



**HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
SIDE EVENT  
10 JULY 2018**

---

**UN  
PARTNERSHIP  
ON  
SUSTAINABLE  
FASHION  
AND  
THE SDGs**

---

**13:15-14:30  
CONFERENCE ROOM 4**



# PROGRAMME

---

## OPENING REMARKS

**H.E. MARIE CHATARDOVÁ** - PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC

**MS. OLGA ALGAYEROVA** - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNECE

## KEYNOTE SPEECHES: SETTING THE SCENE

**MR. PAOLO NALDINI** - DIRECTOR, CITTADELLARTE FASHION B.E.S.T.

**MS. LAURA CHOI &** - PRESIDENT, FASHION FOR CONSERVATION

**MS. AVA HOLMES** - CO-FOUNDER, FASHION FOR CONSERVATION

## MODERATION

**MR. ROBB SKINNER** - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNOP

## DISCUSSION: ELEMENTS FOR A UN PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE FASHION AND HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN CONTRIBUTE

**MS. BIRGIT LIA ALTMANN** - ASSOCIATE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, UNECE

**MS. CHLOÉ MUKAI** - PROJECT AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, ETHICAL FASHION INITIATIVE, ITC

**MS. ELISA TONDA** - HEAD, CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION UNIT, UN ENVIRONMENT

**MS. AMBER BARTH** - SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER, ILO OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

**MS. LILIAN LIU** - MANAGER OF PARTNERSHIPS, UN GLOBAL COMPACT

**LINDITA XHAFERI-SALIHU** - GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION OUTREACH OFFICER, UNFCCC

**MS. GUILIA C. BRAGA** - PROGRAMME MANAGER, CONNECT4CLIMATE, GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS, WORLD BANK GROUP

**MS. TERESA MOREIRA** - HEAD OF COMPETITION AND CONSUMER POLICIES BRANCH, UNCTAD (TO BE PRESENTED BY MS. LEONIE MEIER, UNECE)

**MR. OLA GORANSSON** - PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR, DIVISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, UNDESA

**MS. KAREN NEWMAN** - EXPERT

## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

**MS. MONIKA LINN** - PRINCIPAL ADVISOR AND CHIEF, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER UNIT, UNECE

---

# BACKGROUND

The fashion industry is a \$2.5 trillion-dollar industry that employs over 75 million people worldwide, most of them women. Fashion is therefore a key economic sector, which has an essential role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the same time, fashion is an environmental and social emergency. Nearly 20 percent of global waste water is produced by the fashion industry (SDG 6), which also emits about ten percent of global carbon emissions - more than the emissions of all international flights and maritime shipping combined (SDG 13). Cotton farming is responsible for 24 percent of insecticides and 11 percent of pesticides despite using only 3 percent of the world's arable land (SDG 3). In addition, the textiles industry has been identified in recent years as a major contributor to plastic entering the ocean (SDG 14), which is a growing concern because of the associated negative environmental and health implications. Moreover, fast fashion is also linked to dangerous working conditions (SDG 8) due to unsafe processes and hazardous substances used in production (SDG 3). Costs reduction and time pressures are often imposed on all parts of the supply chain, leading to employees suffering from long working hours and low pay, with evidence, in some instances, of a lack of respect for fundamental principles and rights at work.

Changing consumption patterns towards sustainable behaviours and attitudes requires a shift in how we think about and value garments (SDG 12), with the goal to integrate the true costs of all the resources required for the production process and account for all environmental and social impacts.



Despite several organisations' initiatives, there is yet no coherent, coordinated approach taken by the United Nations to address issues related to the fashion industry. In order to change this, stakeholders from different UN organisations, civil society and industry gathered at the panel event "Fashion and the SDGs: what role for the UN?", which was organized in March 2018 in the context of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region. The panel discussed how the UN could reach a more comprehensive approach towards the development of a sustainable fashion industry in order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The event was successful in establishing a clear link between the fashion industry and the SDGs, many of which will be reviewed at the UN High Level Political Forum, in particular through SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production and SDG 15 on life on land.

Recommendations discussed prior and during the event included the importance of exploring the establishment of a UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion. Indeed, it is recognized by SDG 17 that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require different actors working together. With this idea in mind, distinguished panelists from different UN organisations will explore the elements of what a UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion could look like.

## CO-HOSTING UN ORGANISATIONS:



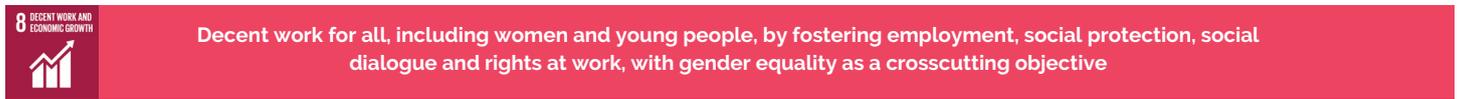
# ANNEX

## UN Environment



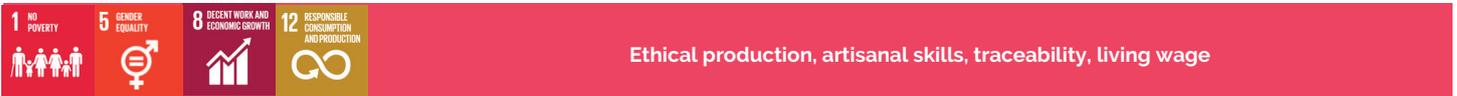
UN Environment promotes a multi-stakeholder engagement towards sustainable textile value chains, with the aim to increase the circular economy approach, while supporting sound management of chemicals, in order to reach a non-toxic circular economy that promotes decent work. In this context, we apply Sustainable Consumption and Production and sound chemicals management, as well as promote consumers' engagement and public awareness of sustainable beauty and fashion.

## International Labour Organization (ILO)



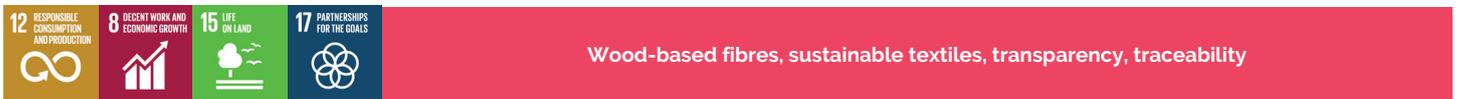
The ILO has promoted decent work and sustainability in the fashion industry since 1937. With more than 100 projects in several countries, the ILO is supporting governments, employers and workers to improve working conditions, workplace compliance and productivity throughout the fashion industry supply chain. Its main programme – Better Work – is implemented in partnership with the International Finance Corporation as well as 60 brands and buyers. It covers more than 1,500 factories in seven countries, benefiting more than two million workers and their families.

## Ethical Fashion Initiative- International Trade Centre (ITC)



The Ethical Fashion Initiative's goal is to build a responsible fashion and design industry that measures its impact. The Ethical Fashion Initiative connects talented but marginalised artisans – the majority of them women – to top lifestyle brands. The Ethical Fashion Initiative believes in responsible production, where workers earn a living wage, are offered dignified working conditions and impact on the environment is minimised. Not Charity, Just Work.

## UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with its joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, has led the 'Forest for Fashion' initiative together with various partners such as the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) since 2014, promoting wood-based fibres as sustainable material alternatives. Together with actress and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Michelle Yeoh, the Section has also produced a short video on sustainable fashion 'Made in Forests', and developed an exhibit on 'Forests for Fashion for SDGs', which showcases unique designs made from wood-based materials.

UNECE with its United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), also has a mandate to work on traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment sector and is developing policies and standards, through a multi-stakeholder working group. Such work is supported by a research study and guidelines published in 2016 and 2017, and experts' recommendations at four conferences and workshops held in 2017 and 2018. The initiative aims at enhancing consumers and producers' understanding of and capacity to manage social, environmental and health risks in the sector.

## UN Global Compact



Global Compact Ten Principles, translator for business to the SDGs, water, sciences-based targets, supply chain, traceability, health

The UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative and works with companies to adopt a principled-based approach to business through adoption of the Global Compact Ten Principles, including the fashion sector. Several of our Action Platforms work with fashion stakeholders, including an initiative focused on Water in apparel supply chains, our Sciences-Based Targets initiative with sector-specific guidelines for apparel, as well as our platform on Decent Work and work on Traceability in the apparel sector. Our Local Networks around the world also works with the fashion sector at the local level, i.e. the network in Argentina runs a training programme on how the fashion industry can align with the Ten Principles.

## UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



Sustainable consumption and consumer education

It is important to consider that consumers have the right to access non-hazardous products, products that are safe for consumers as well as the environment, for consumers are as well entitled to environmental protection. Consumers are the main fuel of such industry for the impacts on consumer choice, health and the environment; so it is fundamental to empower consumers to that they can make informed choices regarding sustainability. Therefore, to rethink fashion and consider sustainable fashion is of consumers' best interest.

## Connect4Climate – World Bank Group



Communications, campaign, advocacy, awareness raising

Connect4Climate is developing a Virtual Reality Experience entitled "X-Ray Fashion" which illuminates the current processes related to fast fashion production and its effect on climate change and social stability. The production will act as flagship product for an outreach campaign encouraging greater sustainability in fashion production, in collaboration with UN organizations, governments, manufacturers, foundations, advocacy groups and civil society organizations.

## UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Climate action, GHG Emissions, renewable Energy

The Dialogue on Enhancing Climate Action in the Fashion Sector, hosted by UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany, on 16-17 January 2018, brought together fashion industry stakeholders, to develop a common understanding and agree on next steps toward the fashion industry contributing to global net-zero emissions by 2050. Resulting from the Dialogue, UNFCCC has initiated development of a work programme through three streams of work, aiming to enhance and catalyse climate action in the fashion industry.

## Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Marine biomaterials, including fish leather and seaweed, and blended materials combining traditional materials with marine products; Value added to marine plastic debris; community livelihood development

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department is hosting a side event during the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which will feature a discussion on Blue Fashion, and the potential of ocean-sourced materials, from fish skins to seaweed fabrics, to serve as an innovative and sustainable material source for the fashion industry. FAO supports the efficient use of fisheries products and the creation of value from industry waste. By supporting the development of new uses for aquatic materials, FAO aims to benefit small-scale fishing and aquaculture communities, especially women and youth, through opportunities for alternative livelihood generation and decent employment.

# UN Office for Partnerships



The United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) serves as a gateway for catalysing and building partnership initiatives between civil society actors and the United Nations in furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNOP serves as the interface between the UN Foundation and the UN system, oversees the UN Democracy Fund, facilitates partnership events and collaborative initiatives between the UN and civil society, and serves as the Secretariat for the SDG Advocates.

