

Joint Statement of the Labor Subcommittee

United States – Jordan Free Trade Agreement

October 31, 2022

The Labor Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the United States – Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) convened its fourth meeting on October 31, 2022. Pursuant to Article 6.5 of the FTA, the Subcommittee may consider any matter within the scope of the Labor Chapter and perform other functions as the Parties may decide. The Subcommittee is composed of senior governmental representatives from trade and labor ministries, as designated by each Party.

The Subcommittee meeting was held in person and hosted by Jordan. The U.S. Department of Labor and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative led the U.S. delegation. His Excellency Farouq Al-Haddidi, Secretary General, Ministry of Labor, led for Jordan.

During the meeting, Parties noted the importance of the commitments in the Labor Article and expressed their desire for its effective implementation. The Subcommittee discussed the domestic mechanisms, institutions, and procedures that each Party is employing to advance the fulfillment of the Labor Article's provisions. In addition, the Subcommittee held in-depth discussions on several topics, including: (1) efforts to promote respect for international labor standards in the garment sector, including through U.S. support of the International Labor Organization Better Work Program; (2) enhancing gender equity and increasing women's labor force participation; (3) expanding worker voice in and through worker organizations and fostering decent working conditions; and (4) areas for ongoing and future cooperation and technical capacity building. The U.S. and Jordan reflected on the amount of progress made through close policy and programmatic cooperation that stemmed from the first labor provisions to ever appear directly in a Free Trade Agreement. The Parties further expressed their strong desire to continue collaborating on matters addressed in the Labor Article to build on over 20 years of collaboration on labor matters under the FTA to protect workers and advance economic growth through decent work. The Parties recognized that Jordan's efforts through the strong measures taken by the Ministry of Labor over the years have helped foster respect for international labor standards in Jordan and created a model for transparency and protecting workers as an integral part of ensuring that trade contributes to high-quality jobs. In order to proceed on building on past efforts, the Ministry of Labor appreciates the continuous support of the U.S.

A public session of the Subcommittee was held on the afternoon of October 31. The Subcommittee provided an opportunity for unions, employer associations, and other civil society to discuss matters related to the implementation of the Labor Article of the U.S.-Jordan FTA. The Parties noted the value that the public session provided in enhancing transparency and facilitating the exchange of information with the public regarding the implementation of the Labor Article's obligations.