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THE WORLD BANK

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New CAS for Uzbekistan



On June 12, 2008—The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors discussed a new Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Uzbekistan focused on basic human needs and improving living standards. The CAS is a document that details the World Bank Group's work plan to assist client countries in achieving their development goals. The new CAS for Uzbekistan covers the period 2008-2011 and plans on contributing to the financing of 2-3 public investment projects per year, as well as support to the private sector, through the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector lending arm of the World Bank Group.

The Bank Group's new strategy is designed to support the Welfare Improvement Strategy (WIS) adopted by Uzbek Government last summer. Specifically, by 2011, it aims at achieving measurable progress in the following areas: Enabling an environment for shared growth; increasing income and economic opportunities in rural areas; improving service delivery for better health, education, and water supply to population; improving the business environment for the private sector; and more efficient environmental management, disaster risk management and global public goods provision, including regional cooperation. In addition to lending, the World Bank Group (WBG) support also includes policy advice in these key areas.



On June 26 Uzbekistan country office hosted a **press conference on Uzbekistan CAS**. The journalists representing print and electronic media had a chance to ask their questions and get answers from

Annette Dixon, Country Director for Central Asia and Loup Brefort, Country Manager for Uzbekistan. In the introductory statement Annette Dixon underlined that the main goal of the Program is to improve the quality of life of the people of Uzbekistan. She also mentioned that extensive consultations with the government and civil society gave a clear indication that the World Bank Group financial and knowledge support can help make a significant difference in this country.

The questions asked focused on the sectors where the WB Group will implement new projects, the projects in the pipeline, the figures of IDA allocation and many other issues related to the World Bank Group activities in Uzbekistan.



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