

MALAYSIA'S INTERVENTION

AGENDA ITEM 5: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY: ENDORSEMENT AND UPTAKE OF THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT (GEWE) IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND ND NUTRITION (FOR DECISION)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Malaysia would like to extend its appreciation to the Chair and CFS for their concerted efforts and facilitation throughout series of negotiations of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

The Malaysia agrofood sector aspires to improve the social wellbeing of the people, from the standpoint of socio-economic, inclusivity and food availability. The wellbeing of the food producers is amongst the key policy principle in the development of the agrofood sector alongside inclusivity in National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030. Malaysia recognizes that greater participation from women, youth and those living in the rural and remote areas can potentially contribute to the development of the agrofood sector. It is not just an economic activity and additional income for those groups, it reduces income gap and encourages those groups to participate in the Malaysian economy and benefit from the economic prosperity with an emphasis on the provision of equitable opportunity for them to improve their income levels and wellbeing.

Under Strategy 3 of National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030: enhancing inclusivity of agrofood sector, Malaysia will identify and promote suitable career opportunities and implementation of technology for women in the agrofood sector as one of its action plans. In addition, Malaysia will increase scholarship for women to enrol and participate in relevant agrofood programmes. These action plans are aligned with Part 3 of the voluntary guideline in particular point 3.6, access to education, capacity building, training, knowledge and information services.

Malaysia acknowledges the importance of this voluntary guideline in accelerating progress towards the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in food security and nutrition. In this spirit, Malaysia had maintained its position of joining consensus on this voluntary guideline. However, we are compelled to express our reservation on certain terminology that is inconsistent with Malaysia's position. It is significant to ensure that the terminologies used in any future negotiations receive consensus from all Members, in order to encourage the voluntary uptake of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines amongst Members for implementation at national level. Moving forward, implementation, follow-up and review process must not side-line inclusive multilateralism as embodied by UN and CFS.

With that, I thank you.