

**Statement
by the representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

Dear Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Uzbekistan Delegation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the CFS for presenting the report “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023”, which is the result of the joint work of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

We appreciate that this year’s report examined the latest updates of the food security and nutrition situation around the world as well as focused on megatrend such as urbanization, which has ultimate impact to our agrifood systems transformation.

I would like to share two points in my intervention: development within the country and regional perspective.

Last month, building on the previous years’ huge positive experiences, Uzbekistan adopted the Development Strategy “Uzbekistan – 2030”, which is in line with the SDGs.

Over the past six years, poverty in our country has been halved thanks to the policies aimed at improving the living standards of our people.

We are pleased to note that the observations of the SOFI Report, which supports that the food insecurity situation in Uzbekistan was improved as well as achieved on-track on stunting and wasting targets of the SDGs.

Going further, we plan to reduce the poverty in the country to 7 percent by 2030. The new strategy aims to increase productivity and profitability in agriculture, attracting 15 billion USD of investment into the sector as well as introducing resource saving technologies.

Nevertheless, crises of the climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the environmental contamination are severely affecting the sustainable development of our country.

While Central Asia is facing with the Aral Sea tragedy, the region is becoming one of the most vulnerable parts of the world in the face of climate change.

Our new strategy focuses on addressing those problems through transition to a green economy and the use of renewable energy sources.

Dear participants,

I went through the SOFI Report 2023. To my surprise, it seems that this Report considerably weakened the voice of global alarm about the acute food insecurity situation in Afghanistan, where more than 22 million people are at the largest scale of hunger (more than 50% of the population).

Leaving Afghanistan again alone with its own problems would be a great mistake.

We believe that humanitarian aid to the Afghan people should not be reduced.

In this regard, last month the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at his address to the UN General Assembly called upon the international community to put in place appropriate mechanisms to utilize Afghanistan's frozen international assets for these purposes.

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

I thank you for your attention.