



DRAFT AGENDA

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN 7 OCTOBER

Hyatt Regency Tashkent

“Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership”
[Click here to register for free!](#)

08:00–09:00 | Arrival, Registration and Networking Coffee

09:00–10:00 | Opening Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies: Representative of the Government of Uzbekistan

- **Welcome remarks by the Government of Uzbekistan**

TBD, H.E. (Senior Government Representative of Uzbekistan)

- **Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO

- **Opening remarks by the Executive Director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee**

Mr. Eric B. Trachtenberg, Executive Director, ICAC

- **Keynote statement by the World Trade Organization**

Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam, Deputy Director-General, WTO

- **Opening remarks on behalf of the C-4+ countries (TBC)**

H.E. Mr. Angelo Dan, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires of Benin, and Coordinator of the C-4+ Countries

10:00–11:15 | High-Level Leaders' Dialogue

Trade, Transformation and Partnership: How Cotton Builds Prosperity

Session description:

In a global context shaped by trade uncertainty, changing supply chains, industrial policy and growing sustainability requirements, this high-level dialogue will explore how cotton can continue to serve as a strategic driver of development.



Bringing together leaders from Uzbekistan, African institutions and international organizations, the session will examine how cotton-producing countries can strengthen competitiveness, diversify their economies, and build stronger connections between agriculture, industry, trade, investment and innovation. The dialogue will also highlight the Partenariat pour le Coton as a practical platform for mobilizing investment, technical cooperation and partnerships to support the transformation of the cotton-to-textile value chain in the C-4+ countries, promoting greater value addition and industrial development.

Speakers

- **Dr. Ibrokhim Yulchiyevich Abdurakhmonov**

Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and The World Academy of Sciences

- **Mr. Jean-Marie Paugam**

Deputy Director-General
World Trade Organization – WTO

- **Dr. Máximo Torero**

Chief Economist
Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO

- **Mr. Mondher Mimouni**

Director of Market Development
International Trade Centre – ITC

- **Mr. Hamadou Karidio (TBC)**

Senior Advisor
Secretary-General African Continental Free Trade Area – AfCFTA Secretariat

- **Dr. Djamoliddin Babakhanov**

Director, Department for Attracting Investments and Implementing Innovations in Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Dr. Shamil Shirinov

Project Director
Smart Carbon LLC, Uzbekistan

11:15–11:30 | Coffee Break and Official Photo



11:30–12:15 | Plenary Session 1

Building Prosperity Across the Cotton Value Chain

Session description:

This session will showcase practical models of cotton value-chain transformation, drawing on experiences from Uzbekistan's textile development, Benin's industrial zone approach, and international expertise in building competitive textile industries. It will highlight how investment, processing, manufacturing, infrastructure and international partnerships can turn cotton into jobs, exports and broader economic opportunities.

Speakers

- **Mr. Ismonaliyev Fayzullo**

Deputy Head of Department, Agency for the Development of Light Industry
The Potential of Uzbekistan's Textile Industry

- **Mr. Ramakrishnan Janarthanan**

Chief Executive Officer, LXMI Global Advisory
The Development of the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone and Its Role in Expanding Local Cotton Processing and Textile Manufacturing

- **Mr. Navdeep Sodhi**

Partner, Gherzi Textil Organization
Developing Competitive Textile Industries through Policy, Investment, Infrastructure, Technology and International Partnerships

12:15–13:00 | Plenary Session 2

Trust, Quality, and Responsible Cotton Supply Chains

Session description:

This session will examine how cotton-producing and textile-exporting countries can build market confidence through quality assurance, inspection, traceability and responsible sourcing systems. It will highlight how credible data, verification and greater supply-chain transparency can help producers, exporters and textile companies respond to buyer expectations and access higher-value markets.



Speakers

- **Mr. Ben Maitland**

Senior Director of Advocacy, Communications and Events, Better Cotton

The Role of Standards, Credible Data, Traceability and Verification in Strengthening Trust across Cotton Supply Chains.

- **Ms. Alison Ward**

Chief Executive Officer of CottonConnect

Connecting Farmers to Markets: Responsible Sourcing and Collaboration Across the Cotton Value Chain

- **Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Bakhsh**

Senior Manager, WWF-Pakistan

From Seed to Sustainable Supply Chains: WWF-Pakistan's Collaborative Journey in Organic Cotton Cultivation

13:00–14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00–15:00 | Plenary Session 3

Investment, Innovation and Competitiveness in Cotton Economies

Session description:

This session will explore what is needed to scale cotton value-chain transformation through investment, technology, infrastructure, sourcing partnerships and private-sector engagement. It will examine how cotton economies can strengthen competitiveness by attracting capital, expanding production and processing capacity, adopting new technologies and building stronger links with global buyers.

Speakers

- **Mr. Varun Vaid**

Executive Director, Wazir Advisors

Attracting Private Investment and Developing Competitive Cotton, Textile and Apparel Industries



- **Ms. Rasha Fahim**

Executive Director, Textile Export Council of Egypt

Egypt as a Competitive Cotton-to-Textile Hub: Investment, Value Addition and Global Sourcing

- **Mr. Christian Ndikumagenge**

Senior Manager, Export Development, Afreximbank

Mobilizing Capital for Cotton Value Addition, Manufacturing and Export Growth

- **Ms. Xanxadjayeva Nilufar Raximovna**

Professor, Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry

Development of New Textile Products Technology and Preparing of Specialists in the Textile Industry of Uzbekistan

15:00–16:00 | Plenary Session 4

Carbon Markets and Climate Finance: New Opportunities for Cotton Farmers

Session description:

This session will explore how carbon markets and climate finance can create new opportunities for cotton farmers and producer organizations. It will highlight the conditions needed to make cotton-related carbon projects credible, farmer-centered and commercially viable, including science-based measurement, digital monitoring, certification, buyer confidence and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Speakers

- **Mr. Temurbek Omonov**

Head of the Division, Green Economy Projects Center under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Efforts being implemented in Uzbekistan to enter international carbon markets

- **Mr. Govind Setlur**

Merago, Carbon Asset Management Agency

Turning Carbon Potential into Farmer Value: Developing Credible and Commercially Viable Cotton Carbon Projects



- **Mr. Jovlonbek Raimov Farhod**

Head of Agricultural Technology Transfer Department, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Mr. Firdavs Zukhurutdinov

Chief Specialist, Agricultural Technology Transfer Department

Nature-Based Solutions for Cotton Farming: Integrating Regenerative Agriculture, Biochar Technologies and Carbon Markets in Uzbekistan

16:00–16:15 | Closing Remarks

8 October | Technical Tour organized by the Host Country

October 8: Technical Tour
— organized by Host country —
World Cotton Day 2026

Time	Activity
14:00	Departure from Hyatt Regency Tashkent
14:00–14:40	Transfer to cotton-textile cluster / textile enterprise (location to be confirmed)
14:40–15:20	Visit to cotton processing and textile production facilities; presentation on value chain development and cotton transformation
15:20–16:00	Transfer to Research Institute of Cotton Breeding, Seed Production and Cultivation Agrotechnologies site
16:00–16:40	Visit to the Research Institute of Cotton Breeding, Seed Production and Cultivation Agrotechnologies and a cotton field, including a demonstration of modern cotton cultivation practices, harvesting technologies, and sustainability initiatives
16:40–17:20	Transfer to the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan
17:20–19:20	Guided visit to the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan
19:20	Return to hotel / end of programme

FROM FIBER TO FUTURE
INNOVATION
SUSTAINABILITY
PARTNERSHIP

The locations of the cotton-textile enterprise and cotton field demonstration site will be confirmed at a later stage.

Transportation will be provided for all participants.

Timing may be adjusted depending on traffic conditions and final venue selection.



World Cotton Day 2026



Building Prosperity through Trade, Transformation and Partnership

Hotel Hyatt Regency, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

7 October 2026

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



International
Trade
Centre



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION



IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency

Participant Registration



Draft Agenda

