Decent work, transparency, and traceability in the garment sector: Emerging stronger from the COVID-19 Crisis

Directorate General for International Partnerships
Unit E2, Micro-economic Analysis, Investment Climate, Private Sector, Trade and employment

ITC - The joint trade for development agency of the UN and the WTO
Trade-related technical support to SMEs, free-to-use web-based business solutions

UNECE
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Norms, standards & tools for to advance sustainable and efficient value chains management

ITC-UNECE session: Decent work, Transparency & Traceability in the garment sector: emerging stronger from the COVID-19 crisis
1st February 2021 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Cécile Billaux, Head of Unit E2, European Commission, DG International Partnerships

Panelists

Maria Teresa Pisani, Project Manager, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE
Joseph Wozniak, Head, Trade for Sustainable Development – T4SD, ITC
Carole Hommey, General Manager, Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability, ICS
Janet Mensink, Executive Director, Social Labor Convergence Program, SLCP
Paul Roeland, Transparency Lead, Clean Clothes Campaign
Heinz Zeller, Principal Sustainability, HUGO BOSS Ticino SA
Opening Remarks

Cécile Billaux
Head of Unit E2, European Commission, DG International Partnerships
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Project Manager, Economic Cooperation & Trade Division, UNECE

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Moderator

Cyril Sayag
Policy officer, European Commission, DG International Partnerships

➢ How can we leverage opportunities and overcome challenges to scale existing initiatives?

➢ What can be achieved through cooperation between all stakeholders involved?
Traceability system

TOOLBOX

01. Multi-stakeholder policy platform, Policy Recommendation and Call to Action

02. Traceability standard and Implementation Guidelines

03. Blockchain pilot solutions for specific fibers and materials (cotton/leather/synthetic/wool & cashmere)

Key messages

Policy coherence across national and regional levels building upon harmonization efforts

Use of a standardised approach building on existing standard ensuring interoperability with existing data management systems

- Open, neutral and inclusive collaborative platform for wide-industry engagement

Increasing role of regulators to support DD for responsible business conduct

Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE

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Transparency across global value chains

Utilizing development experience, IT expertise, and UN status to provide:

- Neutral and secure data holder without a profit motive that would discourage adoption by different companies
- Support to SMEs to help them overcome implementation barriers and improve working standards
- Web-based, customized, open self-assessment and verified data sharing solutions for textile and apparel value chain stakeholders

Joe Wozniak, Head, Trade for Sustainable Development - ITC

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Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability

ICS Members – ics-asso.org - are committed in the Transparency & Traceability project in partnership with ITC and UNECE

**Public disclosure of audits data** (date, type, category) linked to the identification of the factories’ identity and location

Direct API with ICS database to populate ITC Sustainability Map – 24 hours review

Already used to involve subcontracting ranks down the supply chain – up to Rank 5 for some ICS Members in the private network

Involves the factories and the suppliers to accept the transparency and to engage about relevant communication on social and environmental compliance

Carole Hommey, General Manager, ICS

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Multi-stakeholder organization of 228 signatories

Aims:

1) avoids audit duplications by providing a converged S&L assessment framework to unlock resources for improvement.

2) #1 source S & L data: Comparable, credible verified data provides opportunities for data insights and transparency

2021 projected verified assessments: 4,000 (> 40+ countries), translating into 10 million USD unlocked for improvement programs. Further scaling in 2022 and 2023.

“H&M believes SLCP is the solution to a long-standing problem in the apparel and footwear sector, that of duplicative social audits that are a drain on resources and cause audit fatigue. SLCP can help the industry move beyond compliance to real collaboration and the improvement of working conditions with more fact-based data which is measured across the industry. For this reason, H&M has committed to fully adopting SLCP where possible within our supply chain by 2022.”

Janet Mensink, Executive Director, SLCP

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Clean Clothes Campaign

Paul Roeland, Transparency Lead, Clean Clothes Campaign

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Pilot #1 - Implementing a blockchain technology for traceability and due diligence in the cotton value chain in support of a circular economy

Need for a Global Standard for Transparency and Traceability enabling Interoperability

Advanced technologies to boost information exchange
e.g. Blockchain for immutable data storage, DNA tracers, IoT

Data Protection as a Legal & Business requirements
i.e. GDPR

Trustworthy Claims
meet NGO/NPO requirements & communication regulations
e.g. EC New Consumer Agenda

Heinz Zeller, Principal Sustainability, Hugo Boss Ticino SA

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Thank You!
Questions?

Heinz Zeller
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Principal Sustainability

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