

# **Seminar Summary**

## **Moving the needle #13 The Pakistan Accord**

Asian Dialogue on Sustainability in the  
Textile and Garment Industry Series

January 2023



# Seminar summary

**The seminar explored the Pakistan Accord, a legally binding workplace safety initiative for garment and textile factories. Experts discussed its scope, impact, and next steps as the Accord prepared to launch.**

## **Discussion topics:**

- Pakistan Accord overview – its purpose, legally binding nature, and implementation phases.
- Existing safety efforts in Pakistan – insights from GIZ on ongoing occupational health and safety initiatives.
- Stakeholder perspectives – expectations from brands, suppliers, and trade associations.

# Speakers

**Miriam McNeil:** Senior Advisor, International Accord for Health and Safety.

**Kelly Riemann:** Corporate Responsibility Manager, Bunchtor Group.

**Muhammad Ubaid:** Component Manager, Labour and Environmental Standards, GIZ Pakistan.

**Stephen Frost:** Moderator, representing GIZ Fabric.

## Seminar key takeaways

- **The Pakistan Accord builds on the Bangladesh Accord's success:** It aims to improve factory safety through inspections, training, and compliance support.
- **Existing safety regulations and initiatives in Pakistan:** e.g. GIZ-led capacity-building efforts will align with the Accord's implementation.
- **Brands and suppliers will be expected to commit to compliance:** Technical support provided to help factories meet safety standards.
- **Legal status and alignment with government policies:** Key considerations before the Accord is fully operational.

## Challenges & concerns raised

- **Clear legal registration:** Trade associations emphasised the need for clear legal registration of the Accord in Pakistan.
- **Financial burden:** The financial burden on factories for remediation was a key concern. Brands may provide financial support in certain cases.
- **Better coordination:** There were calls for better coordination to avoid duplicative audits and inspections across different safety initiatives.

# Calls-to-action

## **For brands & retailers:**

- Sign the Pakistan Accord to demonstrate commitment to worker safety.

## **For suppliers:**

- Prepare for upcoming inspections and training to align with new safety standards.

## **For industry stakeholders:**

- Engage in discussions to ensure smooth implementation and alignment with national safety policies.

## **About the Asian Dialogue Series**

The “Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry” series was initiated to foster collaboration and strengthen regional knowledge exchange for greater social, environmental and economic sustainability in the sector. Launched in 2015, the series aimed to cultivate regional, sector-specific dialogue and promote cooperation between actors from across the supply chain.

## About Asia Garment Hub

The Asia Garment Hub is a digital one-stop shop tailored to the garment and textiles sector in Asia, viewed through a lens of Decent Work and Sustainability.

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