

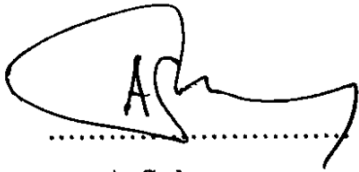
## **RECOVERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

1. This Statement of Interest is entered between the Joint Apparel Association Forum, hereinafter referred to as JAAF, the apex body of the Trade Associations connected to the textile and apparel sector in Sri Lanka as one party and three (03) registered Trade Unions namely Free Trade Zones and General Services Employees Union, Sri Lanka Nidahas Sewaka Sangamaya, and National Union of Seafarers hereinafter referred to as Union Collective as the other party on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December in 2021.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a disaster to the entire world, and the apparel industry is no exception. Brands, manufacturers, suppliers of inputs and employees all have suffered. In Sri Lanka, the employers agreed to pay workers who were not able to work 50% of their wages or Rs. 14,500, whichever is higher, and agreed to maintain them in employment. Trade Unions, and the employers, accepted the proposal by the government and the Tripartite Agreement that during lockdowns and when employees are compelled to be absent from the workplace due to being close associates of covid patients, 50% of regular wages would be paid the good faith demonstrated by both trade unions and the employers in this act is the strength we use in this endeavour too.
3. Noting that the world apparel industry including Sri Lankan manufacturers is on a recovery path, steps must be taken to understand the negative impact of the pandemic on all stakeholders in the apparel industry including apparel workers and to assist in finding ways to recover.
4. Therefore, we resolve that JAAF and Trade Union members of the Trade Union Collective will work together to determine the impact of the pandemic on apparel workers in Sri Lanka and to discuss ways and means to address the issues related to the lost wages and other incomes of the employees.

5. Our objective is to help all participants in the global apparel industry recover from the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and to build a sustainable and equitable apparel industry for the future, in Sri Lanka, keeping the protection of the rights of employees, motivating and retaining employees in the industry as the central objective of all these efforts.

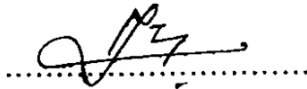
Signed by,

**On behalf of JAAF**



**A. Sukumaran**  
**Chairman**

Joint Apparel Association Forum



**M. P. T. Cooray**  
**Secretary General**

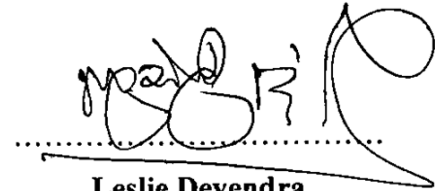
Joint Apparel Association Forum

**On behalf of Trade Union Collective**



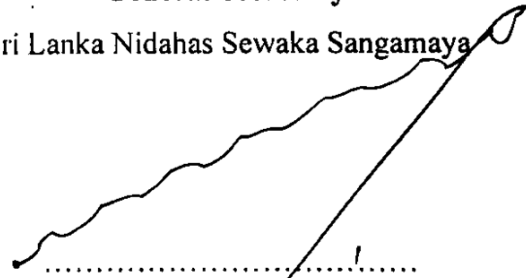
**Anton Marcus**  
**Joint Secretary**

Free Trade Zones & General Services  
Employees Union



**Leslie Devendra**  
**General Secretary**

Sri Lanka Nidahas Sewaka Sangamaya



**Palitha Athukorale**  
**President**

National Union of Seafarers Sri Lanka