Complimentary Information for Business and Business Organisations

Covid-19: Joint global action in the garment industry
IOE and ITUC join with brands, retailers and the ILO to lead a voluntary call for action to support the garment industry

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), IndustriAll, and major brands and retailers are joining with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to take action to protect garment workers’ income, health and employment and support manufacturers to survive the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This global coalition also agreed to work together to establish sustainable systems of social protection for a more just and resilient garment industry.

Content of the Statement
Concretely, employer and worker organisations along with leading brands, retailers and the ILO endorse a voluntary call for action and commit to work with governments and financial institutions to mobilise sufficient funding to enable manufacturers to ensure business continuity including payment of wages, as well as income-support and job-retention schemes to address the impact of the crisis.

Brands and retailers endorsing the statement pledge to pay manufacturers for finished goods and goods currently in production. There is agreement that this allows for all kind of innovative and flexible solutions for payment as well as delivery in a reasonable timeframe.

IOE, ITUC, the ILO and other organisations endorsing this statement commit, consistent with their respective roles, to support the development of social protection floors and to extend social protection for workers and employers in the garment industry.

An international working group will be established within the next two weeks convened by the ILO and coordinated by IOE and ITUC, including brands and manufacturers, workers and employer organisations and governments, to further elaborate the implementation steps necessary to deliver on these commitments.

Please find in the right margin the full version of the joint call for action as well as the press release to launch the initiative.

The statement will not bind any members of IOE or their company members which do not want or cannot endorse it. Moreover, there is agreement that companies or organisations, which chose not to endorse the statement, will not be target for campaigns.

Next Steps
An international Working Group will be established, in which IOE will coordinate the industry and business side. IOE will closely engage with all members in the implementation and further development of this initiative.