

COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
(Rome, October 10, 2022)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

We thank the Leadership of the Rome-based UN Agencies, CFS Chair and FAO Chief Economist for providing the in-depth analysis and joint report on the state of the food security and nutrition in the world.

The last two years have demonstrated that the global food insecurity problem has not been solving and the situation is getting worse.

The pandemic, climate extremes, conflicts, economic shocks and other factors have disrupted supply chains and undermined the global food security.

Despite the severe implications of the challenges, Uzbekistan's agri-food sector has demonstrated a positive dynamics and viability against the negative impacts related to the world recession.

The Agri-Food Development Strategy of Uzbekistan 2020-2030 has contributed to ensure the implementation of effective measures in agrifood transformations, ensuring food security and expanding the geography of exports.

Uzbekistan as one of the major producers of agricultural commodity in Central Asia annually grows about 30 million tons of fruits, vegetables and cereals.

Last year, about 1.5 million tons of fruits and vegetables were exported to more than 65 countries of the world.

Today our key priority in agriculture sector remains diversification of crops, widespread introduction of water-saving technologies and renewable energy, development of seed farming, expansion of intensive orchards and agricultural clusters, development of logistic infrastructure, and increasing exports.

Uzbekistan attaches great importance to create a favorable agribusiness environment, increasing investment, rational use of soil and water, integrating science and innovation into production.

The smallholders, women and youth are supported through land allocations and preferential financing programs.

In order to strengthen global food security, Uzbekistan advocates coordinated international cooperation in agricultural development and food security issues.

One year after the United Nations Food Systems Summit, with the support of IFAD, on 25 October of this year, Uzbekistan is going to host the high-level event “Bridging the Financing Gap for Food Systems Transformation”, which will bring together international development partners and Governments from the Europe and Central Asia.

It is important to continue the formation of favorable conditions that allow increase trade and development of value chains.

We believe that it is necessary to develop **General Principles and Approaches to Food Security**. It is important to provide the specific measures to bring the regulatory framework, to conduct the joint research and to introduce innovations.

The most serious attention should be paid to programs for cultivation and processing agricultural crops, formation of coordinated schemes of direct mutual deliveries, organization of efficient logistics, «green» and express corridors for the delivery of affordable food.

Uzbekistan supports the outcomes of the **High-Level Special Event on Coordinating Global Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis** convened on 18 July 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

In order to address and discuss these vital issues, the President of Uzbekistan proposed to hold the **International Conference on Food Security next year in Samarkand.**

We believe this High-level event will contribute to address the food security issues at the national, regional and global levels.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize our commitment and readiness to continue fruitful dialogue and interaction with all stakeholders to achieve the SDGs.

Thank you for your attention.