Addressing Socio – Cultural Complexities Standards

Briefing of the National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards

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Introduction to socio-cultural issues in standards

Primarily slated to address activities of organizations not individuals - address social and environmental issues or impacts arising out of the activities of organizations as market actors.

Market Driven – set expectations for organizational management/practice/behaviour

Often require adherence to local laws or international best practices on these issues.

Uptake/external legitimacy does not inherently depend on involvement/action by state/public sector

Aim to eliminate the most egregious practices - forced labour, human rights violations, and child labour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF INFLUENCE</th>
<th>DIRECT, BUSINESS, TIER, MIGRATION, NATURE OF INDUSTRY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPARENCY</td>
<td>PARTICIPATION, DISCLOSURE, DATA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCOPE OF OPERATION</td>
<td>NATIONAL, GLOBAL, LOCAL, FACTORY</td>
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Sectoral Challenges/ Bottlenecks for outreach

- Social Factors/ Safety/ Discrimination/ Harassment
- Visibility/ Influence/ Impact
- Migrant/ Temporary workers
- Bandwidth to partner in addressing social and cultural issues
- Msme/ Unregulated
- Seasonal/ Fast Fashion
- Long and complex Supply Chain
- Women Dominated
- Social Factors/ Safety/ Discrimination/ Harassment

Mona Gupta
Trade facilitation and Contribution—Global and Domestic (Fig. in USD/No. in terms of certifications)

- The most problematic factors for trade, 2013- Most problematic factors for exporting Score
  - Access to imported inputs at competitive prices ........................................... 13.7
  - High cost or delays caused by domestic transportation ............................... 12.8
  - Technical requirements and standards abroad ........................................... 10.0
  - Difficulties in meeting quality/quantity requirements of buyers ................... 9.4
  - Burdensome procedures at foreign borders ................................................. 9.1
  - Tariff barriers abroad .................................................................................. 8.4
  - Identifying potential markets and buyers .................................................... 8.2
  - Corruption at foreign borders ................................................................... 7.6
  - High cost or delays caused by international transportation ......................... 6.2
  - Inappropriate production technology and skills .......................................... 6.0
  - Access to trade finance ............................................................................... 5.7
  - Rules of origin requirements abroad ......................................................... 3.0
Key areas of focus of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (incl. the Sustainable Development Goals):

**PEOPLE**
- Poverty - Minimum Wages
- Health - Workplace H&S
- Dignity - No Bonded Labor
- Equality - Gender

**PROSPERITY**
- Economic - Fair Pay / Living Wages
- Social Progress - Education / Participation / CB
- Environment - Living Conditions, Accessibility to water, clean air

**PEACE**
- Absence of Conflict - Worker Management Relations, Cross Cultural migration,
- Absence of Fear – CB on Rights / Communication Practices

**PARTNERSHIP**
- Holistic - Comprising of all or most stakeholders, across boundaries
- Inclusive - Participation, Outreach

EACH OF THE SDG FOCUS AREAS CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTIONABLES IN THE PSS
Way Forward for PSS in India – Role & Facilitation – Our perspective

MACRO LEVEL - GOVERNMENT AND STATE
Textiles and Apparel have a huge unutilized export potential
The Trade Enabling Index for India emphasizes Transparency and a Supply Chain Focused Approach

MESO LEVEL - INDUSTRY & BUSINESS

Required from labor standards to Label Care
Bring the SME at a level playing field globally

MICRO LEVEL - PSS

Refocusing the requirements of the standards
Redefining the degree of obligation
Q AND A

THANK YOU