

# Chennai Resolution

## on

### Developing Key Parameters for Ensuring Sustainability of Leather Sector in Developing Countries

**WE, THE DELEGATES** of the 4 day International Training Workshop on “Developing Key Parameters for Ensuring Sustainability of Leather Sector in Developing Countries”, organised by the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) in partnership with Central Leather Research Institute, a constituent laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai, Indian Leather Technologists Association (ILTA South) and LERIG Trust at CSIR-CLRI, Chennai during 28-31 January 2019;

**COMPRISING**, practicing tanners, educationalists, researchers in academic and R&D institutions, industries, NGOs and policy makers in the government departments & ministries of the developing countries from Bhutan, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

**EXPRESSING GRATITUDE** to the organisers of the International Training Workshop;

**CONSIDERING THAT** the environmental, economic and social sustainability of the leather industry in the developing countries is very much critical to the overall development of the nation as the industry is unique in that it links the rural farmer of the developing countries with the fashion and high-end consumers of developed countries;

**DELIBERATING ON** the current level of technology implementation in the leather sector in various parts of the world, including the emergence of green chemistry options for reducing emissions and end-of-pipe treatment options developed and practiced, and dwelling on the role of industrial policy and the socio-economic factors that affect performance of the industry in the region;

**RECOGNISING THAT** sustainability of the manufacturing industry including leather industry is not just based on how best the environmental factors are addressed but also the economic and social factors;

**COMMITTING TO IDENTIFYING KEY CHALLENGES** towards sustainability in various developing countries; identifying region specific appropriate technologies; setting implementation targets; and developing sustainability indices for benchmarking;

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE AND RECOMMEND** the following

- The concerned ministries, agencies and industrial entities will develop a comprehensive plan of action for ensuring sustainability of the leather sector through designing key quantitative parameters, introducing “Best Available Technologies” in the leather sector and executing an all-inclusive human resource development programme;

- Efforts shall be made to develop a S&T network that could identify and take up short-term and long-term country specific R&D projects and also promote international cooperation and transfer of technologies amongst developing countries along with requisite shop-floor training;
- The developing countries should link best practices along the leather value chain starting from livestock management to used product disposal and setup platforms for coordination among them;
- There shall be an accelerated effort to jointly convert the comparative advantage of raw material and manpower of relevant developing countries into a competitive advantage by developing and employing appropriate technologies to transform raw hides and skins to leather products;
- The nations with huge raw material potential shall develop key mechanisms for infusing investments for further value addition and attracting market opportunities;
- R&D cooperation shall be encouraged to bring about value addition to leather and leather products, thus contributing to job creation, poverty reduction and improving standard of living in the developing countries;
- Entrepreneurial and technical skills shall be developed to turn the leather industry in the developing countries into a value added, economic, environmental and socially sustainable industry;
- Quality and safety standards shall be established and adhered to leverage these to attain competitive advantage;
- The developing countries shall progressively work towards establishing sustainability matrices and benchmark each other, as well as technologically progress to attain higher sustainability indices;
- Alternative raw material sources shall be explored to meet the ever growing demands for leather and leather products;
- Leather industry in developing countries shall contribute to their overall growth by adopting best practices in manufacturing; and
- External financial and technical support for the developing countries shall be sought to adopt best practices in leather technology along with measures to promote research and industrial activity associated with leather and allied sectors.

The delegates from Nigeria representing the Nigerian Institute of Leather & Science Technology (NILEST) and the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC) expressed their willingness to host the next "Training Workshop" on Leather Technology in 2021, subject to internal clearances, which was highly applauded by the training workshop participants. The venue and dates for the training workshop shall be decided by NILEST and RMRDC in consultation with the NAM S&T Centre.

**THUS, RESOLVED AND ADOPTED ON THIS DAY, THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF JANUARY 2019, AT CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU), INDIA**