



Attendees:

Anna Walker, Levi Strauss & Co
Joyce Kortland, Oxfam
Judith Hoyles, ILO
Simon Zadek, Secretariat
Sasha Radovich, Secretariat
Claire Bussy Pestalozzi, Secretariat
Nelli Gronroos, Secretariat

1. Update Working Groups

Americas

An MFAF delegation met in the Dominican Republic with the Tripartite Commission as well as NGO's. Once the report is finalized it will be circulated to the Americas Group and the MFA Forum. The ExCo will receive recommendations for potential next steps and funding.

Nicaragua – At the request of the local stakeholders, the ILO Better Work Programme organized a scoping visit in Nicaragua, during which the tripartite partners all requested the ILO establish a Better Work project there in the apparel industry. The ILO will share the outcome of that visit with the MFA Forum. In addition, the Nicaraguan government, together with industry leadership, hosted a meeting on corporate responsibility in the apparel industry. Wal-Mart attended and will be reporting back to the group. The group will be assessing where its efforts are a value-add after receiving these reports.

The Mexico group is holding a meeting in early June in Mexico.

Bangladesh

The MFAF Roundtable to take place in Dhaka has been rescheduled at the request of BKMEA and BGMEA and new dates are to be determined (late June/early July). A teleconference will be scheduled to discuss response to letter CCC has sent to companies and the MFAF.

Lesotho

The MFA Forum with the High commissioner of Lesotho in London are working together to host two meetings inviting buyers to be introduced to the Lesotho textile industry. One meeting will be in London and one in Berlin. The Forum and the High Commissioner will be reaching out to buyers individually and through associations as the timeline is short.

Morocco

A teleconference will take place in May and a meeting will be organised in June to draft a roadmap with buyers and participants. The meeting will take place in Tangiers.

Oxfam has informed the MFAF that they are disengaging from the Morocco working group as there has not been a successful way for NGOs to work in the country initiative.

The Secretariat will make recommendations too the ExCo on next steps at the next meeting.

Romania

The MFA Forum is arranging meeting in Bucharest on 17th May. Attending parties include suppliers, unions, NGO's, ministry of trade economy, ministry of labour, ILO, ITGLWF, industry associations, buyers. The

The MFA Forum



MFAF would like to see more buyers taking part.

The Romanian working group will submit to the ExCo a set of recommendations regarding next steps at the next meeting. A reminder was made that the ExCo must approve this engagement if it is to move into another phase.

Responsible Closures

A teleconference is scheduled for May 14th to finalize the Guidelines and discuss programmatic areas for piloting the Guidelines.

All Working groups will be asked to implement the Guidelines.

The ILO is pleased with the present version and will send a paragraph précisising the ILO's level commitment on the guidelines (disclaimer).

Purchasing Practices

The document outlining key organizations and research in the purchasing practices area will be sent out to the participants. A follow up teleconference to discuss future steps will be scheduled.

2. Financial and Fundraising update

The Secretariat updated the ExCo on the fundraising secured to date and reported the final figures for the FY 07/08. A reforecast budget for FY 08/09 was submitted which included the funds that have been allocated for working group budgets.

The Secretariat presented a draft policy for allocating funds to Working Groups. The Ex Co would like a reference for collaborative framework included. In addition, a line will be included that if working groups exceed their budget by 15% or more requests will be submitted back to ExCo for approval.

It was agreed that all chairs need to sign off on a document on financial responsibility and be given the procurement policy as part of the instructions on recording, tracking, and reporting the use of these funds.

3. Web Redesign

A New website and logo redesign were proposed and the new site is expected to be completed by late June or early July. The new logo and site will replace the current one as soon as the website is finished.

4. International Convening update

The agenda is being prepared and the hold the date -invitations have been sent by the Secretariat. The MFA Forum will request input on the agenda by the participants. In addition the MFA Forum will reach out to our colleagues that may be affected by the concurrence of the meeting taking place during Ramadan and understand if this will affect participation.