliament jumped from 8.8% in 1999 to 20.9% in 2019. In 2018, 18 out of 101 women were elected to local positions, such as vice regents and vice mayors.

With women in leadership positions at the national, regional, and local levels the notions of “**women support women**” and “**she for she**” will become even stronger, thus... creating a safe space for women will become more feasible and tangible.

These voluntary guidelines are equipped with all the policy recommendations we need to **expand access and opportunity for women in all aspects of life.**

Chairperson,

Let me conclude by reaffirming our commitment to work with other stakeholders in ensuring continued efforts for the advancement of women.

We must not stop only at the adoption of these voluntary guidelines, but to carry it forward with concrete uptake and implementation.

I thank you.