

Executive Board 137th Session Rome, 13–15 December 2022

Republic of Uzbekistan

Country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) Addendum

Management response to Member States' comments

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	Comments from the United Kingdom	Management response
•	The UK thanks IFAD for the COSOP with Uzbekistan and welcomes its focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.	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.
•	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.	