

## **COMMENTS/FEEDBACK FROM MALAYSIA**

Malaysia welcomes the revised draft of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition and applauds the progress that has been made so far by the CFS Secretariat especially the CFS Chairperson.

Malaysia recognizes that women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition is pertinent in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as ensuring food systems that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Malaysia emphasizes for more increased support of women's empowerment in the food systems that can lead to increased contribution throughout the agrifood value chain.

However, Malaysia is of the view that the terms, definitions and language used for the voluntary guidelines under CFS should be consistent with multilaterally agreed terms, definitions and language. Further, they should be interpreted and applied consistently with existing obligations under national laws and policies based on country context and sensitivities. That said, in order to garner the widest consensus, the guidelines should strike a balance between the different positions expressed by the Members and avoid importing terminologies and concepts that are still controversial from other fora.

Malaysia wishes to refer to the CFS 49<sup>th</sup> Session report, Para 20 (e) (iii) which stated that "The Voluntary Guidelines should seek to draw upon multilaterally-agreed language and concepts to facilitate consensus, and previous agreed CFS policy products, as and where appropriate" and reiterates that the draft should avoid any element that goes beyond the mandate of CFS and FAO and keep the discussion oriented and focused on the purpose of producing a voluntary guideline i.e. CFS policy recommendations that could possibly have a wider uptake and implementation at national level.

Malaysia has perused those paragraphs of the draft that are relevant to agriculture, food security and nutrition. Malaysia also took note on the proposed solutions to contentious terminologies.

Malaysia is flexible and can go along with most of the proposed solutions and alternatives but however having difficulty accepting the references to “multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (MIFD)”. The term MIFD has been raised numerous times during informal consultations and outcome documents at UN platforms and Malaysia has consistently stated our stand whereby we do not consider it as agreed language. Malaysia recommends replacing the reference to MIFD with “all forms of discrimination”.

As for the term 'gender-based violence', Malaysia proposes to replace the phrase with 'violence against women and girls'. However, on this matter, we can be flexible.