

August 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Fischer-Daly and Ms. Evans:

Thank you for your letter of July 29, 2016 to Mr. Muller and Ms. Tuck, on whose behalf I am responding.

As we communicated in the past, we continue to recognize and value the efforts of the Cotton Campaign and its partners in Uzbekistan to monitor and document the mobilization of labor in support of cotton and other forms of agricultural production.

We also fully share your concerns regarding the reported harassment of independent monitors. Therefore, we ask that you please continue to bring such reports to our attention. More importantly, we also would like your collaboration in ensuring that such reports are channeled through the established Feedback Mechanisms (FBM), including through the ILO's supervisory mechanism as the international channel for complaints, and the call centers operated by the Uzbekistan Federation of Trade Unions and the Ministry of Labor as the national channel for such complaints.

The upcoming round-table convened by the Government of Uzbekistan is an important opportunity to review the revised methodology for the 2016 Third Party Monitoring (TPM) and FBM, timeline for implementation, and the government's assessment of progress made under the Cabinet of Ministers' Action Plan for Improving Labor Conditions, Employment and Social Protection of Workers in the Agricultural Sector in 2016-2018 issued earlier this year.

As our staff informed you during the July 15 meeting, this will be a technical level meeting with clearly defined objectives. The important issues that you outlined in your letter, however, remain on the agenda of our broader dialogue with Uzbekistan and we will continue discussing them with our counterparts in the government at the appropriate level.

Sincerely,



Nina Bhatt

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