

LAURA TUCK
Regional Vice President

September 7, 2014

His Excellency
Rustam Azimov
First Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Finance
Republic of Uzbekistan

Dear Mr. Azimov,

Thank you for your letter dated August 8, 2014, addressed to World Bank President Dr. Kim, and for sharing the statement you delivered on behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan at the High Level Meeting on Regional Riparian Issues held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on July 18, 2014. Dr. Kim sincerely appreciated your personal participation in that meeting, took note of your statement, and asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you know, since 2009, the World Bank has strived to lead a high quality, transparent, inclusive, and independent assessment of the Proposed Rogun Hydropower Project, in line with international standards. The Bank has closely supervised all studies, hired two Independent Panels of Experts, disclosed draft reports, and convened five multi-stakeholder Riparian Consultations.

Inputs provided by Uzbek experts at various stages of the process have helped improve the quality and comprehensiveness of the studies. Uzbekistan's participation in the Fifth Consultation, July 14-17, 2014, was particularly helpful.

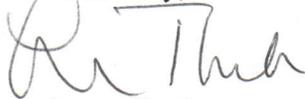
Key concerns raised in your statement of July 18, 2014, dealing with dam safety, project alternatives, downstream impacts, and institutional framework, were carefully examined and addressed in the final documents disclosed on September 1, 2014, including the matrices of Comments and Responses attached to the Fifth Consultation Report.

Your statement stresses that managing downstream water flow is a critical dimension of the project and that riparian countries would want adequate assurances that their interests would be protected. This issue is comprehensively addressed in the World Bank Note on Rogun chapter on "Key Issues for Consideration." This chapter emphasizes the important benefits of developing effective arrangements for Amu Darya/Vaksh trans-boundary water management, including institutional arrangements, and notes that choosing an operating regime and implementing arrangements to promote compliance would be particularly beneficial.

I have asked Mr. Jha, Regional Director for Central Asia, to follow upon those issues during your meeting held on September 8, 2014, in Tashkent. I would also like to assure you that the Bank would be pleased to organize technical briefings or to facilitate further analysis and dialogue as you may find useful.

The Bank is fully committed to continue working with Uzbekistan and other countries in the region to help improve water and energy efficiency and security. Your leadership and vision are essential for this and I look forward to our cooperation.

Sincerely,



Laura Tuck

Vice President

Europe and Central Asia Region

The World Bank

cc: Mr. Jorg Frieden, Executive Director, The World Bank
World Bank Group Executive Directors