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UNDP and HSBC to build sustainable inclusive business model for Bangladesh apparel industry

Dhaka, 31 October 2018: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) joined hands together to promote sustainable supply chain in Bangladesh apparel industry by creating inclusive business model.

In order to achieving that, UNDP and HSBC have jointly organised a seminar on “Leveraging Sustainable Supply Chain in Apparel” on 31 October 2018 at a local hotel in Dhaka, as a part of UNDP’s Business Call to Action (BCTA) initiative which aims to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator (SDG affairs), Prime Minister’s Office attended the seminar as the Chief Guest and also described the country’s sustainable development goals through a presentation.

In his opening remarks, Francois de Maricourt, Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Bangladesh said, *“At HSBC, our aim is to support the development of sustainable supply chains for our clients, which will help them to grow internationally. As the second largest apparel exporter, Bangladesh should continue to drive the sustainable supply chain practices, given the expected impact of climate change”*

Sudipto Mukerjee, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh stressed the importance of inclusive business model and said, *“Inclusive business models have the potential to sustainably serve everyone through mutual benefit, be they the smallest enterprises or multinational giants, when tied together in a shared supply chain. Impact measurements can help identify supply chain gaps in policy, infrastructure and/or resource and creatively plug them to maximize social benefits and profits for everyone. I am happy that HSBC and UNDP were able to bring together all key actors who can fill such gaps and thereby help create an ecosystem of sustainability leaders.”*

Supply chain is responsible for the majority environmental impact like greenhouse emissions and for the livelihood and wellbeing of communities. The joint initiative of UNDP and HSBC aims to minimise negative impacts and creates environmental, social, and economic benefits for all stakeholders involved in bringing products and services to markets.

Linda Germanis, Project Manager, UNDP Innovation Hub, made the keynote presentation. Keynote was followed by two panel discussions on Current landscape of sustainable apparel industry and Building inclusive apparel business models, facilitated by industry experts.

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The first panel discussed the value of inclusive business model and sustainable supply chain is tangible and transformative to the businesses and economic system alike. It was attended by **H.E. Rensje Teerink**, Ambassador/Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh; **Shwapna Bhowmick**, Country Manager, Marks and Spenser, Bangladesh; **K M Rezaul Hasanat**, Chairman, Viyellatex Group and **Matthew K Lobner** Group General Manager, Head of International and Head of Strategy & Planning, HSBC Asia Pacific. **Md. Mahub Ur Rahman**, Deputy CEO and Country Head of Wholesale Banking, HSBC Bangladesh moderated the session.

While the second panel discussed specific tools, such as Impact measurement, which can provide the indicators to understand the above mentioned business values, financing tools the vehicle to convey the value in capital form, and innovative technologies offer win-win solutions. Attending Panellists were **Kutubuddin Ahmed**, Chairman, Envoy Group; **Basirun Nabi Khan**, Relations & Public Affairs Manager, H&M Puls Trading Far East Ltd.; **Kishore Kumar Singh**, Chief Technical Adviser, Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (B-Sep) Project, ILO; and **Akber (AL) Hakim**, CEO, Engineering Resources International. The session was moderated by **Shaila Khan**, Assistant Country Director, UNDP.

The event was also attended by suppliers, manufacturers, regulatory bodies, and development agencies to capture the comprehensive overview of the ecosystem and to empower the enactors to create an ecosystem of sustainability leaders.

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Note to editors:

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