

STATEMENT FROM THE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF BETTER FACTORIES CAMBODIA ON ITS 53rd MEETING on 15 September 2022

On 15 September 2022, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the ILO Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) programme held its 53rd meeting. The BFC programme PAC comprises of representatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia (the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and the Ministry of Commerce), employers (Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia – GMAC) and workers (representatives from different confederations and federations).

Better Factories Cambodia programme links trade with labour standards in the garment, footwear and travel goods and bag sector in Cambodia to promote compliance with, and effective enforcement of, existing labour law and internationally recognized core labour standards. The programme's approach includes from cultivating social dialogue through worker-management committees, to offering factories tailored advisory services to help them solve their own labour law challenges or using public reporting to spur improvements in factory working conditions and workplace environment across the industry.

1. We, the PAC members of Better Factories Cambodia programme, would like to re-acknowledge the joint efforts and achievements made together with Better Factories Cambodia during the last years in jointly supporting the garment sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also acknowledge the increased collaboration with Better Factories Cambodia on capacity development to constituents. The scope of collaboration also extended to around 100 travel goods and bag factories over the last years. Many capacity development activities have been conducted this year with constituents, and the PAC members wish to express its high commitment for Better Factories Cambodia programme in the next five years.
2. We value the collaboration between industry partners and commit to improve the industry also through the implementation of *Cambodia's Garment, Footwear and Travel Goods Sector Development Strategy 2022-27*. We commit to collaborate at industry level and to solve issues at enterprise level through social dialogue and to address challenges in the industry, as we recognize the efforts still needed to improve the competitiveness of the industry.
3. The PAC members also discussed the Social and Labour Convergence Program, and the members expressed their wish to have continued discussion on this Program before its roll-out in Cambodia.
4. In the 53rd PAC meeting, we also discussed the upcoming new Better Factories Cambodia Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government and GMAC. The MOU will for the next five years (2023-27), having a strong commitment to collaboration and strengthened efforts for strengthened institutional capacity among constituents. The MOU will be signed early October 2022.
5. We would like to emphasize continued commitment towards working in partnership with the ILO that has during the last decades, transformed the Cambodian garment industry including working conditions, and lives of millions of Cambodian garment workers and their families.
6. In the next five years, we commit to jointly work on strengthening working conditions, health and safety, and productivity in the Cambodia. For a competitive sector, the PAC members would also like to encourage increased collaboration of international buyers to support Cambodia's garment, footwear and travel goods and bag sector.