



April 22, 2020

The undersigned organizations, representing the full spectrum of the textile, apparel, footwear, travel goods, and fashion industry across the globe, are coming together in these unprecedented times to make a joint appeal to our governments, our stakeholders, and our supply chain partners.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is a major health crisis that requires the united and undivided efforts of billions of people - including first responders, health professionals, policy makers, essential service providers, and citizens. Many in our industry have been playing their part by suspending/limiting operations to keep their workers and consumers safe consistent with global health guidelines AND empowering or repurposing facilities, factories, and supply chains to produce and distribute items of personal protective equipment and other urgently needed medical materials.

Working with our friends, families, and our communities, together we can AND will stop this deadly Pandemic.

But this health crisis has also triggered a potentially deadly economic crisis. As businesses have closed, revenues and cash flow have dried up. The resulting liquidity squeeze has adversely hit many companies, their workers, and multiple layers of suppliers all around the world. Contracts are being cancelled, workers are being furloughed, and factories and businesses are being closed. With each passing day, this damage is compounding and harming more and more stakeholders. We need to coordinate and accelerate our efforts to limit and mitigate this damage, and make sure it is not irrevocable. As we continue to dedicate our efforts to fight this Pandemic, we must also come together to fight the economic crisis that has also been created.

It is with this in mind that we issue this general appeal and set of principles.

- Governments, with the support of international financial institutions, must enact temporary stimulus measures to ensure liquidity.
 - These measures must be as flexible as possible so that employers across the supply chain can gain access to relief as quickly as possible.
 - These measures should benefit both employers and their workers.
 - Although temporary, these measures should be easily extendable, and quickly extended, should the crisis prove more durable than may be currently expected.
- Governments should undertake temporary duty deferral and tariff relief to support liquidity and cash flow, and keep workers employed.
 - At a minimum, governments should immediately defer collections of duties for a period of 180 days.
 - Where appropriate, such as in the case of items of personal protective equipment or items used by lower income consumers, government should also suspend duties.
- Governments should refrain from imposing new trade restrictions and should not impede production or delivery of PPE, its intermediate products, and raw materials.

We welcome the G-20 [statement](#) that speaks to many of these items, but it is now up to individual governments – and others who are not part of the G-20 – to implement and follow through on these commitments. Words mean a lot, but the actions will determine how fast and how well we can emerge from this crisis.

In that vein, supply chain partners need to do their part too. Individual companies should take action that minimize disruptions, facilitate payment for work that has been undertaken, and ensure workers continue to be treated with full respect while ensuring their health and safety. Companies need to continue working, alone and with their supply chain partners, to ensure that supply chains are best positioned to weather this crisis.

These actions in the next 90 days will not only help dictate how fast we can recover, but also will say a lot about who we are as an industry and as a people. Our industry literally touches everybody on the planet, and we have an on-going commitment – to our workers and consumers – to ensure that the industry that emerges from this crisis is responsible, sustainable, viable, and healthy.

Accessories Council

Karen Giberson, President

American Apparel & Footwear Association

Steve Lamar, President & CEO

American Bridal and Prom Industry Association

Stephen N Lang, President

The American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia

Allen Dodgson Tan, President

American Import Shippers Association

Hubert Wiesenmaier, Executive Director

Apparel Export Promotion Council

Dr. Arumugam Sakthivel, Chairman

Asociación Nicaragüense de la Industria Textil y de Confección

James Scott Vaughn, President

Association des Industries d'Haiti (ADIH)

Georges B Sassine, President

Association of Textile Indonesia (API)

Jemmy Sastraatmadja, Chairman

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association

Rubana Huq, President

Bremen Cotton Exchange

Jens D. Lukaczik, President

British Fashion Council

Caroline Rush, CEO

California Fashion Association

Ilse Metchek, President

Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Association (CAMFEBA)

Sandra D'Amico, Vice President

Canadian Apparel Federation

Bob Kirke, Executive Director

China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Light Industrial Products & Arts-Crafts (CCCLA)

Zhongqi Wang, President

China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Textile & Apparel (CCCT)

Jiachang Cao, Chairman

China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, CCPIT (CCPIT TEX)

Yingxin Xu, President

China Home Textile Association (CHTA)

Zhaohua Yang, President

China National Garment Association (CNGA)

Dapeng Chen, President

China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)

Ruizhe Sun, President

Confederation of Wearable Exporters of the Philippines (CONWEP)

Maritess Jocson-Agoncillo, Executive Director

Council of Fashion Designers of America

Steven Kolb, CEO & President

Denizli Exporters Association

Huseyin Memisoglu, President

Egyptian Chamber of Apparel and Home Textile (ECAHT)

Hany Kadah, Executive Director

The European Apparel and Textile Confederation (Euratex)

Dirk Vantuyghem, Director General

European Branded Clothing Alliance (EBCA)

Ignacio Sierra Armas, President

European Footwear Confederation (CEC)

Carmen Arias, Secretary General

Fashion Accessories Shippers Association

Sara Mayes, President & CEO

Fashion, Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association

Sara Mayes, President & CEO

Fondazione Del Tessile Italiano

Simone Canclini, President

Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)

Matt Priest, President & CEO

Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines

Robert Young, Chairman & President

Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia

Mr Van Sou Ieng, Chairman

Gemini Shippers Group

Sara Mayes, President & CEO

German Association of Finishing, Yarn, Fabric and Technical Textiles Manufacturing Industries (IVGT e.V)

Dr. Klaus-Jürgen Kraatz, Director General

Halloween & Costume Association

Michele Buggy, CAE, Executive Director

Hong Kong Apparel Society Limited

Mr. Yu Yuen Mau Banny, Chairman

The Hong Kong Exporters' Association

Benson Pau, Chairman

Hong Kong General Chamber of Textile

Raymond L F Chu, Chairman

Hong Kong Myanmar Manufacturers' Association Limited

Ms. Gina Fu, Chairman

International Apparel Federation (IAF)

Matthijs Crietee, Secretary General

International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF)

Mr. Kihak Sung, President

Istanbul Apparel Exporters Association (IHKIB)

Mustafa Gültepe, Chairman

Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)

Kelly Mariotti, Executive Director

Korea Federation of Textile Industries

Kihak Sung, Chairman

Mediterranean Apparel Exporters' Association (AKIB)

Hayri UGUR, Chairman of The Board

Mediterranean Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (ATHIB)

Fatih DOĞAN, Chairman of the Board

North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD)

Steve Zalkin, President

Pakistan Knitwear & Sweater Exporters Association (PAKSEA)

M. Siddique, Secretary General

Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA)

Ijaz A. Khokhar, Chief Coordinator

Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA)

Khurram Mukhtar, Patron in Chief

Promotional Products Association

International

Paul Bellantone, CAE, President and CEO

**Spinners & Weavers Association of Korea
(SWAK)**

Joon Kim, Chairman

Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)

Tom Cove, President & CEO

**Sri Lanka Footwear & Leather Products
Manufactures Association**

P G D Nimalasiri, President

Sustainable Apparel Coalition

Amina Razvi, Executive Director

Swiss Textiles

Carl Illi, President

Taiwan Textile Federation

Justin Huang, President

Textile Council of Hong Kong, Ltd

Henry Tan, Chairman

**Thai Garment Manufacturers Association
(TGMA)**

Yuttana Silpsarnvitch, President

Travel Goods Association

Michele Marini Pittenger, President

Turkish Textile Employers' Association

Att. Basar Ay, Secretary General

**Uludag Apparel and Clothing Exporters'
Association**

Nuvit Gundemir, Board Chairman

Uludağ Textile Exporters' Association

Pinar Tasdelen Engin, Chairman of the Board

U.S. Fashion Industry Association

Julia Hughes, President

**Uzbekistan Textile and Garment Industry
Association "O`zto`qimachilik sanoat"**

Ilkhom Khaydarov, Chairman

**Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
(VCCI)**

Mr. Vo Tan Thanh, Vice President

**Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association
(VITAS)**

Vu Duc Giang, Chairman

**World Federation of Sporting Goods Industry
(WFSGI)**

Robbert de Kock, President and CEO