

Nur-Sultan, Akorda

**To the participants of the 4th session
of the General Assembly of the
Islamic Organization for Food Security**

**Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations!
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Assalam alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu!

I am glad to welcome you to the 4th session of the General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (hereinafter - IOFS).

Exactly 10 years ago, at the 38th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, the First President of Kazakhstan, the Leader of the Nation, Nursultan Nazarbayev **initiated the establishment of the IOFS.**

Today our Organization represents 36 countries spread over four continents – Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America.

This is an enormous market with a combined population of **about 1.4 billion people.**

Over the years, the IOFS has established itself as a sought-after international institution. The **16 strategic programmes** have been adopted to advance the agro-technological, scientific and innovative capacity of the OIC member countries.

Efforts are being made to establish national gene banks and a network of Centers of Excellence, to incorporate leading practices of water management and biological pest control, to enhance food safety and develop a Halal food industry.

Dear Assembly Participants!

According to the data from the United Nations, **270 million people** will experience shortage of food by the end of 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and climate change.

In these conditions, **the role of the IOFS** in the implementation of coordinated and mutually beneficial policies **will grow significantly** to ensure the food security in the region.

Therefore, I urge the member states to support the initiative to create the **OIC Food Security Reserves and Grain Fund**.

Kazakhstan is an active and responsible member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and is one of the **top 10 wheat and flour exporters**, providing up to 7 million tons of wheat per year.

Every year Kazakhstan provides gratuitous humanitarian aid in the form of wheat and flour to the OIC countries in need.

I am convinced that our experience will be beneficial in the resolution of the issues of food insecurity in the ever-growing Muslim world.

Only by joining forces can we make a meaningful contribution to achieving one of the **most important Sustainable Development Goals** - zero hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

I believe that **the IOFS will play a key role in this noble mission**.

I wish the forum participants fruitful and efficient work!

**President of the
Republic of Kazakhstan**

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev