



AMERICAS WORKING GROUP
Monday 08th Sept 2008
International Convening - New York

Agenda:

- AWG purpose, objectives and work plan guide
- MFA Forum Americas updates
- Multi-stakeholder approaches in the Americas
- Presentation and discussion of MFA Forum Strategy

Participants:

Alfred Anzaldúa	U.S. Department of State
Elena Arengo	Social Accountability International
HeeWon Brindle-Khym	Fair Labor Association
Stan Byers	Global Fairness Initiative
Doug Cahn	The Cahn Group/Clear Voice
Nancy Contreras	Gap Inc.
Katherine Daniels	Nike, Inc.
Alek D'urquiza	Nike, Inc.
Judy Gearhart	Social Accountability International
Steve Grinter	ITGLWF
Fukumi Hauser	Nike, Inc.
Edgar Huezo	Columbia Sportswear Company
Ayesha Khan	Business for Social Responsibility
Joyce Kortlandt	Oxfam
Darryl Knudsen	Gap Inc.
Daniel Lee	Levi Strauss Foundation
Anastasia Liu	USAID
Soledad Mills	CSCC-STR
Abel Navarrete	Columbia Sportswear Company
Steven Oates	International Labor Organization
Carolina Quinteros	Grupo de Monitoreo Independiente (GMIES), El Salvador
Sasha Radovich	AccountAbility/MFA Forum Secretariat
Gabriella Rigg	U.S. Department of State
Laura Rubbo	The Walt Disney Company
Whitney Simon	Global Fairness Initiative
Anna Walker	Levi Strauss & Co.
Kindley Walsh-Lawlor	Gap Inc.
Lynda Yanz	Maquila Solidarity Network

AWG purpose, objectives and work plan guide

Fukumi Hauser (Nike) and Laura Rubbo (Disney)

At the June meeting of the Americas Working Group (AWG), it was agreed to draft a brief statement of purpose and objectives for the Working Group, to be used to communicate within our organizations and externally to explain what the Working Group is all about. Fukumi, Laura and Suze Francois (Wal-Mart) drafted the purpose and objectives document



and work plan guide and coordinated comments from the Working Group participants. They presented the documents at the meeting for adoption.

Fukumi also introduced the idea of setting up a Donors Working Group to get a better understanding of donor funding in the region and organizing how the AWG could influence where the funding is directed. She gathered input on how to coordinate with the State Department and the inter-agency dialogue on the Central America capacity building initiatives, as well as outreach to the Inter-American Development Bank and the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) research on the implementation of the White Paper. Several participants offered to join the Donor Working Group.

Next Steps:

- Edit and tighten the text of the purpose and objectives document and circulate final draft to AWG for use with their organizations (Anna)
- Communicate work plan guide to Nicaragua, DR, Mexico and Donor Working Groups to use in scoping out their past and future work (Anna, Miriam, Lynda, Fukumi)
- Set up first meeting/teleconference of the Donor Working Group (Fukumi)
- Share with Fukumi U.S. Government and IDB contact points (Gabriella)
- Share with Fukumi "Where's the money of labor rights?" background (Lynda)
- Share with Fukumi WOLA White Paper research (Jill and/or Lynda)

MFA Forum Americas updates

Regional Update - Lynda Yanz (MSN)

Lynda did a brief presentation on the status of the region from a trade and production stand point. It demonstrated how interconnected the region is and clarified where there has been growth and declines since the end of the MFA.

Next steps:

- Continue to apply this regional lens to the AWG work to provide context to the country-level work
- Include these regional updates at all AWG meetings going forward

Nicaragua - Nancy Contreras (Gap) and Anna Walker (LS&CO.)

Nancy and Anna provided an update on the status of the Better Work Nicaragua project since the AWG last met in June 2008. Due to funding complications, the ILO has decided to postpone the Better Work Nicaragua project and consider it again in its July 2009 strategy planning, where it may be adopted for roll out in 2010. It was agreed that the MFA Forum could be supportive in the intervening years by facilitating dialogue and initiatives aligned with the Collaborative Framework and promoting responsible competitiveness, which could lay the groundwork for a Better Work project.

Next steps:

- Convene an in-person meeting to develop a draft Nicaragua work plan through 2010 to lay the groundwork for potential Better Work project and build local dialogue as well as commitment to responsible competitiveness and the Collaborative Framework (team)
- Coordinate finding a date and location for the in-person meeting of Nicaragua Working Group in October in Mexico (Lynda)
- Maintain dialogue with ILO on Better Work project and voice support for project (Anna)

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Dominican Republic -Ayesha Khan (BSR) and Anna Walker (LS&CO.)

At the June meeting, it was agreed that one way the MFA Forum might proceed within the DR is to support the roll out of a BSR CAFTA Project demonstration project with the Tripartite Commission in the DR. The DR scoping team sent a follow-up letter to the Tripartite Commission reiterating their findings from the April scoping visit and informed them that if they choose to accept the demonstration project, the MFA Forum would be happy to support the Tripartite Commission and BSR.

Next steps:

- Secure a copy of the report prepared by David Birnbaum (supported by Grupo M) with proposals for strengthening the DR apparel industry (Kindley)
- Identify Hanesbrand contact point for the MFA Forum (Heewon)
- Talk with Magaly to learn of any progress with the Tripartite Commission's decision (Judy)
- Establish group to discuss governance issues related to how MFAF can support BSR (Darryl)
- Follow up with Terry to see if BSR has heard from the Tripartite Commission (Anna)

Mexico - Lynda Yanz (MSN)

The Mexico group has a meeting scheduled in early October in Mexico City where they will refine their strategy and continue to outreach to national actors. Key to future work is engaging local brands and retailers and exploring partnership with the NAALC. The core group consists of Adidas, Gap, ITGLWF, LS&CO., MSN, Nike, and Walt Disney and the Solidarity Center have also participated in the meetings.

Next steps:

- Include Columbia Sportswear on core committee list (Lynda)
- Convene in Mexico City in October 8-9 (Lynda)
- Prepare agenda, materials and meetings (Lynda, Nancy, Julian, Alek and Leslie)
- Incorporate next steps on strategic plan at October meeting (all)

Multi-stakeholder approaches in the Americas

There were updates on the initiatives listed below. Please reach out to the project leads directly to get the background and updates on these projects.

- Global Fairness Initiative - Guatemala and El Salvador engagements - Whitney Simon (GFI)
- CIMCAW Regional Symposium Promoting Social Dialogue and Competitiveness - Elena Arengo (SAI)
- MFA+3 Labor Rights in a Changing Garment Industry - Lynda Yanz (MSN)
- Clear Voice - Doug Cahn (Clear Voice)
- BSR CAFTA Project - Ayesha Khan (BSR)

Presentation and discussion of MFA Forum Strategy

The working Group had a brief presentation/discussion of the MFA Forum's 2008-2010 Strategy Proposal, which focuses the Forum on consolidation and concentration on existing work streams, focuses each working group on outcomes and timelines, and seeks to ensure better cross working group learnings and information sharing.