

Agenda Item V. 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 Nutrition

Thank you Chair.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would like to underscore the importance of gender equality in food and nutrition security and welcomes in this regard the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment. The Voluntary Guidelines' approach to address the root causes of gender inequality that affects women and girls' rights to adequate food, including the need for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender-based violence, access to and control over natural and productive resources, and unequal distribution of unpaid care work.

The Guidelines, like others previously, should be interpreted and applied in consistence with States' existing obligations under international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments, in addition to national law.

When it comes to women's unpaid care work, the most recent developments at the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council include the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/317 this July, which recognized the need to create gender-responsive, disability-inclusive and age-sensitive care and support systems with full respect for human rights. Human Rights Council resolution 54/6, adopted in October, further recognized the importance of realizing the human rights of paid and unpaid caregivers as well as human rights of care and support recipients, and that the equal distribution of care and support work is a fundamental basis for achieving gender equality.

Women, including girls, young women, older women and women with disabilities, face inequality both as caregivers as well as receivers of care and support. We encourage Member States to complement the implementation of the CFS Guidelines with this continuous evolution of human rights standards in line with States' human rights obligations.

The UN Human Rights Office looks forward to collaborating with the CFS to strengthen its work to put the rights of women and girls at the centre of policy- and decision-making processes related to the right to food.

Thank you.