Mr. Stefan Schmitz  
Chair of the Steering Committee  
Global Agriculture and Food Security Program  
Washington DC, USA

Subject: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Proposal from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Dear Mr. Schmitz,

The Secretariat for Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan supports the Government’s Household Food and Livelihood Security Project proposal to be funded under the Special Call for Proposals for Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Trust Fund.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has shown a strong commitment to address food insecurity and enhance the livelihood of small holders in the country. In this regard, a number of encouraging efforts have been made. These include the development and implementation of the National Comprehensive Agricultural Development Priority Program under the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework. Furthermore, the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN) has been launched and the country has joined the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement. IPC Secretariat has been working very closely with the relevant partners, including FAO to support food security and livelihoods issues in the country.

Despite the positive and strong efforts made by the Government toward alleviating hunger and poverty in the country, there are still huge needs and gaps in the food security sector due to continuous environmental degradation, frequent climate-induced disasters and high number of internally displaced people. More than 54 percent of the population still live below the national poverty line unfortunately and more than 10.6 million people are considered severely food insecure (IPC Phase 4 and 3) requiring emergency food and livelihoods assistance. Therefore, securing further resources to assist the Government in the implementation of its Priority Program by directly targeting the poorest households to sustainably alleviate extreme poverty and enhance their household food security appear crucial.

The IPC partners are working with the Government of Afghanistan to further support and improve the country’s food security situation, and firmly support the GAFSP Project proposal. The Household Food and Livelihood Security Project Proposal appears as a promising way forward given both its founding principles, based on similar past successful experiences, its alignment to the Government’s priorities and directly targeting the poorest households. The financing provided under the GAFSP fund shall contribute to ease the highly constrained fiscal situation and directly address extreme food insecurity in the country.

We hope you will consider the Government of Afghanistan’s proposal favorably.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdullah Hamdard  
Chair, IPC Secretariat  
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)