

## **Committee on World Food Security**

### **Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition**

#### **Morocco's comments**

As we are now about to start the fourth round of negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition:

The text before us has gone through many rounds of negotiations regarding its context and its content as a whole and in detail, especially with regards to the new language that is to be introduced in case Member States unanimously agree on it.

Furthermore, Morocco reiterates its permanent and firm position supporting gender equality and women and girls empowerment in all fields, whether in terms of increasing their representation in various sectors and institutions, or in enabling them to access decision-making positions and making them equal to their male counterparts.

Referring to the text itself, the Moroccan party welcomes the efforts made by the Committee on Food Security, and calls for the paramount necessity to ensure that the text adheres clearly and specifically to the context of food security.

The Moroccan side also calls for the adoption of a balanced text that fully meets the requirements of total neutrality, in line with the requirements in force by all intergovernmental organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system.

Additionally, Morocco supports all efforts aimed at achieving the principle of preserving objectivity. This principle is specifically required in the text, in order to ensure that cultural, religious and institutional aspects are addressed, without the slightest prejudice to the privacy of Member States, their history and beliefs, as well as their sovereignty and internal regulatory laws.

Finally, Morocco expresses its desire to delete / revise / replace the following terms as well as expressions related to them:

- Social norms;
- Heritage;
- Updating and consolidation of national legislation;
- Redistribution of resources;
- Indigenous peoples.

In this vein, Morocco states that the "Voluntary Guidelines" are directed primarily at women and girls, as a group, and hence there is a need to adapt the text to this exclusive feature by avoiding resorting to any racial, ethnic or social classification and differentiation of these women and girls.

As a result, the inclusion of categorisation terms such as "indigenous peoples" or "indigenous women" is inconsistent with the aforementioned principle.