

CFS Chair Ambassador Ferrero, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of our Executive Director, I am honored to have this opportunity to address the 51st session of the Committee on World Food Security.

I would like to congratulate you and express our gratitude for the tremendous efforts by all stakeholders, under the exceptional leadership of the Chair, towards the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

In the midst of cascading and compounding crises we must invoke global solidarity and renewed multilateralism to end hunger, ensure food security and nutrition, and protect and promote the right to food *for all*, but especially for women and girls.

Endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines clearly signals that we are committed to transforming our food systems so that women and girls equally participate and benefit.

These Guidelines are a crucial normative tool to help shape our policy and programmatic interventions – and UN Women stands ready to support every step of the way.

As I have said before, the Voluntary Guidelines are more than text, more than agreed language.

They represent the very lives and livelihoods at stake. They reflect the aspirations of the women and girls who eat least and eat last. And they reaffirm the promise of sustainable, nutritious and affordable food for productive, safe, dignified lives, as mandated in our UN Charter and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Now is the time to truly turn our promises into action. It is time to invest in the implementation of the Guidelines. And we must ensure that women and girls are at the centre.

On behalf of the world's women and girls whom we serve, UN Women is keen to work with all of you to advance gender equality, realize rights and achieve food security and nutrition for all. From technical advice to policy and programmatic action, UN Women will support the implementation of the Guidelines.

I thank you.