



Responding to the Crisis The Global Recession and its Impact on Workers in the Garment and Footwear Industry

21st and 22nd May 2009
International Finance Corporation
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Agenda

Introduction

The first day of a two-day event is a working meeting, devoted to updating key individuals in the industry on latest research and data in context to further developing a response outlined in the MFA Forum's *Framework for Action*. This day will examine in close detail the three key responses from the *Framework for Action* for short to medium term safety nets and trade financing as well as integrating these approaches to longer term industry planning. The 21st May will outline key mechanisms, points of collaboration and partnership and identify key discussions and decisions to be made to progress rapid response.

The second day will be a larger event focused on briefing a wider group of people on the current state of the industry and the effect on workers from the economic crisis. The second day will present the short, medium and long term responses needed to mitigate risks and strategically plan for the future and will announce the MFA Forum's recommendations for action and agreed programs and partnerships. Finally, this work will be framed to share lessons and best practice for other industries to innovate on.

Day 1: Thursday, 21 May 2009

- 8.30am **Opening Session: Simon Zadek - AccountAbility / MFA Forum Secretariat**
- 8.45am **Keynote Address: Rachel Kyte - International Finance Corporation**
- 9:00am **Working Plenary: Responding to the Economic Crisis, Avoiding Future Ones. A Call for Integrated, Informed Action.**

Chaired by Caitlin Morris, Nike Inc. and Chair of Responsible Transitions Working Group

- Dominique Van de Walle, World Bank, PRMGE - presents humanitarian challenges and affect on women in society.
- Neil Kearney, ITGLWF presents on economic crisis undercut few labor rights gains and longer term needs for the industry.
- Amy Luinstra, ILO Better Work presents what ILO is doing relative to crisis and Better Work's response to the crisis.

Date: May 21st, 2009

Time: 8.30am - 5pm

Venue:

International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Washington DC
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

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Should you have any questions, please contact Daniela Johns at the MFA Forum:
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- Sasha Radovich, MFA Forum Secretariat presents cross-cutting theme: need for robust information.

Chair will lay out work-plan for the day

10:00am - 12:30pm: Task Force Sessions

Track 1: Social Safety Nets

Objectives:

- *To define parameters for funding mechanism supported by multiple donors that targets affected workers. Focus on how this program would most effectively reach workers, how to engage at country level.*
- *To agree on suite of programs that should be considered as part of the response and consider their impact/efficacy on this worker population, particularly given the gender dynamic.*
- *To agree on mechanisms to link the broadest network of stakeholders and their information about impacts on the ground to funding of safety nets.*
- *To define a protocol for engaging stakeholders at the country level in execution of social safety net programs.*

Key Questions

- *How are the IFC and Bank currently executing the VFF at the global and country level?*
- *What is the engagement process with the UN organizations and bilateral donors?*
- *What is the opportunity for broader stakeholder engagement and leveraging information by the industry for most effective action?*
- *How will impact of programs to workers and their families be monitored / assessed?*

Chair: Ayesha Barenblat - BSR

Speaker: TBC - World Bank, Social Protection

Speaker: Ridhaka Lal - United Nations Development Programme

Speaker: Dominique Van de Walle - World Bank, PRMGE

Track 2: Trade Finance

Objectives:

- *Discuss options for an operational model: what is being offered, terms and conditions, timing. Are different agencies structuring this differently?*
- *Outline mechanisms for communicating to key stakeholders: banks, suppliers, etc.*

Key Questions:

- *In which countries are additional trade finance/loan guarantees most needed?*
- *How quickly and for how long will suppliers have access to IFC backed trade finance?*
- *Who are other key players in this space from the donor community (e.g. ADB) or elsewhere?*

Chair: Sasha Radovich - MFA Forum Secretariat

Speaker: Miguel Martins - International Finance Corporation

Speaker: Joao Viane da Silva- Inter-American Development Bank

Speaker: Darryl Knudsen - Gap, Inc.



Track 3: Reshaping the Industry: Integrating Decent Work into Economic Recovery and Growth

Objectives:

- Define a high-level view of factors that would need to be considered in scenario planning for the industry.
- Understand current analysis of the industry and frameworks for competitiveness.
- Agree on a roadmap that would bring together critical stakeholders across the next two years to define competitiveness needs at the supplier and country level.

Chair: Kevin Murphy - J.E. Austin

Speaker: Caitlin Morris - Nike, Inc.

Speaker: Mallika Shakya - World Bank, PRM International Trade

Speaker: Jonathan Brooks - United Nations Development Program

12:30 - 2:00pm: Lunch

2:00 - 4:00pm: Report Back by Working Groups:

Facilitated by Caitlin Morris, Nike, Inc.

Each track will present the following:

- *Key agreements: the what and the how*
- *Identified key players (who may or may not be present)*
- *Information gaps - Anything we need to know before finalizing structure*
- *Ongoing information needs - What kind of information does MFA Forum and its participants need to be consolidating in an ongoing manner to support efficacy of initiative*
- *Next Steps*

4:00 - 5:00pm: Closing Plenary - Simon Zadek - AccountAbility / MFA Forum Secretariat

Finalize commitments that can be made publicly and next steps for action. Discuss any key shifts in the work plan. Commit to next steps. Vision of success.

Day 2: Friday, 22 May 2009

9.00am Welcome and Opening by Simon Zadek - AccountAbility / MFA Forum Secretariat

9.20am Speaker: Rachel Kyte - International Finance Corporation

9.30am Speaker: Caitlin Morris, Nike Inc. and Chair, Responsible Transitions Working Group of the MFA Forum

The speaker will present current data and research undertaken by the MFA Forum and others on the current economic crisis' effect on the apparel industry. In addition, the speaker will introduce the MFA Forum's response and Framework for Action.

Date: May 22nd, 2009

Time: 9.00am - 1pm
Followed by a lunch reception

Venue:
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Washington DC
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10.00am Panel: A Response for today, Thinking about Tomorrow

The panel will discuss the current necessary responses to the economic crisis. Organizations will outline their current response mechanisms and respond to the recommendations made by the MFA Forum and the Framework for Action. The panel will present the need for consolidated responses and stakeholder engagement. What is the role for each player in the industry and what the industry has agreed for coordinating our short and medium term responses and laying the foundation for the future. An announcement of our recommendations and agreed responses.

Chair: Kevin Murphy, J.E. Austin

Speaker: Neil Kearney - ITGLWF

Speaker: Michael Kobori - Levi Strauss & Co.

Speaker: TBC

Questions/answers

11.15am Break

11.30am Speaker: Mayra Buvinic - World Bank, PRMGE

Questions/answers

12.00pm Speaker: Caitlin Morris, Nike Inc. and Chair, Responsible Transitions Working Group of the MFA Forum

The speaker will review the work of the panels and the MFA Forum from the previous day and commitments made by the participants. Next steps and commitment towards action will be announced along with a vision of success.

12:40pm Closing Session: Rachel Kyte - International Finance Corporation

The speaker will highlight the work taking place out of this initiative and the lesson for other industries, best practice and innovations.

1.00pm Lunch Reception