

## **KENYA COMMENTS ON CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

1. The CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and nutrition provide a legitimate point of reference for addressing gender inequalities.
2. We take note that they further provide an avenue for gender mainstreaming across all sectors in order to generate efficient and equitable development outcomes in the context of food security and nutrition.
3. We however note that that the guidelines need to make reference to instruments that are acknowledged by member states, we urge that they also further refer to regional instruments and other international legal frameworks and initiatives among them:
  - ❖ The role and the commitment to the African Union Development Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Global Agenda 2030.
  - ❖ The African Union strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) 2018-2028 which was launched during the AU Summit February 2019
  - ❖ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR")
  - ❖ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("ICESCR")
  - ❖ The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

- ❖ The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
- ❖ the Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- ❖ The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which all have gender equality imperatives as an obligation.
- ❖ Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, the Beijing Platform for Action
- ❖ the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and
- ❖ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All these treaties and initiatives will have a great influence among countries as they domesticate these guidelines into their national contexts especially in Africa.

**4. We urge That the guidelines be enriched to provide for clauses that guide on;**

- ❖ Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere and specifically target to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation.
- ❖ Eliminating harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation
- ❖ Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as appropriate.

- ❖ Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making including political, economic and agriculture production.
- ❖ Access to and control over environmental resources is gender biased. Men are the main actors in the management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources such as forests, wildlife, minerals etc. This has significant implications on the Gross Domestic Product and the livelihoods of citizens dependent on the environment and natural resources.
- ❖ For sustainable use and development of these resources there is need for their sustainable development that considers the gender bias to ensure the resources are not polluted, inequitably allocated or diminished.
- ❖ Women in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. Women charged with securing water, food and fuel for cooking and heating face the greatest challenges.
- ❖ Women also experience unequal access to resources and decision-making processes over the resources, with limited mobility in rural areas. It is thus important to identify gender-sensitive strategies that respond to these crises for women.
- ❖ There is need to develop and institutionalize tools for effective monitoring and evaluation.