

VI. Addressing Multiple Dimensions of Inequalities

DATE: 23 October 2024

TIME: 10.00-13.00 (exact time to be advised)

LOCATION: FAO Headquarters, Rome

Statement by B Pratyusha Chennupati, 2023 Millennium Leadership Fellow, Atlantic Council

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, and esteemed colleagues,

As representatives of the Private Sector Mechanism, it is our privilege to participate in this plenary session dedicated to the adoption of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Addressing the Multiple Dimensions of Inequalities in Food Systems. We recognize the profound impact of these guidelines in shaping a more inclusive approach to global food security, directly addressing inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, race, and the unique challenges faced by indigenous and marginalized communities.

The private sector understands its pivotal role in this transformative journey. We are committed to harnessing our resources, networks, and innovations to reduce these deep-rooted inequalities. Our approach includes:

- **Promoting Inclusive Employment and Entrepreneurial Opportunities:** The Private Sector actively creates and supports initiatives that provide equitable employment and growth opportunities for all, especially targeting women, indigenous people, and other marginalized groups within our workforces and entrepreneurial ventures.
- **Supporting Diverse Supply Chains:** The Private Sector is dedicated to developing supply chains that promote diversity and inclusion, ensuring that smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs from underserved communities have equitable access to markets and fair-trading conditions.
- **Investing in Community Development:** Recognizing the unique challenges faced by indigenous and marginalized communities, we commit significant resources to

community-driven development projects that enhance local food systems, improve infrastructure, and increase resilience to economic and environmental challenges.

- **Advocacy and Leadership in Policy Formulation:** We engage in policy advocacy to ensure that laws and regulations consider and address the specific needs and potentials of all community members, particularly those historically underrepresented in decision-making processes.
- **Education and Capacity Building:** The Private Sector funds and facilitates training programs focused on equipping individuals from diverse backgrounds with the skills necessary to succeed in the agricultural sector, aiming to close the knowledge gap that often hinders equitable advancement.

Through these actions, we not only adhere to the principles outlined in the CFS Voluntary Guidelines but also reinforce our belief that addressing inequalities is not only a moral imperative but a fundamental requirement for sustainable development. We urge all stakeholders—governments, NGOs, civil society, and the private sector—to unite in this cause, leveraging our collective strengths to forge food systems that are truly equitable and resilient.

Madame Chair and colleagues, thank you for your attention and for your continued partnership in striving towards a world where every individual has equal access to the resources they need to thrive.