



## Press release

Lahore, 10 May 2023

The “Punjab Prevention Strategy on Safety, Health, and Wellbeing at Workplace” has been launched by the Labour and Human Resource Department (L&HRD) of the Government of Punjab in a ceremony in Lahore on 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2023. This newly developed strategical framework promotes a hazard-free work environment, focusing on safety, health, and wellbeing of workers.

This strategy provides a 10-year roadmap for achieving and implementing a prevention culture in the province of Punjab. With the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, the targets and measures defined in the strategy were developed after comprehensive consultations with industry, labour unions, employers' representatives, civil society, academia, OSH-experts, Government departments and other relevant international partners.

### **Creating a work-environment without accidents, diseases & harm**

Punjab's new prevention strategy illustrates a forward-looking perspective of health protection and psychological wellbeing at the workplace in contrast to the past practices where safety was merely a matter of fulfilling legal requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Toseef Dilshad Khatana, L&HRD Deputy Secretary highlighted the importance of this historical achievement. The “Punjab Prevention Strategy on Safety, Health, and Wellbeing at Workplace’ is a new roadmap aimed at implementing and achieving a culture of prevention, in the light of Vision Zero, in the province of Punjab in Pakistan.”

“Safety at workplace is a fundamental right and not a choice” emphasized Mr Rao Zahid, L&HRD Deputy Secretary Development. He shared that “the roadmap is developed through a consultation process and now it is time to focus on implementation of measures for developing and improving a culture for safety, health, and wellbeing at all establishments.” He also highlighted the importance of this initiative in the context of ILO conventions C155 and C187, which now have become the fundamental conventions.

Mr Helmut Ehnes, an international prevention expert from DGUV and International Social Security Association (ISSA), Germany, elaborated that “Vision Zero goes beyond *compliance*. It requires a change in the thinking, behaviour and mindset of all leaders, managers, and employees. To establish a culture of zero accidents, ‘seven golden rules’ is the key, and these rules serve as the foundation for the Punjab Prevention Strategy.”

“The future looks promising with the launch of *Vision Zero*, the *Punjab Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the complementing *Punjab Prevention Strategy*. We strongly believe in Vision Zero which is the fundamental building block for this strategy. The efforts of L&HRD towards the promotion of prevention culture is crucial for its success. The commitment towards *Vision Zero* and the *Punjab Prevention Strategy* is pertinent for socio-economic boost”, reiterates Ms Ansa Rabia, GIZ Component Manager.

### **About the German Cooperation**

The German development cooperation has been supporting the Pakistani Government initiatives for over years. We work together with our partners in support of their socio-economic reform agenda aimed at reducing poverty, promoting economic growth, and creating jobs. Our work contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and is implemented in line with the Pakistan-German cooperation agreements.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH works on behalf of the German Government mainly in three priority areas: Peaceful and Inclusive Society, Sustainable Economic Development, Training and Employment, and Climate and Energy.

### **About our project**

In partnership with the Federal Ministry of Commerce, GIZ initiated a three-year project titled *Improvement of Labour and Environmental Standards in Pakistan's Textile Industry (Text/LES)*. The project is working closely with Labour & Human Resource Department (L&HRD) and its downstream institutions, and the Environment Protection Department (EPD) to promote and ensure compliance to labour and environmental legislation strengthening sustainable production in industries such as the textile and fashion sector.

### **Press contact**

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