



Permanent Mission of Iceland to FAO

**Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
51st Session in Rome, Italy 23-27 October 2023**

Statement by

Ambassador Matthías G. Pálsson

on

**Agenda item V: Empowering Women and Girls and Promoting Gender
Equality – endorsement of the CFS Guidelines on Gender Equality**

Mr. Chairman.

Iceland fully aligns with the statement delivered by the EU yesterday.

Iceland welcomes the endorsement of the CFS voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

As a country which emphasizes gender equality and the empowerment of women we are convinced that the guidelines, albeit voluntary, will prove to be a powerful tool in the fight for equality, both in the context of food security and nutrition and hopefully in other arenas.

This is a historic achievement here at CFS and at FAO, and the symbolism that this endorsement took place on 24 October, the UN day, is not lost on us.

For Iceland 24th of October is also a special day with respect to women's fight for equality, as since 1975 women in Iceland have regularly gone on a so-called „women's strike”, not doing any paid or unpaid work on this very day, in order to exhibit the importance of women in society and in the labour market, as well as to demand equal pay. Yesterday tens of thousands of Icelandic women, including our Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir, were thus on strike. The women's strike in Iceland yesterday drew particular attention to the country's ongoing gender pay gap and widespread gender-based and sexual violence. It turned out to be a very important and successful event, with almost 100.000 persons gathering in downtown Reykjavík, demanding changes.

Back to CFS, I would like to thank everyone who assisted in the negotiation and conclusion of the Guidelines, in particular the co-facilitators and the chairman of the CFS, and congratulate all of us on their endorsement.

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