



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN  
Geneva**

**Statement**

**350<sup>th</sup> Session of the ILO Governing Body  
Agenda Item GB.350/POL/2  
Update on the Better Work Programme**

**Statement delivered by Mr. Muhammad Abdullah, Counsellor, Permanent Mission  
of Pakistan to the UN, Geneva**

**(7 March 2024)**

---

**Honorable Chairperson,**

We thank the Office for providing a very comprehensive update on the significant progress achieved by the Better Work Programme since its last discussion at the Governing Body's 320th Session in March 2014. The Programme's commendable expansion, driven by its recognized impact and compliance with national laws, is noteworthy. Efforts to utilize supply chain incentives for promoting decent work and boosting exports, especially with governments conditioning sourcing on Better Work's presence, are appreciated.

The Government of Pakistan is a funding partner for the Better Work Programme, now completing its third year with over 80 factories benefiting. Pakistan's Programme is distinguished by signed MOUs for policy reforms, particularly legal changes regarding Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining. Both Sindh and Punjab Provinces have drafted simplified labor codes aligned with International Labour Standards, to be

adopted in 2024. Enforcement of legislation is prioritized, with increased labor inspectors and improved effectiveness through Strategic Compliance Plans. Worker and employer capacities have been developed at national, provincial, and workplace levels.

The formation of bipartite change committees in Better Work factories underscores Pakistan's commitment to ethical supply chains. To maximize benefits, it's crucial to enroll prepared and eligible Pakistani SMEs, even if not registered through partner brands. This strategic approach will address resource needs and aid in rebalancing Pakistan's export base.

Aligned with our commitment to labor laws and fundamental workplace rights, we acknowledge the Better Work Programme's support for the International Labour Organization's strategy on decent work in supply chains. We are committed to fostering sustainable enterprises, resilience, and inclusivity, and we appreciate the Programme's efforts to tackle challenges hindering sustainable change.

I thank you.

---

Word count: 272

Time: 2 minutes