

### OEWG Meeting

21 April 2022 – 14.30-16.30

### CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY

#### ITEM 1 - Introductory remarks

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tomás Duncan Jurado (Panama), Co-Chair of the OEWG on gender. The Co-Chair welcomed participants and thanked them for their commitment to this important policy convergence process.

The Co-Chair reminded participants of the objective of the meeting, which was to hear the views and positions of CFS Members and Participants on [the Draft for Negotiations](#) of the *CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition* before the start of formal negotiations on 4 May 2022. The discussion was intended to give the Co-Chairs an overview of the different positions among the membership, and allow them to identify possible contentious paragraphs. He underlined that no change will be made to the Draft for Negotiations before the negotiations start.

The Draft for Negotiations of the Guidelines was posted at the beginning of May 2022 in all FAO official languages. An advance version in English was shared on 15 March 2022.

The Co-Chair then presented the agenda of the meeting (in Annex).

#### ITEM 2 - Comments on the Draft for Negotiations of the Guidelines

The Co-Chair clarified that the Draft for Negotiations of the Guidelines was prepared taking into account the comments received on the First Draft.

In particular:

- The document was shortened, streamlining and merging paragraphs and eliminating repetitions.
- In Part 3, the "Issues and Challenges" sections were condensed and more attention was given to the "Policies and Strategic Approaches" sections, providing more concrete recommendations.
- More references were provided in the footnotes on languages and concepts agreed in intergovernmental forums.
- More attention was given to women's specific issues related to marginalization, discrimination and exclusion.

In general, participants expressed their appreciation of the document. They liked the fact that the document was shorter. They found it improved, more focused and coherent. They expressed hope that the Guidelines will remain ambitious and foster transformative approaches, and that an inclusive policy convergence process will ensure strong commitment and ownership to effectively implement them. The heightened emphasis on inclusion and intersectionality, at a time when women face multiple forms of discrimination that impact food security and nutrition for themselves and their families, was commended. Participants appreciated the provision of more concrete, practical and applicable recommendations.

In view of the forthcoming negotiations, participants provided recommendations, including the following:

- Use exclusively language and concepts agreed in intergovernmental forums to facilitate consensus, maintaining focus on CFS mandate and the objective of the Guidelines.



## Open Ended Working Group on Gender

- Keep explanations regarding the linkages between the challenges and solutions to improve food security and nutrition. Some of those explanations were eliminated when the document was shortened.
- Focus systematically on the structural causes of gender inequality to promote transformative approaches to addressing gender inequality.
- Adopt a people-centered approach that promotes diversity, inclusion and gender equality, with a commitment to inclusive, representative and meaningful actions to ensure that the needs and priorities of all people are reflected in the Guidelines.
- Acknowledge women's diversity, with a more inclusive approach and language in terms of gender diversity to promote inclusion, equality and non-discrimination of women with non-binary gender identity.
- Include the principle of national ownership as part of the core principles of the Guidelines.
- Ensure the development of an institutionalized tool for the effective monitoring and implementation of the Guidelines.

### ITEM 3 - Next steps of the process

- The Co-Chair and the CFS Secretariat took note of all the comments received. OEWG members were invited to share in writing the comments made at the meeting by Tuesday 26 April.
- The first round of negotiations will start on Wednesday 4 May and will continue on 5 and 6 May. The schedule of the sessions is 9.30-12.30 and 14.30-17.30 (Rome time). All sessions will be interpreted in the six FAO official languages.
- The first round of negotiations will be held in a fully virtual format using the zoom video conferencing platform. All following rounds are anticipated to be held in person at FAO HQ.
- The modalities for the negotiations are provided in [the Guidance Note on CFS principles and Guidelines on Negotiation Modalities](#), as approved by the CFS Bureau after its 23 March 2022 meeting.

### Annex 1: Provisional Agenda

#	Item	Indicative timing	Document No.	Item type
1	<b>Introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs of the OEWG</b>	14.30 – 14.40		For information
2	<b>Draft for Negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on GEWGE</b>		CFS OEWG- Gender/2022/04/21/01	For discussion
	General comments	14.40 – 15.00		
	Comments on <b>Part 1:</b> Introduction	15.00 – 15.20		
	Comments on <b>Part 2:</b> Core principles that underpin the Guidelines	15.20 – 15.40		
	Comments on <b>Part 3:</b> Sections 3.1 to 3.10	15.40 – 17.00		
	Comments on <b>Part 4:</b> Promotion, Implementation and Monitoring	17.00 – 17.20		
3	<b>Next steps of the process</b>	17.20 – 17.30		For information