

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sustainability Recommendation Paper on Promoting the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Cambodia's Garment, Footwear and Travel Goods (GFT) Sector

**PHNOM PENH, 26 JULY 2024** – EuroCham's Responsible Business Hub (RBH) and CARE, supported by GIZ FABRIC and the Textile, Apparel, Footwear & Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC), successfully launched the "Sustainability Recommendations on Promoting the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Cambodia's Garment, Footwear and Travel Goods (GFT) Sector" on Thursday, 25th July at Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh.

This event presented the second of five Sustainability Recommendation Papers (SRPs) to be released as part of this partnership and brought together key industry stakeholders, including government representatives, business associations, private sector members, civil society organisations, and development partners, as well as representatives from factories and organizations supporting Persons with Disabilities. The purpose was to share the findings from the paper and exchange knowledge and best practices regarding the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace.

**H.E. Lim Suyhong**, Under-secretary of State at the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training attended the event. His Excellency emphasised the importance of this event in promoting the rights of people with disabilities, specifically within the garment sector. The government has been diligently working to protect and advance the rights of persons with disabilities through various legal frameworks, including the 2009 Disability Law and the Sub-Decree on Quota for Recruitment of Disabled Persons.

**Mr. Samuel Schleipman**, EuroCham's Responsible Business Hub coordinator said: "It was an energetic forum, with over 110 people attending and participating in our open space discussion exercise. Key themes that came up were the importance of being proactive, reducing stigma, and employers, civil society, and the government working together to help match the skills of disabled persons with jobs where they can excel. Persons with disabilities have the ability to contribute enormously to Cambodia's labor force. Inclusion is a win-win."

**Mrs. Neou Sovattha**, Country Director at CARE Cambodia said: "CARE believes that ending poverty and injustice is possible when everyone participates in development and shares its benefits, including persons with disabilities who help create a just and equitable world."

**Mr. Pich Sopheak**, Human Resources Manager at Mutita Textile Social Enterprise said: "It was a pleasure to join this event dedicated to empowering people with disabilities within the garment sector. This initiative is crucial in awakening business owners to the potential and capabilities of individuals with disabilities, while also providing them with opportunities to contribute meaningfully to the industry."

**Ms. Vorn Vivothana**, Executive Director of Women with Disabilities Forum at Takeo Province, said: "I am honored to have been given the opportunity to participate in this crucial dialogue. As a woman with a disability, I am eager to share my experiences and learn about the government's initiatives to support individuals with disabilities in finding fulfilling employment. I will disseminate this information among disability self-help groups in my community to empower members."

#### EUROCHAM'S FOUNDING CHAMBERS AND NATIONAL CHAPTERS

#### European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia

**Mr. Hasso Anwer**, Project Manager at GIZ FABRIC Cambodia, said promoting inclusivity for people with disabilities was essential and he was proud of the recommendations submitted. “Including people with disabilities into the economy is not optional. It is a must to guarantee dignity and opportunity for all members of society. I am delighted we could contribute to a solid set of recommendations to pave the way for a more inclusive GFT sector, and we are eager to cooperate with all stakeholders on the implementation,” Anwer said.

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## About EuroCham Cambodia

**The European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia** (EuroCham Cambodia) was created in 2011 by French, German and British business associations in Cambodia to act as the official chamber of the European business community in the Kingdom. Since then, it has grown to over 400 members and 7 national chapters, comprising 11 European countries. [EuroCham Cambodia](#)'s core activities are to promote, support and represent its members and European business interests in dialogue with the Royal Government of Cambodia, with the aim of developing a more efficient and fertile business and investment environment for all.

EuroCham's key objectives are to

- Consult & advocate on key issues related to doing business in Cambodia;
- Promote investment in Cambodia
- Work to improve access for European business to the Cambodian market, and vice-versa; and facilitate business between small and medium size companies of Cambodia and EU Member States;
- Provide services relating to economic, legal, technical, financial, market and other business issues in the EU and Cambodia and industry-specific information to investors;
- Promote a strong European Union business identity vis-à-vis the Cambodian business community;
- Work closely with Cambodian stakeholders in supporting inclusive and sustainable growth of the Cambodian economy

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