

Remarks by Patricia Jurewicz
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Press Conference:
Cotton Campaign and Uzbekistan Government on
Labor Conditions in Uzbekistan's Cotton Sector

Tashkent, Uzbekistan
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I would like to also extend my thanks to our hosts Madam Narbaeva and Minister Minister Khusanov. As my colleague Mr. Freeman said, this is a day we have been looking forward to for a long, long time.

As the co-founder of the Cotton Campaign coalition, my organization, Responsible Sourcing Network, is proud to have hosted the Uzbek Cotton Pledge Against Forced Labor in Uzbekistan for the past 11 years. The pledge started as a way to pull together onto one website 20 individual commitments of international brands and retailers, and it grew to be a major catalyst for reform with 331 signatories.

Because of all of the efforts by the government that we just heard about from Madam Narbaeva, and due to the improvements the independent monitors have observed, **the Cotton Campaign announces we are lifting the pledge and ending our call for a global boycott of Uzbek cotton.**

Now it will be up to the individual companies to do their own assessments of risks and make their own policy and sourcing decisions. We look forward to working with international brands, Uzbek clusters, the government, farmers, and independent monitors to implement due diligence approaches aligned with international norms.

Thank you very much