

A Joint Statement of Support for Better Work Haiti

The economic crisis and the accompanying loss of jobs across the world have underlined the close relationship between trade and economic well-being. Developing countries have been particularly negatively impacted, and thus we share the optimism that the Hope II programme – which provides duty-free, quota-free access to the US market – will bring sustainable economic benefits to Haiti.

We believe that these benefits will be magnified and Haiti's international competitive position enhanced through the linkage of Hope II to the implementation of Better Work Haiti. We thus support Hope II and the ILO and IFC's Better Work program and view the combination as a way to increase employment opportunities and decent work in Haiti. Our experiences and that of Better Work in the countries where it is operational have demonstrated that responsible labour practices are important to building an apparel industry that is competitive in global supply chains. However, this is not enough to create a sustainable industry. Also needed are good governance and a stable operating environment, sound infrastructure, and skilled workforce.

We support the introduction of the Better Work program in Haiti and look forward to actively engaging with it and the government in pursuit of responsible labour practices and the creation of jobs. Our expectation is that progress on improving labour standards and close cooperation among employers, government, unions, and the international community will create an enabling environment for increased sourcing from Haiti. We support this work.

International Buyers' Forum
Better Work Haiti