**Joint Statement: Cambodia May 2014**

We can confirm that on May 26th, a delegation representing 30 global brands and global trade unions met with H.E. Keat Chhon, Permanent Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia and a high level representation from the Royal Cambodian Government.

The meeting was arranged as a follow-up meeting from one held earlier in February 2014, to continue a dialogue regarding international concerns of the treatment of Cambodian garment workers, some of who have been killed or wounded and others who have been detained by security forces.

The meeting was held as an open and frank exchange during which the government shared the steps that they have taken since the last meeting, to put in place relevant mechanisms, in particular a wage setting mechanism and new Trade Union law.

The brands and unions present reiterated their joint wish for a positive future for the Cambodian garment sector based on stability, transparency, predictability and the rule of law. Whilst recognising progress and acknowledging that such processes can take time, the Brands and trade Unions shared their concern that there needs to be clear timelines and communication on concrete achievements that reflects an inclusive process. Furthermore the Brands and Trade Unions expressed their more immediate concerns that:

* The outcome of the judicial process for the detainees must be based on evidence and stands up to international scrutiny to build trust and confidence;
* Those who shot at demonstrators should be brought to justice;
* That worker actions, such as peaceful strikes and demonstrations are not met with violence;
* That anti-union law suits are dropped, allowing unions to play their full role in constructive social dialogue.

The group of brands and Trade Unions conveyed to the government that due to reaction of consumers and the disruption to production and shipping caused by continued unrest, Cambodia was at risk of losing its status as a strategic sourcing market, with an impact on future investment and growth.

The government invited the group to continue to work together with other stakeholders within the framework of local working groups on relevant issues; brands present agreed to consider this offer. The meeting ended with the repeated desire of all parties to ensure progress for the sector.