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***Global Fairness Initiative launches effort to promote labor rights in Guatemala, El Salvador
NGO to host National Labor Rights and Competitiveness Workshops***

Washington D.C., April 15, 2008—In a groundbreaking commitment to advance workers' rights in Central America, The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI) in partnership with the Governments of Guatemala and El Salvador is hosting the first national Labor Rights and Competitiveness Workshops in both countries. The El Salvador workshop will take place in San Salvador on June 26, 2008 and the Guatemala workshop will take place in Guatemala City on July 1, 2008.

"It is finally time to leave behind Cold War legacies and modernize Central American Labor Relations for the 21st century," said Salomon Cohen, Project Manager for the Global Fairness Initiative and Former Ambassador-Chief Negotiator for the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). "The Workshops are an unprecedented example of governments, workers, and employers working together to design national strategies that stimulate business, create well paying jobs, and encourage growth of a just and fair society."

The National Workshops are an important demonstration of leadership on the part of the Labor Ministries in Guatemala and El Salvador, who have shown tremendous progress in improving labor standards as part of their commitment to the U.S. – Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement. Workshop participants will include labor unions, local employers, international textile and apparel companies and prominent members of the U.S. Congress. Both governments have committed to implementing the policies drafted from the Workshops.

Since 2005, GFI has been working in Guatemala and El Salvador on a State Department-funded project to improve the region's competitiveness and labor rights compliance in the garment sector. The project, known as the Central American Labor Rights Enhancement Program (CALREP), has been successful in generating partnerships between the government, workers, producers and U.S. brands. The two workshops represent the culmination of this project and mark an important step towards improving the livelihoods of thousands of Central American workers.

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NOTE: If you are interested in attending either Workshop or learning more about The Global Fairness Initiative please visit www.globalfairness.org or contact wsimon@globalfairness.org.

The Global Fairness Initiative's mission is to promote a more equitable and sustainable world for all people. The Global Fairness Initiative was created in 2002 to extend the benefits of the global economy to all; to raise living standards for people living in poor countries and marginalized groups; and to foster healthy middle classes in all nations. We accomplish our mission by identifying and supporting innovative and successful initiatives that create and equitably distribute wealth and promote healthy, sustainable living.