

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Labour and Employment  
International Organizations (IO)-1  
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**Subject: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting for the "Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garment Sector (RMGP-II)" Project.**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on "Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garments Sector-RMGP (Phase II)" was held on 15 July 2021 at 11:00 a.m. virtually using zoom link. Mr. K. M. Abdus Salam, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) chaired the meeting. A list of participants attended in the meeting is attached (Annex A).

1. After welcome note, the Chair requested Ms. Suhana Islam, Senior Assistant Secretary of MoLE to start the meeting. Ms. Islam started by informing the meeting participants about the agenda as follows:
  - a) Confirmation of last meeting minutes;
  - b) Implementation status of last PSC meeting decisions;
  - c) Implementation progress- physical & financial of the project; and
  - d) Future Activities.

Thereafter, she proposed for adoption of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting if no modifications were required. After unanimous adoption of the last meeting minutes, the Chief Technical Adviser of RMGP-II, Mr. George Faller provided a presentation on the progress by programme outcomes and cross-cutting areas using a PowerPoint presentation.

2. The CTA informed that the DIFE training plan has not yet been developed when presenting the actions upon decisions of the last meeting. Mr. Kamrul Hasan, DIG of DIFE said that ILO was supposed to engage a specialist for this work. DIFE training unit has not yet worked with the training plan. The CTA responded that the process of hiring the specialist is going on and the specialist will be on board by August 2021. The Chair suggested that necessary actions should be taken as soon as possible to make the training plan ready.

3. Following the presentation by the CTA, the Chair queried the reasons for partial achievements of several outcome indicators for this year. The CTA informed that the activities shown in the presentation under each outcome are targeted for completion this year. As it is the middle of the year many activities are shown as partially achieved but by the end of this year most of the targeted activities will be achieved. He also said that among the papers presented for the PSC meeting was a breakdown with timelines for all activities that could be consulted for more details. The Chair asked about the comments & findings of the ILO Mid Term Evaluation report whether they were satisfactory or not. Mr. Saidul Islam, Senior Programme Officer of ILO informed that the programme shared the report with its constituents and the Comments & findings were satisfactory with some recommendations to act on. The programme also scored 'A' by DFID Annual Review done in 2020.

4. Mr. Farooq Ahmed, General Secretary of Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) mentioned that immediate actions are need to accelerate the Industrial Safety Unit (ISU) set up. This ISU should be linked with other relevant bodies to include sectors beyond ready-made garments. They suggested that a comprehensive plan should be developed for it. The Chair

recommended that the ILO and DIFE should come up with specific plan and actions for ISU as soon as possible.

Mr. Kamrul Hasan informed that DIFE submitted an organogram to MOPA (Ministry of Public Administration) which is in process of approval. The Chair suggested him to make a strong coordination committee and follow up with MOPA. Mr. Farooq Ahmed representative from BEF mentioned that BEF need to be included in the process and suggested to review the organogram, which was also echoed by Mr. Shamim Ehsan, representative of BKMEA. Mr. Ehsan requested that someone from employers' organisation be included in the Advisory Panel of ISU. He also requested to build the capacities of all relevant stakeholders equally.

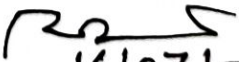
The CTA agreed on the speedy process for ISU. The NTPA review was conducted in 2020 and shared with MOLE, and this included a recommendation to extend the building safety monitoring work to other sectors. Labour inspectors roles need to be addressed in more detail in their SOPs, to define what they are and are not responsible for when it comes to building safety issues, he added. The Chair suggested to discuss the whole issue in a separate meeting as soon as possible.

5. Mr. Ehsan raised his concern about limited functions and visibility of RCC progress with monitoring of the remediation works. Mr. A.N.M Saifuddin, BGMEA Chattogram representative also echoed with him. The chair suggested to take initiatives to make RCC stronger. Mr. Naimul Ahsan Jewel, Member Secretary of NCCWE informed that there is a committee for National Council for Industrial Health and Safety but which has been dysfunctional for many years.

6. Upon discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- 1) The ILO & DIFE will take necessary actions to develop the DIFE Training Plan;
- 2) The ILO and DIFE will come up with specific plan and actions to speed up the ISU formation process;
- 3) The Labour Wing of MOLE will organize a meeting with DIFE as soon as possible to discuss the responsibilities of Labour Inspectors for building safety monitoring and to explore the possibilities to extend this work to other industrial sectors. The DIFE will present the scope and responsibilities of ILs in this regards in the meeting; and
- 4) The DIFE will take necessary initiative to strengthen RCC and shared the progress with the MOLE as soon as possible.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

  
16/07/2021  
(K.M. Abdus Salam)  
Secretary  
Ministry of Labour and Employment  
and  
Chairperson of the PSC