

Dear Ms. Satu and colleagues from CFS Secretariat,

Please find below our talking points, which were used for the Russia's statement at the OEWG on 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 (5 July 2021):

- 1) We express our gratitude to Ms.Satu for her work, leadership and dedication to the «gender workstream».
- 2) The zero draft is a good starting point to continue discussions. We do not see it necessary to agree or endorse the zero draft on an intermediate stage. It contradicts with the current CFS practice.
- 3) We agree the vision of the Chair on the process of elaboration of the VG, in particular to focus our work on Part 3 of the document (main substantial part). However it is absolutely important for OEWG to have the opportunity to enrich Part 1, 2 and 4 and to make further adjustments and corrections.
- 4) We kindly request to reflect *the voluntary status of monitoring* in Part 4 of the draft. The monitoring of implementation of the Guidelines should be voluntary in nature. It is clear from the status of the whole document, which is voluntary and non-binding.
- 5) In order to avoid multiple interpretation of certain concepts in the draft we suggest to use «gender stereotypes» throughout the whole text instead of terms «gender norms» and «social norms».
- 6) It would be inaccurate to consider the equal rights of adults and children as it is envisaged in the document. It contradicts with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as its Article 5 states: «*the rights and duties of parents or...legal guardians... to provide, ..., appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention*». Thus, there should be a clear distinction between rights of adults and children.
- 7) In order to avoid multiple interpretation of certain concepts we kindly ask you to replace "gender equalities"/"gender inequalities" with "gender equality"/"gender inequality" throughout the whole text. The same is with the term "gender perspectives" that should be changed to "gender perspective". Our preference is to use «violence against women» instead of «gender based violence» and we also insist on using term "sex" instead of "gender" in para 6 and 25 of the document.
- 8) It is our firm position that any reference to "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" should be accompanied with the phrase «in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences».