Republic of Uzbekistan
Country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) Addendum
Management response to Member States’ comments

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### Comments from the United Kingdom

- The UK thanks IFAD for the COSOP with Uzbekistan and welcomes its focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

- We note IFAD’s plan to support returning migrants (especially those residing in border areas, particularly near Afghanistan) and people living in disputed areas in the Fergana valley (which is currently under a demarcation process).

- We also recognize IFAD’s support to seasonal workers (who export their services), who can potentially introduce new agricultural techniques, sharing lessons learned, that can be applied at a local level in Uzbekistan.

- We encourage IFAD’s work on supporting access to global markets, working with the Uzbek Government in accessing the WTO [World Trade Organization]; and supporting local producers in accessing benefits utilizing GSP [Generalized Scheme of Preferences] schemes.

- We also encourage IFAD to focus on climate change; and on addressing drivers of conflicts and securing stability in the region.

- Finally, the UK looks forward to seeing how IFAD develops partnerships in implementing the strategy through its projects and to exploring possible synergies.

### Management response

Management thanks the UK for the supportive comments which will inform COSOP implementation starting on 1 January 2023 as well as the planned annual, midterm and completion reviews.