

CFS OWEG – 5 July 2021 – VG on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE)

Here: GER position on the Zero Draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition

General remarks:

- GER thanks the CFS Secretariat for developing the second version of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition as it is essential to achieving all SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and advocates the empowerment and equal participation of all women and girls - especially in the fields of nutrition, agriculture and rural areas.
- As stated before, we welcome the structured framework of the process and we appreciate the transparent procedure.
- We appreciate that our comments on the previous, preliminary draft have been taken into account.

Part 2:

- Women play a significant role, among others, in the production, processing and marketing of food and thus make a particular contribution to food security and the realization of the human right to adequate food.
- We welcome the statement that the empowerment of women and girls is one of the most effective ways to reduce child malnutrition and infant mortality.
- However, due to a high prevalence of malnutrition and food insecurity among women and girls, particular attention needs to be given to their nutritional needs and here especially to the nutritional needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women. The realization of women and girls sexual and reproductive health and rights is an important element in ensuring food security
- We therefore welcome the reference to gender empowerment and gender transformative approaches as well as the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data to improve evidence-based policy-making in the paragraphs 19, 20 and 23.
- Furthermore, we welcome the references to the call for action regarding the representation of women compared to men e.g. on farms in paragraphs 18, 20, 23 and 27.

Part 3:

- We welcome the linkages between the different sections and the topic of food and nutrition security. For some sections (e.g. access to financial services, access to land) this linkage could be further strengthened.
- We support the general approach of emphasizing access to and use of resources, such as access to land and creative power.

- We also support the references to the role of men and boys in achieving food security and nutrition. In this context, we would welcome the formulation of proposed solutions for an active, equality-oriented involvement of men and boys, as their involvement is central due to the decision-making powers they often (still) have. Boys and men should be proactively enthused about gender equality goals and made aware of the overall benefits.¹
- We welcome the reference to the importance of women's access to education and training in the field of nutrition in section 3.3.
- We also welcome the reference to the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in section 3.4. The area of participation in the design of agri-tech platforms can be an interesting area for women in agriculture.

¹ Exemplary sources: Engaging Men for Improved Nutrition Outcomes in Mozambique A Concern Worldwide Learning Paper:
https://admin.concern.net/sites/default/files/media/migrated/engaging_men_for_improved_nutrition_outcomes_in_mozambique.pdf; Engaging Men to Improve Nutrition and Gender Equality:
<https://www.agrilinks.org/post/engaging-men-improve-nutrition-and-gender-equality>