



Concept Note
International Conference on Food Security
September 7 - 8, 2023
Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan

1. International context

According to the UN terminology, food security means that all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their nutritional needs and dietary preferences for an active and healthy life.

The Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (*FAO*) identified four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilization and stability. In 1948, the United Nations recognized the right to food in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has stressed ever since that it is essential to the enjoyment of all other rights.

The main global strategy for reducing hunger and poverty is indicated in the Sustainable Development Goals (*SDGs*). Goal 2 (*Zero Hunger*) of *SDGs* states “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”.

As part of efforts to achieve the *SDGs*, UN Secretary-General António Guterres convened the Food Systems Summit in New York in September 2021. The summit marked the beginning of a new effort to make progress on all 17 *SDG* indicators, all of which depend to varying degrees on sustainable and equitable food systems.

For reference: The United Nations Summit on Food Systems (UNFSS) covered five areas of activity: (1) Feed all people; (2) Promote solutions based on nature; (3) Promote equal livelihood, decent work and empowerment and community opportunities; (4) Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses; (5) Speeding up the means of implementation.

According to *FAO* estimates, about 2.3 billion people in the world are currently moderately or highly food insecure, of which 25 per cent or 566 million people are from Asia (*FAO's 2021 “World Food Security and Nutrition” report*).

2. Objectives

The International Conference aims to review the current state of food security in the world and Central Asia member states, deliberate on some key agrifood system challenges hindering progress towards *SDG* 2, and attempt to find solutions to these challenges.

The state of implementation of measures to achieve the goal of *SDG*-2 “Zero Hunger”, which includes specific tasks to eliminate hunger, improve food security and nutrition, and develop sustainable agriculture until 2030, will be carefully analyzed.

From this point of view, the participants will be informed about the implementation of the decisions of the UN summit on food systems held in September 2021, it is expected that special attention will be paid to the situation of food insecurity in Asian countries.

Another important topic of the event will be a special session dedicated to landlocked developing countries of the region to discuss common challenges and find sustainable solutions for the development of agrifood systems and agricultural trade.

At the end of the discussions, it is planned to adopt the general principles and approaches to ensure food safety, which will serve to unify the regulatory framework, joint research and innovation, specific measures for harmonization of standards and certification, and the growth of regional food trade.

It is also envisaged to develop programs for the cultivation and processing of agricultural products, the formation of agreed schemes for cross-supply, the establishment of effective logistics, and "green" and fast routes for the supply of quality and cheap food products.

It is proposed to discuss the possibilities of creation within the framework of the science and innovation strategy of FAO for 2023-2031:

- permanent platform for the interaction of scientists in the field of agricultural sciences
- a unified food safety monitoring system
- e-commerce low current account balance
- evidence-based agricultural production monitoring systems for production planning, policy and development programs

3. Modality and participants

The conference is organized by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the technical support of FAO as a global multilateral platform to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of food security.

The event is going to be held on September 7-8, 2023 in Samarkand at a high-level.

The invitees from foreign countries are Ministers responsible for the issues of food security at the national level, leading international organizations, financial institutions, experts and advisors.

In this event, the participation of UN, FAO, BOD, IFAD, SCO, EU, CIS, EEUI, ECO, OIC, CICA, international financial institutions - World Bank, OTP, EBRD, EIB and other high-ranking officials, representatives of farmers' associations, international companies in the agrifood sector is expected.

4. Venue and Working language

The international conference will take place in Silk Road Samarkand Congress Hall. Hotel for participants: Silk Road Samarkand complex hotels - <https://www.silkroad-samarkand.com/hotels/>