



# General Assembly

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Agenda items 18, 24 and 61

**Sustainable development**

**Agriculture development, food security and nutrition**

**Zone of peace, trust and cooperation of Central Asia**

## **Letter dated 31 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué of the international conference on cooperation on food security in the context of climate change, co-organized by the Government of Turkmenistan and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 10 March 2023 (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you could kindly have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 24 and 61.

*(Signed)* Aksoltan Ataeva  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

**Communiqué of the international conference on cooperation on food security in the context of climate change**

High-level representatives of Central Asian countries, Türkiye, Iran and the United Nations, as well as experts from international organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), meeting on 9 and 10 March 2023 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, within the framework of the high-level international conference on cooperation on food security in the context of climate change, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with coordination support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Resident Coordinator Office in Turkmenistan:

Affirmed the need for a concerted effort to invest urgently in food and nutrition security in a changing climate that requires the many targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals to be met;

Also affirmed that food security is the result of the relationship of the food system to climate;

Noted that food systems must become more resilient in order to provide sufficient, safe, diverse and affordable food to meet the nutritional needs of the population;

Emphasized that the long-term sustainability of the economic, social and environmental foundations of food security and nutrition for future generations must be maintained;

Also emphasized that for Central Asian countries, climate impacts on ecosystems are transboundary in nature, especially with regard to water and land degradation;

Agreed that the efforts of each country and the joint efforts of countries and international and regional organizations are important in ensuring food security in the context of climate change;

Underscored the importance of multisectoral cooperation, in particular between ministries of agriculture and the environment; and,

Noted that the conference afforded an opportunity for dialogue at both the regional and cross-sectoral levels, providing a forum for developing collaborative solutions to a wide range of issues affecting food security in the context of climate change.

With regard to the production of food and livestock products, the participants:

Stressed the importance of incorporating a “food system approach” into national and regional action plans and programmes;

Noted the need to promote agriculture in the most environmentally friendly ways that support biodiversity, with an optimal use of water resources;

Agreed to help reduce nitrogen pollution and implement agricultural innovations; and,

Affirmed the importance of addressing food loss and waste, including through food supply chain analysis.

With regard to providing the economic, social and environmental foundations for food security and nutrition for future generations, the participants:

Noted the importance of incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation into countries' medium-term programmes for inclusive growth;

Confirmed the feasibility of implementing a One Health approach that integrates human, animal and environmental health;

Emphasized the need to consider the links between human mobility, the environment, climate change and food security;

Also emphasized the timeliness of promoting dietary change measures that take into account national and cultural contexts, encouraging healthy eating for all, especially children and adolescents;

Affirmed the importance of empowering women to increase their capacity to contribute to food security; and,

Noted the value of promoting increased investment in environmental solutions to meet climate change, biodiversity and land degradation goals.

With regard to strengthening regional cooperation on food security and climate change, the participants:

Emphasized the importance of water diplomacy as a tool that promotes water efficiency and improves transboundary water management in Central Asia, whose agricultural production is highly dependent on irrigation, especially surface water;

Noted the importance of opening and operating a regional climate technology centre for Central Asia, under the auspices of the United Nations, as a platform for attracting funding through international financial institutions, the mechanisms of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other mechanisms for developing regional capacity in climate change adaptation and mitigation technologies;

Confirmed the advisability of continuing regional consultations on the opening of a regional climate technology centre for Central Asia, under the auspices of the United Nations, in Ashgabat; and,

Noted the importance of adopting a regional climate change adaptation strategy and developing its action plan.

The participants expressed profound gratitude to the Government and people of Turkmenistan for their warm hospitality and generous support for the preparation and organization of this high-level conference. They reiterated their commitment to continuing to work on food security and climate change and to keep them high on the global sustainable development agenda.

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 10 March 2023