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August 10, 2005

***Subject: Uzbekistan's Participation in GEF Small Grants Programme***

**Dear Mr. Ganapin,**

I am happy to advise that Uzbekistan has formally applied to join the GEF Small Grants Programme – please see the enclosed letter.

I would like to confirm that UNDP Uzbekistan is committed to and supports implementation of the SGP in Uzbekistan. We strongly believe that the presence of SGP will greatly facilitate locally-driven initiatives for environmental conservation and improvement of livelihoods through environment-friendly practices. SGP will significantly assist local and NGO communities' capacity to implement community-level strategies and innovations, which will benefit the environment on local, regional and global scales. Moreover, SGP will foster a dynamic partnership network to share best practices and lessons learned, disseminating them beyond Uzbekistan to all Central Asian countries.

SGP will fill an important gap in UN and donor assistance to Uzbekistan's sustainable development efforts. It will significantly add to the wide range of environmental and sustainable development projects in Uzbekistan where GEF plays an important role as a major partner and SGP will help us effectively extend to the grass roots level UN system's solid working relationship with the central and local authorities throughout the country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fikret Akcura'.

Fikret Akcura  
UNDP Resident Representative and  
UN Resident Coordinator

Mr. Delfin Ganapin  
Global Manager  
GEF Small Grants Programme