

Executive Committee Debrief meeting

London 20th September 2007

Following the MFA Forum fourth International convening in London September 17th - 19th 2007, the Executive Committee reviewed the three days meetings. Present at the meeting were:

Simon Zadek, AccountAbility
Fiona Sadler, Marks and Spencer,
Joyce Kortlandt, Oxfam,
Neil Kearney, ITGLWF
Alice Tepper Marlin, SAI
Lynda Yanz, MSN
Maggie Burns, MFA Forum Secretariat,
Anita Househam, MFA Forum Secretariat
Sasha Radovich, MFA Forum Secretariat
Signe Jensen, MFA Forum Secretariat

Overall the Committee agreed that the running and the logistical arrangements of the meetings were well organised. There was good participation, also from new participants, potential Donors and in country participants, which gave a real boost to the event. The public event had a good turn out with almost 50% non-MFA Forum participants, including a number of representatives from other sectors than textile.

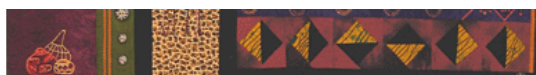
The ExCo members discussed how the meeting proceeded and learning for the future. Following was agreed:

- There needs to be a clear format for working group updates during the Strategy and Planning meeting. It needs to be clarified what can be tabled, how long each working group has and the group needs to agree on what will be raised at the Strategy and Planning meeting, to avoid specific in-country decisions taking place.
- A formal induction process for new participants should be coordinated with the Secretariat.
- Identify key players that can take on the responsibility to drive in different areas. Corporate participants may be the most appropriate to take the lead, as they have access to areas that other don't. The task of the Secretariat will then be to coordinate the work and support the Chairs/leaders of the WG. It is not the Secretariat's role to take the lead.

The meetings provided the Secretariat with a list of activities to carry out the coming 9 months, these are:

- Focus on supporting the in-country working groups rather than institutional development, including coordinating in-country face to face meetings and assist in arranging MS Convening where appropriate
- Develop a protocol for Strategic intervention that is not in-depth in-country work. This is developed with the view to have light touch engagement in countries where there is a need to address certain issue, but perhaps not ground a full MFA Forum in-country engagement e.g. DR
- Develop a participation matrix, with clear indication of working group
- Develop a protocol for new participants and the formal induction process

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- Prioritize funds for WG scoping visits and pre-funding activities.

Priority activities for ExCo with support from the Secretariat:

- Identify a way of creating synergies within the MSIs participating in the Forum - (operationalizing the collaboration)
- Relationship/consolidation to the Collaborative Framework; What trends are we seeing and how do they relate to what is outlined in the Framework.
- Assess the impact of China on the industry post-safeguards and other 'responsibility issues' in the industry through appropriate channels and resources made available by Forum participants.

Activities to be carried out by the Groups:

- *MRT*: With the delivery of a Responsible Transition Guidelines, a multi-stakeholder group will draft a proposal for programme of work to implement the guidelines.
 - *Lesotho*: the group should push activities of participants to engage on market expansion and trade negotiations. A group of buyers will visit the country within 2 months.
 - *Americas*: Host a multi-stakeholder convening on Nicaragua to address issues relevant to the Industry and build a roadmap for Nicaragua to become responsibly competitive. Develop a work plan for the group, including activities in DR, Nicaragua and Mexico.
 - *Romania*: take first steps towards creating an in-country working group, including setting up a Buyers group.
 - *Bangladesh*: Deliver a time bound plan for compliance in Bangladesh, with the agreed implementation plan written by the Multi-stakeholder Forum Bangladesh (MFB).
 - Establish a Multi-Stakeholder working group on *Purchasing Practices*: Chaired by Gap Inc. to coordinate information and deliver action points; draw in-country suppliers and company buyers into process.
- **All working groups will report on its impact and progress by June 2008, where the next international convening will take place.**

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