

STATEMENT FORM THE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF BETTER WORK JORDAN ON THE RELEASE OF THE 10TH ANNUAL REPORT ON WORKING CONDITIONS IN JORDAN'S GARMENT SECTOR

1. On 28th March, 2019, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the *Better Work Jordan* programme met in Amman, Jordan to review and discuss the **Tenth Annual Report** that synthesizes the state working conditions in Jordan's garment industry.
2. The PAC is comprised of representatives from the Jordanian government (the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry, Trade & Supply), employers (the Jordan Garments, Accessories & Textiles Exporters' Association, The Syndicate of Garments and Textile Factory Owners in Jordan and the Jordan Chamber of Industry), and workers (General Trade Union of Workers in Textile, Garment & Clothing Industries, and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions), and the National Center for Human Rights.
3. The PAC welcomes the production and release of this public report, the tenth such produced by *Better Work Jordan*. The report presents compliance findings and trends from 79 garment factories and their assessments conducted between January and December 2018.
4. The PAC remains encouraged by the many positive compliance trends captured in the report. The PAC exclusively commends the sector's improvements in regard to recruitment fees, overtime compensation and electrical safety and maintenance.
5. Based on the two cases of child labor which were reported among migrant workers during 2018; while recognizing the decrease of child labor cases; the PAC confirms its serious stand against this phenomenon. The committee will work in coordination with *Better Work Jordan* and its national and international stakeholders to present a proposed mechanism for these cases once reported to ensure their protection, return and rehabilitation in their countries of origin, and provide proposals on the long run regarding the mechanism for verifying the real ages of migrant workers before bringing them from their counties of origin to Jordan.
6. The PAC acknowledges the need to continue addressing persistent challenges, especially those related to occupational safety and health (OSH). The PAC intends to continue the discussions on the provision of medical services to workers in the garment industry.
7. The PAC lauds *Better Work Jordan's* ongoing collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Labour, the garment trade union, the Jordan Chamber of Industry and the Social Security Corporation. Such collaborations are expected to contribute to sustainable changes in the garment industry and beyond.
8. The PAC recognizes the urgency to promote workers' wellbeing in the sector and the need to gather support and knowledge from experts in this field.
9. The PAC welcomes *Better Work Jordan's* engagement with the non-exporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) producing garments and fully supports the implementation of workshops and seminars throughout 2019.
10. Finally, the PAC reaffirms its full support for the *Better Work Jordan* programme and calls upon all stakeholders to continue to work towards a more compliant garment industry that provides decent work for all.

Amman, 28th March, 2019