



## Open Ended Working Group on Gender

Document No: CFS OEWG-Gender/2022/02/21/02

### OEWG Meeting

21 February 2022 – 9.30-12.30 and 14.00-16.30

## CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY

### ITEM 1 - Introductory remarks

The meeting was opened by the CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero y De Loma-Osorio. He welcomed participants to this important meeting for the preparation of the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition*. He thanked participants for their commitment and active participation in this crucial policy convergence process. He also thanked the OEWG Co-chairs, Ms Tanja Grén (Finland) and Mr Tomas Duncan Jurado (Panama), for jointly leading the process.

The Co-Chairs reminded participants of the objective of the meeting, which was to discuss the First Draft of the Guidelines (posted on 18 January in all FAO's official languages) and share comments for the preparation of the Draft for Negotiations. They expressed their appreciation to participants for attending the meeting and for sending their comments on the First Draft before the meeting - noting that all comments had been posted [in the CFS working space](#). They thanked the members of the Technical Task Team and Dr Alyson Brody for helping the Secretariat develop the First Draft, addressing the comments received during the regional and electronic consultations in September-November 2021. They then presented the agenda of the meeting (in Annex).

### ITEM 2 - Comments on the First Draft of the Guidelines

The First Draft was generally well received by the OEWG members. Participants found the document significantly improved, better grounded in Human Rights, well-balanced and with an appropriate level of ambition. Participants noted improvements in the language and concepts, with more focus on transformative approaches and concepts such as transectionality, positive masculinity and inclusion.

However, the document was found to be very long and it was recommended to shorten it, streamlining and merging different sections, and avoiding repetitions. In Part 3 of the document, it was recommended to shorten the "Issues and Challenges" sections and give more attention to the "Policies and Strategic Approaches" sections, providing more concrete, practical and applicable recommendations to address the root causes of gender inequalities relevant to food security and nutrition.

Participants provided a number of suggestions and ideas on how to further improve the document, underlining some of the areas that should be strengthened in the Draft for Negotiations, which included:

- Using language and concepts agreed in intergovernmental forums, crucial for successful negotiations, and text agreed in earlier negotiations of CFS policy products;
- Including more reference to women's specific issues related to marginalization, discrimination and exclusion;
- Giving more importance to issues of trade, justice, legal and property rights, climate change and

sustainable food systems;

- Acknowledging the diversity of women and non-binary identities, with reference to LGBTI;
- Recognizing the diversity of food systems and that empowering women in non-sustainable food systems was not the right approach, stressing the importance of agro-ecology for sustainability;
- Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' knowledge throughout the document;
- Framing the document within the CFS mandate with reference to the Right to Adequate Food and food security and nutrition (FSN) for all;
- Emphasizing the human rights based approach;
- Stressing the need to share responsibility between women and men in ensuring the nutrition of their family, avoiding to give too much responsibility and work to women;
- Clarifying the role of non-government actors in implementing the Guidelines;
- Supporting the text with more recent data and information.

### ITEM 3 - Next steps of the process

- The Co-Chairs and the CFS Secretariat took careful note of all the comments received, which will inform the preparation of the Draft for Negotiations. OEWG members were invited to share in writing the comments made at the meeting to help the Secretariat address their comments.
- The next version of the document, the Draft for Negotiations, will be prepared by the Secretariat addressing the comments received before and during the meeting, with the support of the Senior Gender Consultant and the Technical Task Team.
- The Draft for Negotiations in all six FAO official languages will be shared beginning of April, with the advance version in English already posted in the CFS Working Space site by 15 March.
- The Draft for Negotiations will be discussed in an OEWG meeting on 21 April, from 14.30 to 17.30 (Rome time), with interpretation provided in all FAO languages. The objective of this meeting is to better understand the views and positions of stakeholders before the formal negotiations start, but no change will be made to the document.
- The confirmed dates for the negotiations are 4-5-6 May (all day); 27-28-29 June (all day); 30 June (AM), 1 July (all day); 1-5 August (all day).
- The Guidelines will be presented to Plenary for endorsement at the CFS 50 Plenary on 11 October 2022.

**Annex – Agenda of the OEWG meeting, 21 February 2022**

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#	Item	Indicative timing	Document No	Item type
<b>Morning Session</b>				
1	<b>Introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs of the OEWG</b>	09.30 – 09.40		For information
2	<b>First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWGE</b>		CFS OEWG-Gender/2022/02/21/01	For discussion
	General comments from participants	09.40 – 10.30		
	Comments on <b>Part 1:</b> (Introduction) <b>and Part 2</b> (Core principles that underpin the Guidelines)	10.30 – 11.30		
	Comments on <b>Part 3:</b> Sections 3.1 to 3.10	11.30 – 12.30		
<b>Afternoon Session</b>				
	Comments on <b>Part 3:</b> Sections 3.1 to 3.10 - Continuing	14.00 –16.00		
	Comments on <b>Part 4:</b> Promotion, Implementation and Monitoring	16.00 – 16.50		
3	Next steps of the process	16.50 – 17.00		For information