

STATEMENT OF THE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF BETTER FACTORIES
CAMBODIA ON THE RELEASE OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ILO SYNTHESIS REPORT
ON WORKING CONDITIONS IN CAMBODIA'S GARMENT SECTOR

1. On 12TH of June 2012, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the ILO Better Factories Cambodia project met in Phnom Penh to review and endorse the Twenty-Eighth ILO Synthesis Report on working conditions in Cambodia's Garment Industry. The PAC comprises representatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia and Cambodian trade unions.
2. The members of the PAC welcome the release of this report which presents information on working conditions generated using the automated Information Management System (IMS) of the project.
3. An indicator of the need for a new industry-wide agreement is that the number of strikes over the reporting period is twice as many for the same reporting period last year when a Memorandum of Understanding between stakeholders, now expired, was in place.
4. We note with regret that there has been little significant improvement in compliance in areas related to the causes cited for group fainting such as heat levels, the availability of soap and water near factory toilets, and limiting overtime work, with many of these areas still below 50% in compliance. In other areas, there has been a drop in compliance levels. This reporting period sees less compliance with paying proper maternity entitlements and less compliance with paying correct severance payments to workers on Fixed-Duration Contracts (FDC) when their contracts conclude.
5. We are encouraged by some improvements such as greater compliance in payment of the attendance bonus and other bonuses.
6. We note also that the issue of non-compliance with legal overtime limitations persists and is in need of attention, not only in Cambodia but at a global industry-wide level. The results of this reporting period show overtime outside of the legal limitations is mostly on a voluntary basis with workers wanting to work the additional hours. Nonetheless, this trend impacts negatively upon worker welfare and the industry as a whole and must be addressed.
7. We continue to express our support to Better Factories Cambodia and renew our commitment to improving working conditions in Cambodia's garment industry and driving greater progress across the sector.

Phnom Penh, 12th June 2012