UNICE - UNIDO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ACCELERATING ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE GARMENT AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY OF THE FUTURE:
HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF INNOVATION FOR DUE DILIGENCE AND REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT - THE WAY FORWARD TO UNFCCC COP27 IN EGYPT

MAY 24-25, 2022 - 9.30-16.30 EET
Sofitel Cairo Nile El Gezirah Hotel - Vendôme Hall

A transition to sustainable and circular economic models is key to improved sustainability and address human rights, social, environmental and climate impacts in the garment and footwear sector - a shift that can be achieved with verifiable production data, delivered through improved traceability and transparency of the value chain.

The purpose of this international conference is to discuss how to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region’s cotton-textile and leather industry in its effort to embrace more responsible production patterns, with the aim of preventing and mitigating social and environmental impacts, and particularly the carbon and water footprint along value chains.

The event is co-organized by UNECE and UNIDO, in the context of the global initiative “Enhancing Traceability and Transparency for Sustainable and Circular Value Chains in Garment and Footwear”, jointly implemented with the UN International Trade Centre (ITC), with support of the European Union since 2019.

The dialogue is meant to actively contribute to the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022.
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<td>09.30-10.00</td>
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<td>10.00-10.30</td>
<td><strong>INSTITUTIONAL INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>UNECE</strong>, Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary (online)</td>
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<td>• <strong>Embassy of Italy in Egypt</strong>, H.E. Michele Quaroni, Ambassador</td>
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<td>• <strong>Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt</strong>, Amr Hazzaa, Minister Plenipotentiary, Advisor to the Minister</td>
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<td>• <strong>Textile Holding Company</strong>, Dr. Ahmed Moustafa, Chairman</td>
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<td>• <strong>UNIDO</strong>, Riccardo Savigliano, Chief of Agro-Industries and Skills Development Division</td>
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<td>10.30-10.50</td>
<td><strong>COP 27: ABOUT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EUROMED REGION</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>European Union Delegation to Egypt</strong>, H.E. Christian Berger, Ambassador</td>
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<td>• <strong>Ministry of Environment of Egypt</strong>, H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment</td>
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<td>10.50-11.05</td>
<td><strong>THE SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE INITIATIVE</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>UNECE Project Expert and SDA Bocconi</strong>, Francesca Romana Rinaldi</td>
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<td>• Inspirational speech: <strong>Scarabaeus Sacer</strong>, Ali El Nawawi, CEO and Co-founder</td>
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<td>11.05-11.10</td>
<td>The exchange of letters to support joint actions to enhance social and environmental compliance in Egyptian cotton-textile supply chains as a way forward to COP 27</td>
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<td><strong>MODULE 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE EU TEXTILE/FASHION MARKET TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MENA COTTON PRODUCERS AND TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS TO EFFECTIVELY TAKE PART IN GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS</strong></td>
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<td>Keynote speaker: <strong>EURATEX</strong>, Mauro Scalia, Director Sustainable Businesses</td>
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<td>Presenter and moderator: <strong>UNECE</strong>, Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Lead</td>
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<td>Discussants: <strong>Ready Made Garments Export Council Egypt</strong>, Marie Louis Bishara, Chairwoman</td>
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<td><strong>African Cotton &amp; Textiles Industries Federation (ACTIF)</strong>, Mohamed Kassem, Vice Chairman</td>
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<td><strong>Cairo for Investment &amp; Development- Robbiki Leather City</strong>, Mahmoud Mehrez, Chairman</td>
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<td><strong>Cotton Egypt Association</strong>, Khaled Schuman, Executive Director</td>
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<td>12.30-13.30</td>
<td><strong>MODULE 2: TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AS ENABLERS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY</strong></td>
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<td>The UNECE Project: deep dive into the toolbox, policy recommendations and results of blockchain pilots implemented by private sector partners</td>
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<td>Keynote speaker: <strong>Only The Brave Group</strong>, Sara Mariani, Chief Sustainability Officer</td>
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<td>Discussants: <strong>Vivienne Westwood</strong>, Giorgio Ravasio, Country Manager Italy (online)</td>
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<td><strong>Filmar Group S.p.A</strong>, Enrico Marzoli, Owner</td>
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• Cotonificio Albini, Stefano Albini, President
• Better Cotton, Aline d’Ormesson, Traceability Engagement manager
• A Transparent Company, Neliana Fuenmayor (online)

13.30-14.45 Lunch

DAY 1 - AFTERNOON, 24 MAY

MODULE 3: HOW TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY IN THE REGION THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUSIVENESS AND CIRCULARITY FOR COMPETITIVE TEXTILE AND LEATHER INDUSTRIES

Panel discussion: How different actors are supporting traceability, transparency and circularity in the garment and footwear sector to support export to EU markets: deep dive into environmental and social compliance

14.45-15.30 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Keynote speaker
• UN Environment Programme, Bettina Heller, Programme Officer (online)

Presenter & Moderator
• UNIDO, Sara Berlese, Programme officer

Discussants
• UNIDO Switch-Med, Roberta De Palma, Chief Technical Advisor
• Le Centre International des Technologies de l’Environnement de Tunis (CITET), Naouel MEJRI, Director of Business Support and Project Manager of INTEX (online)
• International Trade Centre, Delphine Clement, Programme Officer, GTEX - MENATEX Project
• Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC), Elisa Gavazza, Southern Europe Director
• Textile Exchange, Rui Fontoura, Fiber & Materials Strategy Lead: Cotton & Fiber Crops

15.30 -16.30 SOCIAL COMPLIANCE

Keynote speaker
• International Trade Centre, Joseph Wozniak, Head of the Trade 4 Sustainable Development Programme

Presenter & Moderator
• International Labour Organization, Marwa Salah-Abdou, National Project Manager, Regional project Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa (ACCEL Africa)

Discussants
• Cotton Research Institute, Abeer Samir Arafa, Deputy Director for Research, Focal Point of International Organization of Francophonie
• Alkan, Mona Kassem, Export Manager
• Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability (ICS), Carole Hommey, General Manager

Q&A

Conclusions of 1st day

Reception

DAY 2 - MORNING, 25 MAY

09.30-10.00 Registration and welcome coffee
10.00-10.15 Wrap-up Day 1
• UNECE, Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Lead
10.15-11.15 | MODULE 4: FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY STRATEGY WITH THE INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ENTITIES SUPPORT

Panel discussion: How to integrate transparency and traceability in the overall corporate strategies to structure Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) profile in line with the European Union (EU) requirements and market demands

Keynote speaker
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Reem EL Saady, Regional Manager - SME Finance and Development Group - Advisory - EBRD

Moderator
• UNECE Project Expert, Piera Francesca Solinas

Discussants
• Green Economy Financing Facility Egypt (GEFF), Ashraf Zeitoun, Team Lead Green Value Chain
• Agenzia italiana per la cooperazione allo sviluppo (AICS), Martino Melli, Head of Cairo Office
• Tolba Group, Magdy Tolba, Chairman
• Salamtex, Hany Salam, Chairman of Salamtex and Board member of Textile and Home textile export council
• Candiani Denim - Blue Collars Srl, Danielle Arzaga, Sustainability Manager
• Chamber of Leather Tanning Industries, Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), Hesham Gazar, President

11.15-11.45 | Coffee break

11.45-13.15 | MODULE 5: INTRODUCTION ON BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYSIS (BPA) TO IDENTIFY SUSTAINABILITY HOTSPOTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND DEVELOP RELIABLE CLAIMS

Identify a methodology for BPA analysis for sustainability risks and mitigation measures identification at key data collection points. Look at the characteristics of reliable sustainability claims as per EU normative framework on claims development

Keynote speaker
• Ethical and Environmental Certification Institute, Italy (ICEA), Paolo Foglia, Non Food Certification Manager

Moderator
• International Trade Centre, Joseph Wozniak, Head of the Trade 4 Sustainable Development Programme

Presenters
• UNECE Project Expert, Deborah Taylor
• UNECE Project Expert, Gerhard Heemskerk
• UNECE Project Expert, Claudia di Bernardino

Discussants
• Textile and Home Export Council Egypt, Rasha Fahim, Executive Director
• Apparel Export Council of Egypt, Sherin Hosni, Executive Director
• Leather Tanning Export Council Egypt, Mahmoud Sarg, Chairman

Q&A

13.15-14.45 | Lunch

DAY 2 - AFTERNOON, 25 MAY

14.45-15.00 | Inspirational speech:
WRÅD, Matteo Ward, CEO and Co-founder (online)
The P.E.A.S Application to communicate environmental impact to consumers

15.00-16.00 | MODULE 6: COP 27 - THE WAY FORWARD FOR FASHION AND TEXTILE THROUGH TRACEABILITY, TRANSPARENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORTING
Application of digital and physical technologies to enhance transparency and traceability to communicate environmental and social impact in textile value chains

Keynote speaker
• HUGO BOSS Ticino SA, Heinz Zeller, Principal Sustainability

Moderator
• UNECE, Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Lead

Discussants
• United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Niclas Svenningsen, Manager Global Climate Action (online)
• Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Ali Abo Sena, CEO and Advisor to the Ministry of Environment
• P.I.S.I.E, Alice Vago, Project Manager for (Representing Assomac - National Association of Italian Manufacturers of Footwear, Leather goods and Tanning Technologies)
• Marzoli Textile Engineering & Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers (ACIMIT), Cristian Locatelli
• Flat6Labs, Hassan Mansi, Head Ecosystem Development Programs

16.00-16.15 Q&A
16.15-16.30 CLOSING CEREMONY
• UNECE, Maria Rosaria Ceccarelli, Chief Trade Facilitation Section
• UNIDO, Riccardo Savigliano, Chief of Agro-Industries and Skills Development Division
• Ready Made Garments Export Council Egypt, Marie Louis Bishara, Chairwoman

VENUE
Sofitel Cairo Nile El Gezirah Hotel - Vendôme Hall
3 El Thawra Council St Zamalek Downtown, El Orman Giza, Montazah Al Giza, Cairo Governorate 11518, Egypt

REGISTRATION

LINKS AND REFERENCES
• Meeting’s page https://unece.org/trade/events/unece-unido-Intl-Conference
• UNECE No.46 Policy Recommendation Enhancing traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector - English and French
• UNECE Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector - English and French
• UNECE project’s leaflet
• UNECE The Sustainability Pledge Website

CONTACT: sustainabilitypledge@un.org