

# **Declaration on Regional Collaborative Governance of Responsible Supply Chain in the Asian Textile and Garment Industry**

We, textile and garment industry organizations of Asian countries and parties to this Declaration,

Recognizing that the textile and garment industry has played an important role in securing employment, improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and promoting social development in all countries;

Recognizing the significance of a healthy and sustainable textile and garment industry to relevant economies in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

Recognizing that Asia enjoys an irreplaceable position and great potential in the global textile and garment supply chain;

Noting that cross-jurisdictional challenges on human rights, labor standards and environmental protection exist in every aspect of the textile and garment supply chain, together with imbalanced supply chain structures and governance gaps underlying such challenges; and

Acknowledging that all participants of global textile and garment value chain should assume common but differentiated responsibilities in systematically addressing relevant challenges as mentioned above;

Hereby declare and request as follows:

1. All governments, textile and garment industry players and other stakeholders in the region shall grant strong support to the development of the textile and garment industry of their respective countries, particularly by improving industry structures and strengthening the industry's vitality, in order to give full play to the industry's important role in promoting national economic and social advancement;
2. All governments and textile and garment industry players in the region shall

introduce and support public policies in favor of mutual investment and reciprocal trade relations, including policies that facilitate and promote international capacity cooperation and cross-border investments, so as to create a fair and efficient investment environment, as well as a dynamic and inclusive regional and international trade system, and to achieve mutual benefits among all countries and common prosperity in the region;

3. All governments, textile and garment industry players and other stakeholders in the region shall advocate and support responsible business conducts at all aspects of the value chain and sustainable growth of the region's textile and garment industry, including addressing challenges concerning labor standards, human rights, fair competition and environmental protection at investment, production, circulation, consumption and other stages;
4. To address such challenges, all governments, textile and garment industry players and other stakeholders in the region shall adopt country-specific yet well-coordinated governance strategies and joint actions both at national and regional levels, including establishment of necessary public-private partnership and regional coordination mechanisms;
5. All textile and garment industry organizations in the region shall increase mutual trust, strengthen dialogue and experience-sharing, and intensify reciprocal collaboration, including the establishment of interactive information sharing platforms and capacity building mechanisms, to enhance local textile and garment businesses' awareness and their ability towards addressing sustainability challenges and committing to responsible business conducts;
6. International buyers and brand operators, governments beyond the region, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as all consumers and other stakeholders across the world shall pay attention to and support the sustainable development of the Asian textile and garment industry, including advancing harmonization of standards, supporting the establishment of an equitable and sustainable

supply chain interest structure and responsible purchasing and consumption modes.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this Declaration on Regional Collaborative Governance of Responsible Supply Chain in the Asian Textile and Garment Industry, agreeing to identify specific projects and actions that conform to the spirits hereof through good-faith dialogue and consultation.

Signatory Parties (in alphabetical order by country name):

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)

Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC)

China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)

Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA)

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA)

Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA)

Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (TMA)

Executed this declaration on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016, in Shanghai

The People's Republic of China