

CFS OEWG on Inequalities
CANADA Initial input

General points

These recommendations align with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) objectives and priorities, such as inclusive economic growth, human and labor rights, health, education, care and unpaid care, peace and security, and governance. They also support the core mandate of the CFS. The principles underlying the recommendations are informed by intersectional considerations. Intersectionality recognizes that those individuals with certain overlapping identity factors – race, sex, gender, age, ability, etc. - can be affected by compounded and intersecting forms of discrimination that place them in situations of increased vulnerability and disadvantage.

The recommendations align with the FIAP's feminist and human rights-based approach to international assistance, including the policy's goal of achieving gender-transformative change. This can be achieved with the active participation, empowerment, agency and decision making of those in the most vulnerable situations including women, Indigenous People, people with disabilities, the elderly and those living in crisis. Additionally, by linking food security and nutrition to human rights principles and human rights instruments, the recommendations mirror, to some extent, Canada's focus on a human rights-based approach to international assistance policy and programming.

These recommendations will contribute to reducing inequalities within the agri-food system, deliver gender-responsive poverty reduction and food security and nutrition outcomes as well as to support the achievement of other SDGs (including climate action).

A. General comments

- Canada welcomes the report taking an intersectional approach, and the examples of how multiple disadvantages are compounded. **Intersectionality** illustrates how the most marginalized people in society also tend to be those most left behind in food systems.
- Canada emphasizes that actions must recognize the historic context of inequalities, and the importance of ensuring representation of marginalized groups and the ability to exercise their agency over the choice of actions to address inequalities. We are pleased to find this noted throughout the report and that the foundations of the recommendations recognize this fact, as well as intergenerational and interterritorial factors.
- Canada supports the HLPE-FSN's human rights-based approach to food security and nutrition. A human rights-based approach is key to achieving sustainable and equitable results in international assistance.
- Canada is also pleased to see the report use, when available, **disaggregated data** and consider such data as evidence to identify gaps and the systemic barriers different groups of people face.
- We welcome the report mainstreams 'gender' within FSN and makes the case for a **'transformative'** agenda to address the systemic drivers of FSN inequality.
- The report not only points out power dynamics but also provides concrete recommendations – we welcome this approach being sustained.
- A link to the "impact/uptake" workstream will be essential, to help create a product that is actionable that practitioners can apply to address inequalities across food systems.
- Canada supports the ambition to arrive at clear, concise, impactful recommendations, which will require strategic choices in covering the "right" items. Nevertheless, currently we do not have specific recommendations to adjust the scope/reach of the document.

B. Questions/ feedback

- a. **Intersectionality:** We would recommend further use of intersectionality and consider more than 2 axes at a time. For example, age/location/disability (consider possible linkages to the recent CFS Youth Policy recommendations).
- b. **Human rights-based approach:** It is exemplary that the recommendations tie food security and nutrition to international human rights obligations. Nevertheless, the recommendations would benefit from including a strategy to empower rights-holders to know and claim their human rights from state duty-bearers. It is not enough to make redress mechanisms available to marginalized communities or to create more equitable policies. There needs to be a plan to fill capacity gaps of rights-holders in terms of their ability to leverage their human rights to attain a higher standard of food security in a more sustainable way.
- c. **Data:** Although Canada understands the limited availability of disaggregated data and the need to use aggregated data in the analysis to draw conclusions on food security, we recommend including a recommendation on strong data strategy for safe and ethical collection, use and disposal of (gender) disaggregated data in the analysis of inequalities and drivers on food systems, food insecurity and malnutrition. The Data Strategy should include guidance on Indigenous data sovereignty.
- d. **Agreed language:** We believe in the importance of sustaining strong references to gender equality. We believe clear “cross-walks” to the recently approved GEWGE guidelines could be helpful.
- e. Measurements/ Indicators
 - i. Gini coefficient has limitations in differentiating types of inequalities and therefore quantifying and tracking FSN. (doesn't account for income distribution – it is gender blind)
 - ii. How would progress be measured on objectives beyond outcomes? Recommendations on accurate and practical tools could facilitate standardized global reporting with standardized indicators and metrics. - (collecting data, same data, analysis, baseline and track progress over time). “Cross walks” to the recent CFs Policy Recommendations on Data could be helpful
 - iii. Consider how quantitative targets could relate to voluntary reporting procedures.