

## **Comments of the Holy See delegation on the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women's and Girls in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition**

The Holy See delegation takes note of the improvements made to the second version of the *Zero Draft* of the CFS *Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition*.

Nevertheless, the Holy See delegation reiterates the importance to adopt a document in line with the original intent expressed in 2019 by the Preliminary Proposal of the CFS gender workstream. In that occasion it was said that allowing women to earn their own income, invest the majority of their earnings back into their families - on nutrition, healthy food, healthcare, schooling, and farming activities - is crucial for food security, nutrition, and agricultural development<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, the voluntary guidelines must promote the full exercise of the unique and irreplaceable role of women not only for women themselves, but also for their families, communities, and society at large. In this regard, any attempt to include in the text references to the Agenda LGBT is incompatible with the object and the purpose of the Guidelines.

Moreover, the Holy See delegation consider essential to use agreed language at international level. It means that by "gender," the Holy See delegation understands to mean "male or female", and to have no meaning other than the customary and general usage of the term. Regarding the terms "sexual and reproductive health," "sexual and reproductive health-care services," "reproductive rights" and "family planning" and other language on which the Holy See has registered reservations at Cairo and Beijing, we reiterate these reservations as set out more fully in the Report of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and in the Report of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women. We reject the existence of "safe abortion" and views this contradictory in nature, and ICPD denies recourse to abortion for family planning and the creation of any new rights in this regard. For the same reason, the Holy See delegation considers that the concept of "all forms of discriminations" shall substitute for "multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations".

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<sup>1</sup> Cfr. CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work 2020-2023, par. 24.