



MINISTRY
OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent 2020

MOVING FORWARD WITH TRANSFORMATIVE POLICIES

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First Deputy Minister of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic Uzbekistan

Lessons learned from past cotton campaigns



Strong political will to eradicate all forms of forced labour



- Statement by the President during 72nd Session of the United Nations General on 19th September 2017
- Adoption of the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional to eradicate forced labour in the Republic of Uzbekistan" №349 dated 10th May 2018;
- Adoption of Presidential Decree "On increasing liability for coercion to labour" dated 29th October 2018
- Adoption of Presidential Decree "On additional measures to further improve the system of combating trafficking in persons and forced labor" dated July 30, 2019

On March 25, 2019, the U.S. Department of Labor made the final decision to **WITHDRAW UZBEK COTTON FROM THE LIST OF EXECUTIVE ORDER** prohibiting government purchases in the United States of goods produced using forced child labor.



The decision to exclude cotton from the list makes it possible for any US government agency to **PURCHASE THE PRODUCT WITHOUT ITS CERTIFICATION.**



Reforms in agriculture

Presidential Decree "On measures to widely introduce market principles in the sphere of cotton production" dated March 6, 2020 №PD-4633

- CANCELING STATE REGULATION OF THE PRICE AND PRODUCTION PLAN
- LIBERALIZATION OF PURCHASE PRICES OF RAW COTTON
- Implementation of price announcement practices for farmers BEFORE VEGETATION



Commitment to the complete eradication of all forms of forced labor

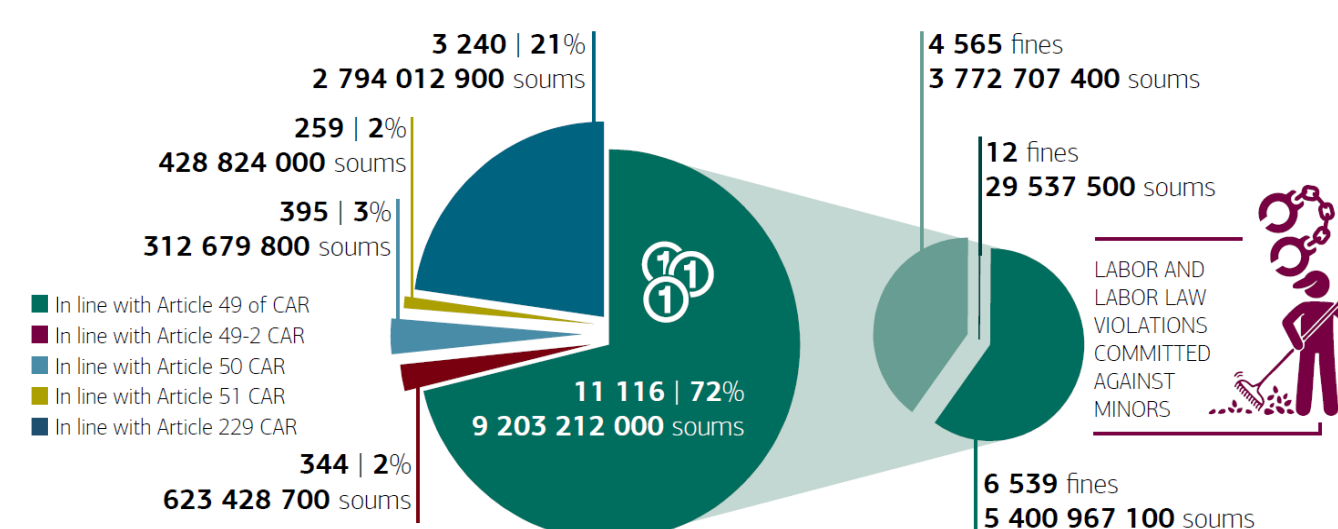


- The law **CRIMINALIZING** forced labour was adopted
- Punished by punitive work up to **TWO YEARS**, and in case forcing minors – **UP TO THREE YEARS**
- Administrative fines for forced labor were increased for **30 - 50 TIMES**

- **Administrative penalties applied to 259 OFFICIALS (132 of them were penalised during the cotton campaign)**
- 18 CITY AND REGIONAL MAYORS and their deputies were punished, 2 MAYORS AND 7 LEADERS OF THE REGIONAL LEVEL were dismissed or demoted
- **225 REGULATIONS, 25 SUBMISSIONS AND 16 WARNINGS issued to mayors of the regions**



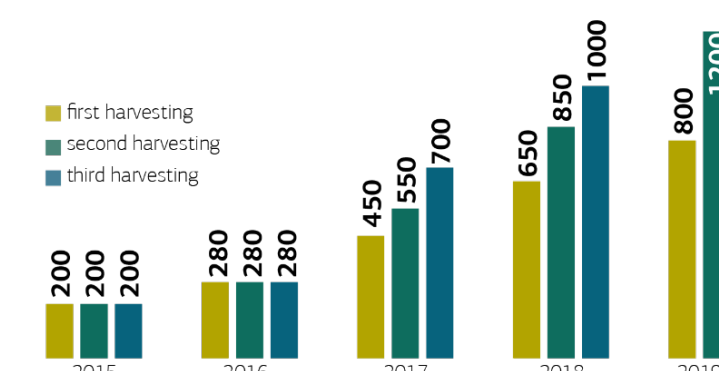
FINES, APPLIED TO ARTICLES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN 2019



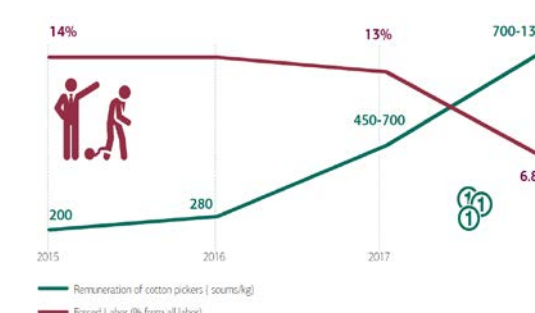
Cotton industry



COTTON PICKERS PAY RISE



Dynamics of salary increase for manual cotton picking



- Incomes of individuals involved in agricultural work on harvesting raw cotton works are not subject to taxation
- Safety and decent working conditions are provided for cotton pickers (accommodation, food, transportation and other necessary conditions)
- The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved a temporary regulation on hiring cotton pickers, which reflects the procedure and standards for hiring pickers



Cooperating with civil society activists

- Press conference with human rights activists and government bodies
- Meeting between the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations and national human rights activists
- A feedback channel has been created in the social messenger
- Issuance of a specialized certificate to human rights activists giving unhindered access to cotton fields and the cotton picking process

Implementation of International Standards

Ratified Conventions of the International Labor Organization



The Republic of Uzbekistan has ratified 17 ILO Conventions and 1 Protocol to the Convention. In 2019, 3 Conventions and 1 Protocol of the Convention were ratified.

- No. 29 Convention on Forced Labor
- No. 47 Convention on the Forty-Hour Work week
- No. 52 Convention on Holidays with Pay
- No. 87 Convention on Freedom of Association and the Protection of the Right to Join Trade Unions
- No. 98 Convention on Freedom of Association
- No. 100 Equal Remuneration Convention
- No. 103 Convention for the Protection of Maternity
- No. 105 Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labor
- No. 111 Convention on Discrimination
- No. 122 Convention on Employment Policy
- No. 135 Convention on the Representatives of Workers
- No. 154 Collective Bargaining Convention
- No. 138 Minimum Age Convention for Admission to Employment
- No. 182 Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

RATIFIED IN 2019:

- No. 144 Convention on Tripartite Consultation to Promote the Application of International Labor Standards
- Protocol to Convention No. 29 concerning Forced Labor
- No. 81 Convention on Labor Inspection in Industry and Trade
- No. 129 Convention on Labor Inspection in Agriculture

Further actions for the upcoming cotton season

1

LARGE-SCALE AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF FORCED LABOUR IN AGRICULTURE AND IN THE ECONOMY

Large-scale trainings program for local authorities, employers including textile clusters, farmers, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, labor inspectors

2

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL AND OTHER BODIES

Taking effective measures to implement changes in the Criminal Code

3

DIRECT INTERACTION WITH RESPONSIBLE PRODUCERS WITH A VIEW TO RESPECTING CITIZENS' LABOUR RIGHTS

Raising local awareness, Implementation of fair employment principles and practices. Implementing Better Work global tools in Uzbekistan

4

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF DISTRICT PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT CENTRES

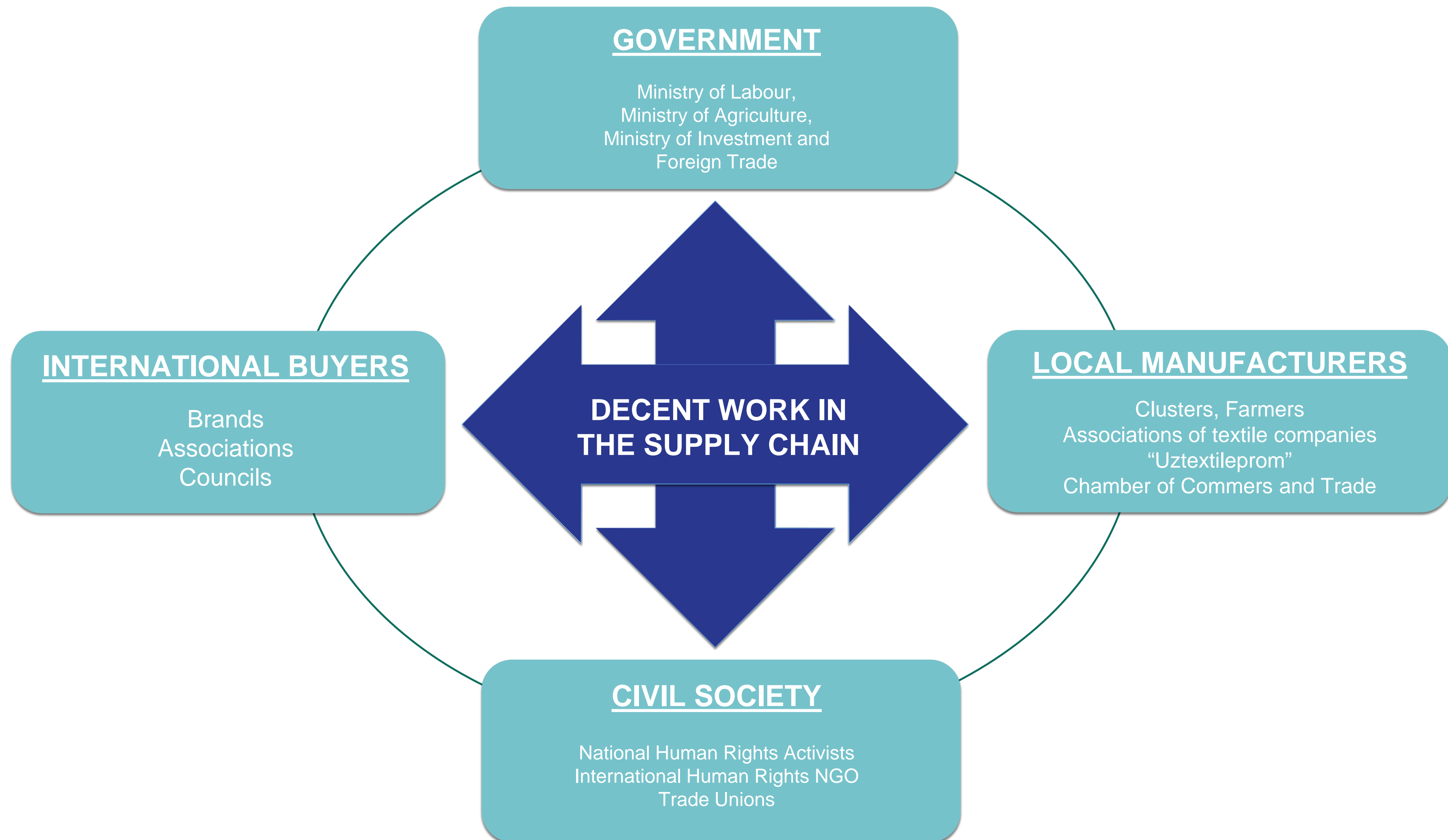
Assisting employees and employers: advance payments, organizing the transportation, ensuring decent living conditions at field accommodation

5

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE AT DISTRICT LEVEL

Rapid response to violations of labor rights identified by activists. Organizing regular meetings of all stakeholders

Quadripartite mechanism for the total eradication of forced labour





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Thanks for watching

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