

## THE TASHKENT COMMUNIQUE

### Global Technical Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries on Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*Weaving Prosperity: Land-linked Agrifood Systems  
for Landlocked Developing Countries*  
7-8 October 2026 | Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan

#### PREAMBLE

The Global Technical Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) on Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 7-8 October 2026, gathering Ministers, Senior Officials and Experts from 28 countries and international organizations.<sup>1</sup> Participants shared a common ambition to advance actionable solutions that transform agrifood systems and strengthen food security, resilience and shared prosperity in landlocked developing countries.

The Forum reaffirmed that LLDCs face structural challenges that stem from their lack of direct access to global markets, high transport costs and dependence on transit countries. These constraints shape their economic development, trade competitiveness and food security and nutrition outcomes.

Participants reiterated that the world currently is at a crucial moment and LLDCs are facing compounded pressures: high energy costs and fertilizer prices, fragile supply chains for agricultural inputs, and intensifying climate-related risks, including drought, extreme weather events and the looming threat of El Niño.

The Forum re-emphasized that agrifood systems are at the heart of LLDCs' livelihoods and economies. Agriculture accounts for a substantial share of GDP and employment and supports most rural populations.

Yet these systems remain largely dominated by smallholder farming and informal production, with low productivity in some LLDCs, limited access to finance, technology and innovation, weak market integration, and high vulnerability to climate and economic shocks. Transforming agrifood systems in LLDCs is both a technical priority and a development imperative, essential for SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and the related SDGs.

The Forum stressed that “Land-linked agrifood systems” represent a new vision for landlocked countries. Planning connectivity, innovation, resilience and finance together with a systems approach can help to convert constraints of geography into opportunities in LLDCs. In practice, this entails producers linked to markets, countries linked to their

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<sup>1</sup> The Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay in the Republic of Türkiye requested that the Republic of Paraguay not be included among the countries endorsing or associating with the Communique.

neighbours and transit partners, and rural communities linked to knowledge, technology and investment.

Building on the foundation laid by the International Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries on Food Security and the SDGs, held in September 2024<sup>2</sup> in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs 2024-2034<sup>3</sup>, adopted in August 2025 in Awaza, Turkmenistan, this Forum focused on four interconnected priority areas – combating climate change and environmental vulnerability, driving transformation through science, technology and innovation, optimizing trade and market access, and catalyzing sustainable finance – with youth, gender equality and women’s empowerment, governance and data reflected across all of them.

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We aspire to work together with all relevant stakeholders to support Landlocked Developing Countries on their road to land-linked agrifood systems transformation, one which simultaneously improves food security and nutrition, raises sustainable agricultural productivity, strengthens rural livelihoods, creates decent employment and value addition, and protects natural resources

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### **Combating climate change and environmental vulnerability**

Resilient agrifood systems are the first line of defense against climate shocks. We highlight the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation into national agricultural strategies, expanding multi-hazard early warning systems and early action protocols under global initiatives such as Early Warnings for All, and scaling up investments in drought-tolerant crop varieties, micro-irrigation, anti-salinization technologies, and soil restoration. We agree that more needs to be accomplished to support LLDCs in addressing climate-related risks such as drought, extreme weather and El Niño, and integrate climate and environmental considerations into agrifood policies, planning and investment.

### **Driving transformation through science, technology and innovation**

Science, technology and innovation can help overcome the constraints of geography. We stress the promotion of digital agriculture, artificial intelligence and innovation ecosystems that enhance productivity and connect producers to knowledge, services and markets. These tools must be applied responsibly and inclusively, and be accessible to smallholders, women and youth. We support investments in local capacity, open data and peer-to-peer learning, regional cooperation on agricultural research and development, and encourage South–South and triangular collaboration so that proven solutions on precision agriculture, sustainable mechanization, digital market tools and agricultural innovation can

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<sup>2</sup> FAO, 2024. LLDC Forum on Food Security and the SDGs, 5-6 September 2024: <https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/news-and-events/events/events-detail/lldc24/en>

<sup>3</sup> UN, 2026. Awaza Programme of Action for LLDCs 2024-2034. <https://www.un.org/en/landlocked/awaza-programme-action-lldc>

be adapted and scaled up across LLDCs. Research institutions, universities, the private sector and farmers' organizations should be engaged to co-create innovations that are practical and rooted in local realities and support the livelihoods and well-being of smallholder farmers, women and rural youth.

### **Optimizing trade and market access**

Connectivity is the bridge between landlocked producers and the markets they need to reach. We highlight the importance of transit countries and regional partners in improving transport and trade connectivity, advance trade facilitation and deepen regional integration. Our aim is to reduce high transport and transit costs, lower trade barriers, strengthen the reliability of supply chains for food and agricultural inputs, and enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of LLDC agrifood systems. To meet this goal, we stress digitizing border procedures, expanding electronic single-window systems, implementing paperless trade frameworks, investing jointly in multimodal transport networks, cold-chain logistics, and storage facilities to reduce transport costs and post-harvest food losses, and in strengthening regional value chains and reducing non-tariff barriers.

### **Catalysing sustainable financing**

The resources currently available are vastly insufficient to meet the investment needs of agrifood systems in LLDCs. We support the promotion of financing that is accessible and responsive to LLDCs' priorities, as well as consistent with relevant international standards and rules. We aim to scale up predictable, concessional financing from international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, expand public-private partnerships (PPPs), blended finance instruments, and green bonds, and explore the establishment of a dedicated pooled donor mechanism or trust fund facility tailored to LLDCs agricultural pipelines.

### **Youth, women, governance and data**

Transformation will succeed only if it is inclusive and well governed. We will place smallholders, family farmers, youth, and women at the centre of agrifood systems transformation, strengthen their access to productive resources, finance, technologies, extension and advisory services, markets and opportunities for value addition. We aim to strengthen farmers' producer organizations cooperatives and other forms of collective action to improve producers' market position, access to services and participation in policy and investment decisions. We will strengthen transparent and participatory governance and the systematic collection and use of disaggregated data, so that policies and investments are evidence-based, coordinated and accountable.

### **Water management**

We aim to strengthen sustainable and integrated management of land and water resources and, where appropriate, cooperation over shared water resources.

### **A shared movement for land-linked agrifood systems**

We aim to promote a shared movement that turns the structural challenges of landlocked developing countries into a foundation for prosperity. We conclude that

geographic location need not constrain sustainable development, reaffirming that resilient, food-secure, and prosperous agrifood systems are fully achievable across all LLDCs.

### **Alignment with earlier global commitments**

We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034 and recognize the transformation of agrifood systems as an important contribution to achieving its objectives.

### **Partnerships for impact**

We foresee building strong and inclusive partnerships that bring together governments of LLDCs and transit countries, regional organizations, UN agencies, development banks and financing institutions, the private sector, academia, civil society, farmers' organizations, women and youth. These partnerships must extend beyond dialogue to deliver tangible, coordinated outcomes, ranging from technical assistance to actionable investment pipelines and policy alignment. Furthermore, we support enhanced cooperation among LLDCs, as well as between LLDCs and their transit and development partners, as essential for sharing and scaling up proven solutions.

In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan announces its initiative to host an Agro-Innovation Hub for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) at the Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Research, established as part of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Uzbekistan. The Hub will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, technology transfer, capacity development and South-South and triangular cooperation, supporting LLDCs in adapting and scaling up innovative solutions for climate-resilient, productive and sustainable agrifood systems.

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*We call on all partners to join this pledge to weave a shared future in which agrifood systems in landlocked developing countries are productive, resilient, inclusive and sustainable, leaving no one behind, for generations to come.*

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**Adopted on 8th of October 2026, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan**