Challenges for the Garment and Footwear Sector in the time of COVID-19 pandemic from the RBC perspective

Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)
Thematic Webinar on Sustainable Garment

3 November 2020
09:00–10:00 (CET), 16:00–17:00 (SGT)

Jacqueline KACPRZAK

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AND REGIONAL POLICY
Session on textile:

- Distinction in the interpretation of sustainable development in the textile industry between Asia and Europe
- Recommendation to improve existing and create additional standards and certifications in the fashion industry
- Social movement aided by mass media marketing and public education to shift the consumer behavior
- Taxation as a tool to influence consumer and corporate behavior
- Brands ratings as an incentive for good or deterrent against bad industry practices
- Increasing product lifecycle through fashion innovation
Report from the inaugural meeting of the International Working Group of the Garment Industry Call to Action

Meeting document  |  04 May 2020

An early task for the Working Group is to select the priority countries for the Call to Action and the criteria for making these decisions is currently being finalised. Important considerations include the extent to which countries are dependent on the garment industry, have the financial ability to support the industry during the health and economic crisis, the liquidity needed to support business continuity and payment of worker wages and the level of social protection provision.

Working Group members are providing further information and the International Organisation of Employers has completed a survey of business organisations. Country selection is expected to be finalised by early next week when a further update will be provided.

As soon as country selection is finalised the Working Group will be writing to international financial institutions (IFIs) and donors on behalf of all...
Cambodia. The BMZ funded “Income protection for the workers in the RMG sector” initiative overseen by the ILO includes funding 1.95M Euro for cash transfers for the garment sector in Cambodia. The Cambodian Call to Action National Working Group, with support from the IOE and ITUC, will be meeting to discuss disbursement and oversight. With support from the ILO, Cambodia’s garment sector development strategy will also be launched as part of the sector’s Economic Response Strategy to Covid-19.

India. COVID-19 response funding has been committed to the country, but to date has not been targeted to the apparel sector. Employers and unions in India held their first meeting in September and are currently developing a process to agree on a shared set of priorities.

Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan
Side session (19 June 2020)
Learning from the COVID-19 crisis to build more resilient garment supply chains in Asia

Key takeaways:
- Partnership is needed across the supply chain at every level.
- Workers should be at the center of business decisions.
- Manufacturers are reacting to the business impacts by turning to innovation and market diversification to build greater resilience.
- Governments have a key role to play particularly in times of crisis.

Global Forum

The 2020 Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct (GFRBC) was held virtually and in two parts.

» Watch on replay
» Read the summary report

All the sessions of the 2020 Global Forum on RBC are available at https://oecd-events.org/oecd-forum-rbc
OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector

SAVE THE DATE! The 2021 forum will take place from 2-4 February 2021. A decision will be taken nearer the date to determine whether the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic will enable the forum to take place at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris or whether it will be organised virtually.

This annual event convenes over 500 representatives from government, business, workers and civil society to discuss key issues and risks related to due diligence in global garment and footwear supply chains.

» Visit the Forum page

OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment & Footwear Sector

Structure of the Guidance

Section I provides a practical framework for due diligence, describing how companies can identify and prevent harms related to human rights, labour, environmental and integrity risks in their own operations and in their supply chains.

Section II provides information on applying due diligence recommendations to specific risks in the garment and footwear sector.

The garment and footwear sector is one of the largest consumer goods sectors in the world. Although it represents an important economic driving force, the tragic collapse of the Rana Plaza factory in 2013 brought global attention to the risks of severe adverse impacts both in manufacturing but also further upstream.

Adopted in 2017, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector establishes a common understanding of due diligence in the sector to help companies meet the due diligence expectations laid out in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment & Footwear Sector

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Download the Guidance

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http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/responsible-supply-chains-textile-garment-sector.htm
In 2017, at the initiative of the Polish National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct, a Partnership for the translation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Garment and Footwear Sector was established. The partnership was composed of representatives of government administration, business, industry organizations and non-governmental organizations:

1. Ministry of Investment and Economic Development
2. Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology
3. CCC S.A.
4. Carrefour Poland
5. Polontex S.A.
6. Vistula Group S.A.
7. NSZZ Federation of Light Industry
8. Gdynia Cotton Association
9. Federation of Apparel & Textiles Industry Employers
10. Institute of Leather Industry
11. Responsible Business Forum
12. La Strada Foundation against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery
13. Buy Responsibly Foundation
14. Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business

http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/responsible-supply-chains-textile-garment-sector.htm
Thank you for your attention