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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

16th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's questions and recommendations to Uzbekistan

24 April 2013

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank Uzbekistan for the national report and its presentation today. Finland welcomes the ratification of the ILO conventions No. 138 and 182.

Whilst we take note of the measures taken by the Government, there are still numerous reports of children being employed and subjected to harsh working conditions, in particular for cotton harvesting. Finland would like to ask about steps being taken to allow independent monitoring of the situation, including by the ILO.

Finland remains concerned about the reports of torture and ill-treatment in detention. Finland would like to ask what measures the Government is taking to eradicate these practices and to ensure that no statement obtained as a result of them is used as evidence in trial proceedings.

Finland recommends that Uzbekistan:

- take immediate and effective time-bound measures to eradicate the forced labour of, or hazardous work by, children;
- ensure that all trials, including those of persons charged with terrorism or in connection with membership of banned religious organizations, uphold international standards of fair trial.

Thank you.