



## Pakistan's leading companies contributing to 8-10% in exports make bold commitments to net zero emissions

Coalition of Pakistan businesses convened at an event hosted by the Pakistan Environment Trust, British High Commission, and Pakistan Textile Council to drive Pakistan's private sector to carbon neutrality by 2050

Islamabad, 4 September 2021 – A coalition for Pakistan's private sector has been launched by the Pakistan Environment Trust, where leading companies have shown their climate stewardship to deliver net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) at the corporate level – 10 companies across textile and FMCG sectors are the first to commit to this goal.

The commitment to net zero by the coalition, Net Zero Pakistan, was reaffirmed at a roundtable conference convened by the Pakistan Environment Trust, British High Commission, and Pakistan Textile Council which brought together Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam, British High Commissioner Christian Turner, Former Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar, leaders from the signatory companies, and leaders from other interested organisations. The signatories, who have already signed up to Net Zero Pakistan and the global Race to Zero campaign, include **Artistic Milliners, Crescent Bahuman, Gul Ahmed, Interloop, Liberty Mills, Mahmood Group, Sapphire Finishing Mills, Soorty Enterprises, Tetra Pak, and US Apparel & Textiles**. These companies were invited to the roundtable to share their commitment towards net zero and to discuss the roadmap for Net Zero Pakistan. All companies were welcomed with a key note speech by Special Assistant Malik Amin Aslam to congratulate them on their bold ambition.

Members of Net Zero Pakistan also in turn sign up to the global Race to Zero campaign championed by the British High Commission in the United Kingdom's role as the COP26 President.

### **Statement from H.E Malik Amin Aslam – Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change**

*"Pakistan remains on the front-line of climate impact and yet our Government, under the leadership of Imran Khan, is committed to climate action on ground. We have put our trust in nature-based solutions and clean energy and believe in being a part of the solution to climate change rather than adding to the global problem. This bottom-up climate initiative for "Net Zero" led by the private sector is unique and will hopefully have a big impact. I would like to thank the Pakistan Environment Trust for convening the trail blazers for climate action."*

### **Statement from H.E Christian Turner – British High Commissioner to Pakistan**

*"Businesses are key to tackling climate change. As we prepare for #COP26, all companies can benefit from lowering their emissions and be part of Pakistan's leadership on climate change."*

### **Statement from Dr Shamshad – former State Bank Governor and Trustee at Pakistan Environment Trust**

*"As climate hazards worsen in Pakistan, climate change becomes everyone's business – every citizen, city, and corporate in Pakistan. It is heartening to see our leading Pakistani companies responding to this urgent crisis. Coalitions are critical to join hands to make the transition to net zero emissions easier, and this collective adoption of zero emissions will enhance company competitiveness by bringing the cost of inputs down while bringing more foreign buyers into Pakistan."*

### **Statement from Omer Ahmed – CEO of Artistic Milliners**

*"The findings of IPCC report has created a strong case for taking climate action now, making it clear that public and private sector needs to work in cohesion to reach net-zero. While it is encouraging to see Pakistan's textile sector showing remarkable ambition towards Race to Zero, only goal setting will not hit the mark", said Mr. Omer Ahmed, CEO at Artistic Milliners. "We are left with a small window of time to take systematic climate positive steps. That's why the role of the Net Zero Coalition is highly critical. I congratulate the team behind Net Zero Coalition – Pakistan Environment Trust and Pakistan Textile Council, for taking this bold step of bringing the*



relevant institutions together, and addressing the biggest challenge of our time. We are happy to become one of the first members of Net Zero Coalition and lead the way with our best practices as we adapt more resilient business solutions across the value chain.”

**Statement from Musadaq Zulqarnain – Chairman of Interloop**

“Pakistani companies have to start thinking about the stakeholders (society, people, planet) rather than just the shareholders. 15 years ago Interloop committed itself to become a business for purpose which was to be an agent of positive change for our shareholders and communities by following an ethical and sustainable business – with this committing to Net zero was a natural choice for us.”

**Statement from Taimoor Mukaty – Director of Liberty Mills**

“Liberty Group is very excited to affirm its commitment to the Net Zero Coalition. With multiple investments already underway by the group including over 100 MW of wind power generation and 10 MW of Solar power generation, Liberty aims to be a pioneer in this new age of sustainability. Working with a like-minded group of companies under the banner of Net Zero, we hope to unlock synergies and pool resources to develop an ecosystem that can bring big changes for not only large corporations but small and medium enterprises as well.”

**Statement from Anees Khawaja – Director of Mahmood Group**

“Being one of the first from South Punjab, we are confident that more companies will follow suit in our pursuit of sustainable business practices for a greener environment. In our quest for achieving sustainable means for the industrial sector, we are proud to be affiliating with Net Zero Pakistan. Our vision to ensure zero net emissions and make the planet more sustainable and greener is incomplete alignment and we look forward to play our role in ensuring our textile industry brings its emissions to zero.”

**Statement from Yousuf Abdullah – CEO of Sapphire Finishing Mills**

“Sapphire feels it is our responsibility to commit to net zero as an obligation for future generations in Pakistan – as the native American saying goes ‘We don’t inherit the world from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.’”

**Statement from Asad Soorty – Director of Soorty Enterprises**

“With this coalition, we hope to bring a critical shift in perception within our nation; to view climate change as an existential threat as opposed to solely a business compulsion; Pakistani organizations are ready to work together to make this honest push and Net Zero Pakistan deserves credit for making this possible. I hope that policymakers will keep up with the pace that the private sector is setting for itself and introduce much needed reforms – such as wheeling in the energy sector and access to climate financing, especially to assist SMEs in making this transition – so that we all move forward, together.”

**Statement from Awais bin Nasim – Managing Director of Tetra Pak Pakistan**

“Sustainability has long been at the heart of our business strategy and our operations. It is embodied in our brand promise – PROTECTS WHAT’S GOOD™ – which is brought to life by protecting food, protecting people and protecting the planet. Our sustainability focus encompasses our entire value chain – from responsible sourcing of raw materials to the disposal of used cartons. That’s because we recognise that we can only create a more sustainable future by addressing the interconnected nature of the environmental, social and economic challenges we face. Tetra Pak is proud to be a partner in the coalition wherein we hope to make a positive contribution in the efforts to fight climate change.”

**Statement from Asif Malik – CEO of US Apparel & Textiles**

“Around 85% of what we use as fashion globally goes to the dump every year, most of that is not bio-degradable – so we as a society need to realize the gravity of the problem knocking at our doorstep – the most important step in doing that is to work on mindset shift starting from the top to frontline and then solve it. At US Apparel & Textiles, we started to measure everything while being transparent and set an ambitious target of reducing our carbon footprint. We have already reduced our emissions by 19% last year and are aiming to bring that number to 40% by end of next year.”

**Statement from Saleha Asif – CEO of Pakistan Textile Council**

“Pakistan Textile Council (PTC) aspires to help shape a path of sustainable growth for the textile and apparel sector of Pakistan. We’re excited about partnering with Pakistan Environment Trust to introduce the Net Zero Coalition to our members for three reasons. First, our members and many large Pakistani companies are already operating at high standards and investing in sustainability initiatives

*but bringing them together on one platform will enable a cohesive effort, towards greater impact. Secondly, we hope PET and the coalition can work together to bring the requisite expertise as well as international funding to facilitate sustainability initiatives more broadly, including for SMEs as well as required investments in public infrastructure. Finally, we believe this is an important moment in time with Pakistan showing leadership in green initiatives. We hope the coalition can help generate further momentum and support Pakistan in shaping a new narrative."*

**Statement from Talha Khan – Executive Director of Pakistan Environment Trust**

*"It is inspiring to see the initiatives that Pakistani companies have taken to address climate change – but somehow the story has not been told at the global stage or gets lost in the noise. In addition to bringing catalytic finance and supporting at-scale programmes in Pakistan, this coalition will focus on telling the Pakistan narrative at a global stage so that Pakistan is recognised as a leader in the green revolution."*

All sectors and companies are welcome to join Net Zero Pakistan. For further details, please visit the [Net Zero Pakistan webpage](https://www.pakenvironment.org) at [www.pakenvironment.org](https://www.pakenvironment.org).

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