



International Legal Cooperation Between FAO And Uzbekistan

Khodjayeva Aziza Bahtiyarovna

Senior Lecturer, UNESCO's Department Of International Law And Human Rights
University Of World Economy And Diplomacy, Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

The article describes the legal framework and practice of international cooperation between Uzbekistan and the FAO. It also focuses on food security during the pandemic, the main directions and approaches to ensuring food security in the region.

KEYWORDS

FAO, Country Programming Framework (CPF) Food security, World Food Summit,

INTRODUCTION

Food is one of the most important elements in human life. Consumers always want quality and safe products. By safe food we usually mean high-quality, environmentally friendly, GMO-free (genetically modified organism-free) products that do not contain harmful elements related to food, such as pesticides.

Food security is a state of the economy, which guarantees a stable supply of food to the population, regardless of fluctuations in world markets, on the one hand, in quantities consistent with scientifically based indicators, on the other hand, at the level of medical standards.

Sustainability: The population, family or individual must always have access to food so that the food supply is not interrupted. They should not be disconnected from food due to unforeseen events (e.g., economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g., climate food shortages). Food availability: the supply of the required amount of food of the required quality through domestic production or import (including food aid).

After decades of steady decline, the trend in world hunger – as measured by the prevalence of undernourishment – reverted in 2015, remaining virtually unchanged in the past three years at a level slightly below 11 percent. Meanwhile, the number of people who suffer from hunger has slowly increased. As a result, more than 820 million people in the world were still hungry in 2018, underscoring the immense challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger target by 2030.¹

The need for food of the world's population is a never-ending social process. So let's take a look at FAO, an organization that advocates for people's rights to food.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was established in 1945

to improve food quality, increase labor productivity in the agricultural sector, improve rural living conditions, and influence global economic growth.

The current FAO concept reflects this additional aspect: "All people have the physical, economic and social capacity to meet their nutritional needs and personal preferences and to have sufficient safe and nutritious food to ensure an active and healthy life. food security."²

The first cooperation between Uzbekistan and the FAO has been carried out since Uzbekistan joined the organization in 2001. With the opening of the FAO Office in Uzbekistan in 2014 and the signing of a new partnership agreement, this cooperation has reached a new level. Within the framework of projects implemented in Uzbekistan and the Central Asian region, a new partnership has been launched to carry out large-scale measures, including crop diversification, livestock and livestock disease control, locust control, fisheries productivity.

Another specific aspect of this cooperation is the efficient, rational and economical use of natural resources, improvement of their

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Rome, 2019.
<http://www.fao.org/3/ca5162en/ca5162en.pdf>

² FAO Constitution.

management system and one of the main directions of this cooperation.

For the first time, the FAO has identified areas of assistance for the Republic of Uzbekistan in the program of assistance for 2014-2017.

This Country Programming Framework (CPF) sets out priority areas to guide FAO's partnership with and support to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan (GoU), bringing together technical assistance innovative, international best practices and global normative work standards with national and regional expertise in the 2014 – 2017 period. The CPF is being formulated in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR) and in consultations with stakeholders in the agriculture and food processing and trade sectors, national institutions, as well as development partners, including the UN Country Team through a series of technical consultations to (i) identify the priority areas of FAO technical assistance, (ii) provide assistance in synergy with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2010-2015 and the orientations contained in the UN Road map for the CCA in preparation for the UNDAF cycle 2016/20 in order to (iii) ensure reflecting FAO's

comparative advantage and maximize synergy for increased aid effectiveness. Technical support for the CPF process is provided by the Multidisciplinary Team of experts (MDT) from the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC).

The five main priority areas of the Uzbekistan CPF are:

1. Diversification of cropping systems and sustainable production intensification
2. Promotion of efficient locust control techniques, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Conservation Agriculture and other good agriculture practices
3. Livestock production, diseases combating and beekeeping
4. Aquaculture and development of inland fisheries
5. Sustainable natural resources management.³

The cooperation program, developed jointly with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other partners, serves as a strategic document that covers the priorities of Uzbekistan and meets the basic principles of the FAO. This document is based on the new UN Cooperation Program with Uzbekistan signed for the period from 2016 to 2020.

³ Country programming framework for the Republic of Uzbekistan 2014-2017.

“The Country Programming Framework is a fundamental road map for our work with Uzbekistan,” said Yuriko Shoji, recently appointed Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative for Uzbekistan. “It matches FAO’s specialized expertise and abilities with national priorities and needs in the areas of food, agriculture and natural resources.”

For its part, Uzbekistan has expressed interest in sharing its agricultural research, practices and achievements with other countries, Shoji noted.

Under the agreement, FAO and Uzbekistan plan to explore modern fruit production including orchards and vineyards. Introduction of new technologies for planting, harvesting, processing and storage are envisaged, to extend shelf life and increase export volume. In these and other crops, FAO will provide technical support on conservation agriculture and other good agricultural practices for both rain-fed and irrigated farming systems.

Locust control, addressed together with neighboring countries, is another priority area covered in the document. Activities will include training for national personnel, promotion of integrated pest management at farm level, and

strengthening of the national system for pesticide quality control and certification.

Livestock productivity and efforts to combat livestock diseases such as brucellosis and foot-and-mouth disease are highlighted, along with support to the country’s veterinary services. Emphasis will be given to beekeeping, in view of its importance for crop pollination, and the potential for honey production and bee-based medical products.

Conservation and management of fisheries resources, high-quality fish feed production, aquaculture production systems and development of the supply chain for fish and fishery products are foreseen in the agreement. The need to preserve Uzbekistan’s natural resources while using them in a sustainable way is underscored. Forest resources, drought risk management, wildlife management, wastewater treatment and other areas for collaborative action are also featured.⁴

Between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Agreement "On the Establishment of the FAO REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/europe/news/detail-news/en/c/273109/>.

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN" entered into force on June 5, 2014.⁵ According to Article 1 of the Agreement, in accordance with the strategic goals and regional priorities of FAO, the main goals and objectives of the FAO Representation in the Republic of Uzbekistan are to assist the country in:

Improving the quality of food and living standards of the population;

Increasing the efficiency of production of agricultural and food products;

Improving education and management in agriculture;

Conservation of natural resources and the development of advanced agricultural production methods.

As well as Article 2 of this Agreement focuses on the legal status of the FAO Office, The FAO Representation has the status of a legal entity and has legal capacity:

- A) Enter into a contractual relationship;
- B) Acquire, rent and dispose of immovable and movable property;
- C) Initiate legal proceedings.

In the second part of this article, The government recognizes the right of FAO to hold meetings in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which are organized in agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During FAO meetings, the Government will take all appropriate measures to ensure that no action is taken to prevent free discussion and decision-making.

At this point, especially in mid-2020, looking at the international cooperation between FAO and Uzbekistan in 2020, especially during the pandemic, it is especially important to study the food needs of the world's population.

Although the pandemic in Uzbekistan does not lead to serious disruptions in agriculture due to the necessary measures taken by the government in a timely manner, there are risks. The incomes of the rural population are under threat.

It is well known that poverty reduction is the first of 17 sustainable development goals. This goal was ultimately recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as "Integrated resource management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production systems in

⁵ <https://www.lex.uz/docs/2507083>.
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REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE FOOD AND

AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS (FAO) ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FAO OFFICE
IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

Central Asia and Turkey” (CACILM-). 2). In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

In June 2020, in the scope of the project, 30,000 seedlings of tomato, cabbage and bell pepper were delivered to people living in rural areas of Bukhara district of Bukhara region, in addition in July, more than 10 tons of fertilizers were delivered for agriculture purposes as well. This has provided significant support for financially strained smallholders of Bukhara region during the pandemic.

In addition, the Bukhara district administration in cooperation with the regional department of agriculture has compiled a list of low-income families to be supported. Based on this list, the FAO Office in Uzbekistan provided 17 water pumps to farmer families.⁶

Today, the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan are working to implement new projects: On September 4, 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) signed a project agreement. The event was

held online with the participation of the Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjaev and FAO Regional Coordinator for Central Asia, FAO Representative in Uzbekistan Viorel Gutsu.

During the online meeting, the implementation of new FAO regional projects with Uzbek partners was aimed at increasing the sustainability and efficiency of agriculture, improving the living standards of the rural population. In particular, the signed agreements provide for the introduction of the latest technologies in the greenhouse industry, strengthening the fight against pests, adaptation to new realities in the context of a pandemic.⁷

At the end of the article, it should be noted that international cooperation between states and organizations is a constant social relationship.

Addressing the issue of food security is an important priority of public policy and the object of scientific research of any country. The agro-industrial complex and the agricultural sector are facing a number of challenges in providing food to the whole country and some of its regions, which need

⁶ <https://uzbekistan.un.org/en/100948-fao-supports-uzbekistan-during-pandemic>

⁷ <https://uzbekistan.un.org/en/108561-fao-built-and-donated-20-greenhouses-bukhara-region>

to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. In this regard, the President of the country Sh.M.Mirziyev —Solving the problem of food security requires special attention to the establishment of strict control over the lack of genetically modified products. The fact that the number of imported fruits and vegetables in the markets of our country has increased in recent years should certainly call us to vigilance. In order to prevent such a situation, first of all, we need to restore endangered ancient varieties, conduct rational and effective selection work, widely introduce scientific achievements and innovative developments in the field⁸, he said.

In addition, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017 No PF-4947 approved the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021. Development of a program for the development of agriculture and water resources in Uzbekistan with the involvement of leading foreign experts; ensuring food security of the country through

further diversification of agricultural production, increasing crop yields; creation of a legal framework for providing the population with environmentally friendly and safe food products; further development of the logistics system for the cultivation, reception, storage, processing and delivery of fruits and vegetables to consumers, including exports; increase the level of supply of livestock products to the population, achieve the stability of their prices in the markets; such as the above issues.⁹

It should be noted in the conclusion that although the normative documents related to the reduction of nutritional characteristics can be implemented in accordance with international standards, we have enough errors and controls to manage their implementation. This is evidenced by the performance in the biennial food performance rankings conducted by the British magazine The Economist. According to the results of 2017, Uzbekistan ranks 78th out of 113 countries in this ranking, which is 14 places lower than in 2016. Our total score was rated 47.5 on a 100-point scale.¹⁰

⁸ President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis. 22.12.2017.

⁹ "Strategy of actions for further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.

¹⁰ The Global Food Security Index - <http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com/>

The Global Food Security Index is published by the British think tank The Economist Intelligence Unit with the support of the US multinational company

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Dupon. The research has been conducted since 2012. Today, this index represents the most

complete form of food security status indicators of different countries.