



ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
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Субрегиональное бюро Международной организации труда
для стран Восточной Европы и Центральной Азии
ул. Петровка, 15, офис 23, 107031 Москва, тел. (495) 933-08-10, факс (495) 933-08-20

6 February 2008

Ms. Nadejda Atayeva
President, Association for Human Rights in Central Asia
Le Monde, France

Dear Ms. Atayeva,

As director of the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia I have read your open letter to us and other organizations, as well as the response of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC). I regret the delay in responding to you. Will you please address future correspondence either at our physical address in Moscow, above, or to my email address (fultz@ilo.org).

We are eager to see a successful outcome to the issue of child labor in your country and hope your efforts to this end meet with rapid success. I regret your recent criticism of the ILO and hope that a clearer understanding of how we work will yield a more positive view in the future. It falls outside our competence to take a position on the tax or trade policies of individual countries or regional trade groups. In addition we leave to individual consumers the choice of forgoing consumption of products made using the labor of children. However, we believe that it is in the general interest that such exploitation be transparent whenever and wherever it occurs.

Thus, one key role that the ILO plays is in the determination of the facts. I welcome therefore your suggestion for an ILO role in providing, or helping to provide, an objective and honest account of the nature, extent, and impact of child labor in the cotton fields in Uzbekistan. I have affirmed our interest in my response (attached) to the ICAC which, as you know, also supported your suggestion. To be effective over time, such an effort would also require a monitoring system that could assure consumers that their garments are not produced with the labour of children. For the ILO to play a role in such a system, we would need an invitation from the Government of Uzbekistan and, as the ICAC suggests, its full cooperation. I have recently offered such support to the Government.

Thank you again for your letter. I commend you for your efforts on behalf of the children of your country.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Elaine Fultz'.

Elaine Fultz
Director

Cc.: Ms. Alena Nesporova, Officer in Charge, ILO EUROPE
Ms. Michelle Jankanish, Director, ILO IPEC
Ms. Kari Tapiola, Executive Director, ED/NORM, ILO