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18 December 2019

## **HSBC-UNDP Sustainable Reporting Workshop**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Bangladesh and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organised a workshop titled: HSBC-UNDP Sustainability Reporting. The workshop was conducted by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) on Sustainability Reporting with the suppliers of the garments sector.

The Global Reporting Initiative (known as GRI) is an international independent standards organization that helps businesses, governments and other organizations understand and communicate their impacts on issues such as climate change, human rights and corruption. GRI produces a comprehensive Sustainability Reporting Framework that is widely used around the world, to enable greater organizational transparency. The workshop conducted by GRI supports management of suppliers who want to make their business sustainable and transparent. Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director, GRI South Asia and Ms. Pallavi Atre, Sustainability Expert, GRI South Asia conducted the sessions tailored for Bangladeshi RMG sector suppliers. The suppliers were nominated by suppliers nominated by some of the leading retail brands in the world.

The workshop aimed to train participants in the process of sustainability reporting based on the GRI guidelines and strengthening the understanding of sustainability reports as a communication tool and as a useful tool for internal management. It also covered Informing participants on how to use the GRI Guidelines efficiently for internal and external communication and developing methods to increase transparency, credibility, and the quality of information given on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Former Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) at the Prime Minister's Office attended as Chief Guest. Dr Rubana Haque, President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Md. Mahub ur Rahman, Deputy CEO and Country Head of Wholesale Banking, HSBC Bangladesh, also spoke at the programme.

Commenting on the initiative Mr Azad said, "I appreciate this unique partnership between HSBC, UNDP, suppliers and buyers to support Sustainable Development Goals in the RMG sector. Looking forward, we should focus on technology, skills development, diversification and most importantly branding Bangladesh to the world as a leading RMG producer."

Speaking on Sustainable Supply Chain, Md. Mahub ur Rahman said, 'We are a leading global trade bank and ideally placed to support our customers and other companies as they seek to do business in a more responsible and sustainable way. As a well recognised corporate citizen, HSBC acknowledges its role to play towards achieving the SDGs.'

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Linda Germanis, keynote speaker from UNDP noted how the partnership between the UNDP and HSBC embodies a key priority for Bangladesh by demonstrating how the market and productive partnerships can create an enabling environment to achieve the SDGs.

HSBC and UNDP are in their second year of partnership, working together to promote sustainability and to unlock business opportunities through achieving sustainable development goals.

For collaborations with UNDP in sustainability, sustainable supply chain, and media enquiries, please contact Partnerships Specialist Tara Lee at [min.lee@undp.org](mailto:min.lee@undp.org).



**Photograph (Left to right):** Ms. Pallavi Atre, Sustainability Expert, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) South Asia, Dr Rubana Haque, President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Former Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) at the Prime Minister's Office, Md. Mahbub ur Rahman, Deputy CEO and Country Head of Wholesale Banking, HSBC Bangladesh, Dr. Aditi Haldar, Director, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) South Asia, Linda Germanis, Private Sector Engagement Specialist, UNDP and Syeda Afzalun Nessa, Corporate Sustainability Manager, HSBC Bangladesh.

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## **Note to editors:**

### **The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding member of the HSBC Group, which serves our customers through four global businesses: Retail Banking and Wealth Management, Commercial Banking, Global Banking and Markets, and Global Private Banking. HSBC serves customers worldwide from offices in 65 countries and territories in our geographical regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,728bn at 30 September 2019, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.