



BETTER WORK
Jordan

STATEMENT OF THE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF BETTER WORK JORDAN ON THE RELEASE OF THE 7th ILO COMPLIANCE SYNTHESIS REPORT ON WORKING CONDITIONS IN JORDAN'S GARMENT SECTOR

1. On February 11, 2016, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the ILO *Better Work Jordan* programme met in Amman to review the 7th ILO Compliance Synthesis Report on Working Conditions in Jordan's Garment Industry. The PAC is comprised of representatives from the government (Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Industry and Trade), employers (Jordan Garments, Accessories & Textiles Exporters' Association, Foreign Investors Association and Chamber of Industries), and workers (General Trade Union of Workers in Textile, Garment & Clothing Industries and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions).
2. The PAC welcomes the release of this public report, the seventh such report produced by *Better Work Jordan*, which presents information on working conditions based on the findings of 64 factory assessments conducted by *Better Work Jordan* between November 2014 and October 2015.
3. The PAC remains encouraged by the fact that the data in this report once again indicates that the provision of *Better Work Jordan* core services (assessment, advisory, and training) at the enterprise level creates an ongoing process of measurable improvement in compliance with national labour law and ILO core labour standards in most factories.
4. The PAC re-affirms its full support for the *Better Work Jordan* programme and call upon all stakeholders to continue to help make progress in improving working conditions in Jordan's garment sector.
5. The PAC notes concerns raised by *Better Work Jordan* with regards to focusing on standards and fire safety measures in worker accommodations by providing updated records of factory dormitories to industrial zone administrators and appropriate government authorities to ensure greater transparency.
6. The PAC acknowledges the efforts made by the social partners in implementing the Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement dated December 31, 2014, for the gradual elimination of the discriminatory practice in the calculation of overtime and other financial benefits for migrant workers in the garment sector by 2017.
7. The PAC notes that the number of international buyers sourcing from Jordan is increasing and calls on international buyers to deepen their support for the Jordan garment industry by increasing orders with participating factories in response to the progress made improving working conditions. Potential buyers from the European Union are expected to participate in the upcoming Buyer's Forum facilitated by *Better Work Jordan*.
8. The PAC re-affirms concerns regarding passport forgery and its impact on the integrity of the recruitment process for migrant workers, wchi mainly related to incorrect date of birth. As this remains a critical issue for the sector, all related stakeholders are encouraged to enhance due diligence towards resolving this challenge.



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9. The PAC notes concerns raised by *Better Work Jordan* with regards to enhancing factory transparency by sharing all working time and compensation related documents with concerned stakeholders.
10. The PAC encourages collaborative trainings facilitated by the General Trade Union of Workers in Textile, Garment & Clothing Industries and *Better Work Jordan*, to raise the awareness of worker representatives from the in-factory joint-worker management committees on the implementation of the revised Collective Bargaining Agreement (August 2015).
11. The PAC welcomes the finalization of the Unified Contract and calls upon the support of the stakeholders to utilize this opportunity to eliminate several non-compliance issues related to the Contracts and Human Resources cluster by the end of 2016.
12. The PAC acknowledges the positive achievements of the satellite units in providing employment to Jordanians and re-affirms its ongoing support towards further increasing opportunities for the local workforce through the garments sector.

Amman, 11 February 2016