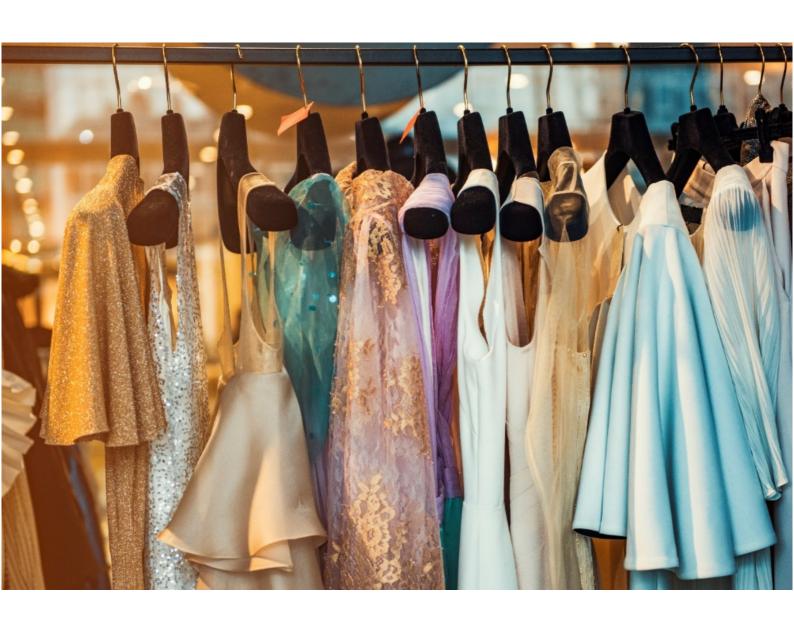


# Synthesis Report on United Nations System-wide Initiatives related to Fashion



Copyright © United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, 2021

Author: Leonie Meier

**Disclaimer**: This is a document produced by the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion. It represents the opinions of the author, and is the product of professional research. It is not meant to represent the official position of any staff members neither the Agencies mentioned hereto.

Cover photo: iStock

For more information on the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, please visit: <a href="https://www.unfashionalliance.org">www.unfashionalliance.org</a>

# Content

1. Introduction and background	4
1.1. About the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion	4
1.2. Fashion and Sustainability	4
1.3. Objectives of this mapping	5
1.4. Audience	6
2. Mapping results and analysis	6
2.1. Overview	6
2.2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals	7
2.3. Individual agency initiatives	13
2.4. Partnerships and collaboration	28
3. Opportunities and recommendations	33
3.1. Sustainability and Circularity	33
3.2. Decarbonization	34
3.3 COVID-19 response and building back better	34
3.4. Upcoming UN observances relevant for fashion	35
3.5. Opportunities for additional synergies within the UN Alliance for Sus	stainable Fashion 35
Bibliography	37
Annex I. Methodology	38
Annex II. Survey questions	39

# 1. Introduction and background

#### 1.1. About the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

In early 2018, several United Nations (UN) organizations gathered at an event titled Fashion and the SDGs: what role for the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss opportunities for a coordinated approach to the challenges of the fashion industry. Representatives from different organizations noted that there was a lack of coherence on and knowledge about the myriad ways in which the UN is addressing social and environmental sustainability problems in the textile and fashion value chain. At a follow-up event during the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2018, representatives came together again to discuss more concretely what a partnership on sustainable fashion could entail<sup>1</sup>.

Eight months, the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion<sup>2</sup> (hereafter Alliance) was launched by seven UN agencies at the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, with the aim to: 1) improve collaboration through the development of joint activities including outreach events, research and new guidelines; 2) improve harmonization and strengthen synergies between existing initiatives; 3) foster more effective knowledge sharing; 4) achieve outreach and advocacy with a unified United Nations voice, to promote a sustainable fashion industry and advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The following organizations currently participate in the Alliance: International Labour Organization (ILO); International Trade Centre/Ethical Fashion Initiative (ITC/EFI); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); United Nations Global Compact; United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP); and the World Bank Group/Connect4Climate. Other United Nations system entities can join the Alliance at any time upon approval by its Steering Committee.

## 1.2. Fashion and Sustainability

Fashion, as understood by the Alliance, includes clothing, leather and footwear, made from textiles and related goods. The scope of the Alliance's work extends from the extraction and supply of raw materials, the spinning and weaving of yarn and fabric, the manufacturing of garments, accessories and footwear, to their distribution, consumption, and end-of-life, including circular elements of re-use, repair/repurposing and recycling of materials. In a broader context of UN initiatives, fashion is also included within the creative economy concept, recognizing not only the important commercial and cultural value of the creative industries (incl. fashion and design), but also their inherent development potential<sup>3</sup>.

The fashion value chain is of global importance, with millions of jobs attached to it, generating foreign exchange revenue in many developing countries and providing goods essential for human welfare. It is diverse and complex, involving players of all sizes and from all market segments, which makes addressing its sustainability and human rights dimension even more challenging (Cerny-Scanlon and Agnes 2016; WEF 2021). For example, one global fast fashion retailer sourcing map includes approximately 750 suppliers that manufacture products for its eight global brands in around 1400 factories across 41 countries, which are sold in around 5,000 stores in 75 markets and across 52 markets via its online shop<sup>4</sup>. The lack of

https://unece.org/DAM/timber/meetings/2018/20180716/UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion programme as of 6-7-2018.pdf

2 For more information about the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, visit: https://unfashionalliance.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See concept note here:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For more information about the creative economy: https://unctad.org/topic/trade-analysis/creative-economy-programme

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> H&M Group at a glance (2021) https://hmgroup.com/about-us/h-m-group-at-a-glance/

traceability across such a globally dispersed value chain, in addition to varying legal, ethical, and commercial standards poses serious sustainability challenges, and inhibits the ability of buyers and retailers to detect non-compliant suppliers (UNEP 2020). The vastness and sometimes informality of the supply chain thus makes impactful interventions particularly difficult.

Several UN reports and a number of civil society initiatives in recent years have highlighted the social and environmental problems related to the fashion industry. These range from noncompliance with labour standards and legislation, to pollution, high greenhouse gas emissions and more recently the failure to protect garment workers from the disastrous consequences of widespread retail closures, layoffs and furloughs, mandatory factory shutdowns and cancelled orders in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Already before the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry was increasingly scrutinized for its unsustainable business model of 'fast fashion' and for proposing technological fixes which support the status quo and hide from view more radical visions of transformation (Brooks et al. 2017). According to some estimates, apparel and footwear generate up to 8% of the total greenhouse gas emissions (equivalency) (Quantis 2018), which are estimated to increase by more than 60% by 2030 (Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2017).

The fashion industry's social and environmental problems also play out along geographic dimensions. While the main markets are located in Europe and the United States, the early stages of garment production, including raw material extraction and manufacturing, are heavily weighted towards Asia and towards developing countries and economies in transition (UNEP 2020).

Negative impacts also divide unequally between women and men. Women make up around 80 per cent of the garment sector workforce (ILO 2019) and their jobs are predominantly located at the bottom tier of textile production systems, which means they have higher risks of occupational injuries and exposure to hazardous chemicals (UNEP 2016). It has also been observed that sectoral impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affect women (ILO 2020).

#### 1.3. Objectives of this mapping

As a result of the complexity of the sustainable development issues inherent in fashion, the landscape of UN initiatives is equally varied. There have been attempts to map initiatives by the UN and other fashion- relevant stakeholders (e.g. UNEP (2020)<sup>5</sup>; Cerny-Scanlon and Agnes 2016). The intention of this synthesis report is to further complement these efforts by comprehensively illustrating the UN System's response to social and environmental problems related to the fashion industry. It includes recently concluded, existing and planned initiatives<sup>6</sup> carried out by United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, departments and offices in the Secretariat and regional commissions (hereafter UN agencies). The following pages provide an overview of who is doing what and where and how these initiatives contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, it sets out examples of partnership mechanisms put in place by UN agencies to engage other stakeholders in fashion and attempts to identify thematic priorities the UN system more broadly could focus on going forward

A comprehensive list of relevant initiatives implemented by UN agencies in the area of fashion can be found in chapter 2. Knowledge about these initiatives will help members of the Alliance and the wider UN community to identify opportunities for collaboration and synergies and avoid

<sup>5</sup> List of initiatives can be found in the annex of UNEP (2020) "Sustainability and Circularity in the Textiles Value Chain – Global Stocktaking": https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/resource/sustainability-and-circularity-textile-value-chain-global-stocktaking"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Initiatives can encompass programmes, projects, events, research, other related activities. The knowledge base will also cover tools developed including guidelines, certification systems, codes and standards which are relevant for sustainable fashion.

duplication of efforts and streamlining funding opportunities, to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and ultimately to foster the goal of delivering better services and assistance to people in need.

#### 1.4. Audience

This synthesis report will be useful for UN agencies and member States to better understand opportunities to address gaps and align their priorities according to where action is most needed. In addition, it will allow industry professionals and researchers to better understand UN system-wide initiatives addressing the fashion value chain, which could lead to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.

# 2. Mapping results and analysis

This section summarizes the results of a mapping of UN agency initiatives, complemented by a survey taken by members and non-members of the Alliance. The mapping includes data gathered from 18 UN agencies. The initiatives recorded are either very recently concluded, currently ongoing, or planned. Of course, this means that the mapping provides a snapshot of the current landscape of UN-backed initiatives, rather than a comprehensive list of all activities ever undertaken. It should therefore be treated as a reference tool to scope thematic areas, prioritize engagement and further develop policies.

#### 2.1. Overview

So far, more than 50 initiatives across the 10 Alliance members have been identified, along with 19 initiatives of 8 non-members, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), UN Women, the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The type of initiatives collected include, amongst other categories: communications campaigns, knowledge repositories, multi-stakeholder initiatives, private sector partnerships, corporate responsibility campaigns, south-south and other development cooperation projects, value chain development projects, labelling schemes, and tools.

Some initiatives are led by large departments, whilst others are sub-components of existing programmes or – in the case of some communications campaigns – one-off or short duration activities. Some of the initiatives identified directly relate to fashion, i.e. the agency has a direct mandate and significant activities, while others carry out activities in areas that may be linked to fashion more broadly. Hence, they vary considerably in terms of scope, output, impact etc., as visually demonstrated in table 1.

Table 1 – scope of activities related to fashion

Direct (direct mandate and has significant activities)	Partial (some fashion-related activities within a broader role)	Related (activities in areas that may be linked to fashion)
ITC - Ethical Fashion Initiative;		UN Global Compact - policy
textiles, clothing, jewellery,	UNEP - activities within the One	framework around the Ten
accessories (bags, hats and shoes)	Planet Network, SAICM policy	Principles
interiors and cultural goods	framework	
		World Bank - Connect4Climate
ITC - Global Textile and Clothing	UNECE - Forests for Fashion	
Programme	initiative; traceability and transparency project	UNDP – various projects <sup>7</sup>
ILO - international labour standards, employment, social protection and		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> For full list of UNDP projects, visit https://open.undp.org/

social dialogue (e.g. Better Work Programme).

UNEP – Sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain programme

IOM - Corporate Responsibility to Eliminate Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) in Fashion

FAO - Mountain partnership; Blue Fashion initiative

**UNCTAD - Creative economy** 

UNFCCC - Sectoral engagement for climate action

UNIDO - Industrial development projects on textiles, leather

UN Women - Global Partnership to champion women's rights and empowerment in the apparel industry

UNOP - Conscious Fashion Campaign

UNICEF - Network on Children's rights in the Garment and Footwear Sector UNESCO - Silk Roads programme; Africa Fashion reception

WTO - Cotton Days and World Cotton Day (WCD) events

UNODC - Preventing violent extremism for children in conflict with the law

## 2.2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

All 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – directly or indirectly – relate to the fashion and textile industry and there are many interlinkages between individual goals and targets<sup>8</sup>. The following snapshot on SDG action provides examples of UN-led initiatives that contribute to the achievement of individual SDGs. It is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all initiatives, which can be found in chapter 2.3., but rather serves as an overview of the broad scope of this work and illustrates how far reaching the fashion industry's development impact is for people and planet.

#### SDG 1: No poverty

As part of ITC's Poor Communities and Trade Programme (PCTP), the Ethical Fashion Initiative aims to reduce poverty by connecting marginalized artisan communities and designers from the developing world with global brands. By producing for these brands, artisans and micro-entrepreneurs can improve their lives through ethical work that values their craft and heritage. Similarly, local designers and creatives are given support to develop their businesses and become agents of change in their respective communities. Thanks to the networks they establish with artisans and other businesses, they are able to grow their enterprises, create new jobs and, ultimately, build social capital. Through design mentorship programmes, EFI also supports the development of African design talents and encourages manufacturing with African artisans, thereby supporting and developing their export capacities.

#### SDG 2: Zero hunger

Improving working conditions in the cotton and garment supply chain can have a direct effect on reducing extreme hunger. There is strong evidence that Better Work Programme interventions led to alleviating worker hunger, as worker reports of extreme hunger decreased

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> To learn more visit: https://sdgtoolkit.org/tool/a-nexus-approach-for-the-sdgs-interlinkages-between-the-goals-and-targets/

consistently over time (ILO 2020a). Moreover, a COVID-19 response project supports workers that have lost their income due to the closure of factories or lay-offs.

#### SDG 3: Good health and well-being

The sound management of chemicals and wastes is explicitly linked to SDG 3. Under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Chemicals in Products (CiP) programme is an ongoing activity at UNEP on the policy and practical facets of access to information about the chemicals contained in everyday products such as textiles, which can impact workers' and consumers' health. The activities of the CiP programme focus on increasing the availability and access to the information actors need – throughout the life cycle of products – so that they can properly manage those products and the chemicals they contain.

#### **SDG 4: Quality education**

As part of the Network on Children's Rights in the Garment and Footwear Sector, UNICEF undertook an assessment of the extent to which companies integrate children's rights in responsible sourcing frameworks (UNICEF 2015). The assessment highlighted that impacts on child labour in the factory and in community context are often interlinked, a conclusion also reached by the Better Work Programme's impact assessment (ILO 2016). For instance, low wages for working parents can contribute to child poverty and child labour and undermine efforts to achieve universal primary education. Thus, both ILO and UNICEF work to increase family income to ensure that children are enrolled in school.

#### **SDG 5: Gender equality**

Women account for approximately 80 per cent of the garment sector workforce (ILO 2019) and they are mainly employed in the bottom tier of the textile production system, leaving them more vulnerable to occupational injuries and exposure to hazardous chemicals (UNEP, 2016) as well as to broader shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. ILO, through its efforts on decent work in the garment sector supply chains in Asia, is promoting gender equality in the Asian garment sector through social dialogue and strengthening knowledge and good practices amongst stakeholders in the sector. It also addresses violence and harassment at work, in line with the recently adopted ILO Convention 190.9

UN Women and Fast Retailing joined forces in a partnership to promote safe and secure work environments, and advance empowerment for all women and girls. The scope of the private sector partnership, which includes an investment from Fast Retailing of USD 1.6 million over two years (2019-2021), is to jointly implement a programme for female workers in garment factories in Asia, the company's main production hub. The partnership also comprises a management training programme to further diversity at the company.

#### SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

Through multi-stakeholder collective action, the UN Global Compact Water Security Through Stewardship Action Platform<sup>10</sup> brings together the private sector, experts, civil society, Governments and the United Nations to mobilize action in the global business community to adopt advanced water stewardship practices. Through developing a universal framework and fostering local partnerships, collective action and policy engagements, platform participants are advancing water management in support of SDG 6, as well as its touchpoints with the other Global Goals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/action-platforms/water

#### SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

In order to advance the decarbonization of the sector, switching to renewable power sources within textile and garment production is estimated to have a substantial impact on lowering the overall emissions associated with the industry (WEF 2021). Under the Fashion Industry Charter on Climate Action, a Working Group on Manufacturing/Energy was set up to create a roadmap towards continuously pursuing energy efficiency measures and renewable energy in the fashion value chain. It will develop strategies to avoid the installation of new coal-fired boilers or other sources of coal-fired heat and power generation, on sites within Tier one and Tier two by 2025 at the latest.

In addition, the IFC, through its Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) in Bangladesh and the Improvement Programme in Vietnam, supports resource efficiency in the local apparel, textile and footwear sector by supporting manufacturing companies to adopt Cleaner Production practices and invest in resource and energy efficiency measures.

#### SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

SDG 8 calls for the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, and constitutes a key area of engagement for the ILO and its constituents. In the textiles, clothing, leather and footwear sector, ILO's sectoral approach promotes decent work by:

- Fostering social dialogue on main challenges and opportunities in the sector as well as building consensus among tripartite constituents on measures to address them;
- Increasing and disseminating knowledge on recent trends and developments;
- Supporting the implementation of international labour standards and workplace compliance;
- Building capacity of sectoral constituents on different issues (OSH, skills, minimum wages, etc.);
- Strengthening partnerships and policy coherence among different stakeholders at global, regional and country levels.

The ILO's Better Work Programme, an ILO/IFC partnership, provides support to governments, global brands, factory owners, unions and workers to improve working conditions in 1,700 factories on 9 countries.

#### SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

UNIDO is the designated custodian agency for the six Sustainable Development Goal 9 indicators related to industrialization. In relation to the fashion industry, UNIDO carries out several relevant initiatives, including the SwitchMed initiative and the Egyptian Cotton Project, amongst others. The SwitchMed initiative supports a circular economy in the southern Mediterranean by changing the way goods and services are produced and consumed. In relation to the garment sector, SwitchMed has two main objectives which are pursued in Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt: 1) Laying down the foundation for a local recycling value chain as well as preparing the fashion industry to deliver more circular products that meet consumer preferences and requirements; 2) Accelerating the textile finishing industries' shift towards adopting safer chemical protocols.

ILO is also working on prevention of safety and health hazards and risks to workers through a new code of practice for the textiles, clothing, leather and footwear industries.

The UNIDO Egyptian Cotton Project supports sustainability and inclusiveness from cotton cultivation to clothes design. The project has initiated the Better Cotton Initiative program in Egypt in collaboration with the Cotton Research Institute and the Cotton Egypt association. Activities also include several trainings by designer Marina Spadafora to young designers and fashion students on sustainable fashion, including the creation of capsule collections.

Recently, a pilot trial on recycling denim cotton has been finalized including a lifecycle assessment (LCA) and scale-up scenario for application in Egypt, in collaboration with local manufacturers, technology providers and international brands.

#### **SDG 10: Reduced inequalities**

Target 10.7 calls for the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. Currently, both internal and international migrant workers in fashion-related industries are found to suffer hazardous working conditions, while facing high recruitment fees, long working hours, low wages, lack of regular contracts, and extremely tight deadlines without commensurate pay and rest hours<sup>11</sup>. Their vulnerability leaves migrant workers in destination countries at high risk of discrimination, exploitation and harassment. The IOM's Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) in Fashion aims to strengthen the capacity of actors in the fashion industry to address the risks of labour exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking in operations and the supply chain in South and South-East Asia, thereby contributing to reducing inequalities within countries.

#### SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

There are no fashion initiatives led by UN agencies that explicitly address SDG 11. The most obvious nexus between fashion and cities exists around the issue of urban waste management, which is a critical focus area (target 11.6), particularly as urbanization rates continue to increase 12. A failure of waste management also leads to a lack of clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) which is critical for communities' health and wellbeing (SDG 3). From a value chain perspective, the end of life of textiles is not a particular hotspot with respect to environmental impact, compared to the high resource use and emissions of the manufacturing stages. Nevertheless, "actions are required to further develop emerging recycling technologies and put in place sufficient policy and infrastructure support" (UNEP 2020, p. 59).

#### SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

The One Planet network is a multi-stakeholder network that supports the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). With its Secretariat based in UNEP, it is one of the official implementation mechanisms of SDG 12 and provides unified direction, tools and solutions for sustainable consumption and production. For example, the Anatomy of Action campaign aims to communicate the most positively impactful actions citizen can take to lead more sustainable lifestyles. The media tool kit "Fashion Slow Down" is a core action that asks people to buy better and avoid fast fashion that is based on mass production at the cost of environmental and human justice. In addition, under the One Planet network, UNEP also supports the provision of reliable and quality information on goods and services through a portfolio of tools, guidelines<sup>13</sup>, and initiatives on Consumer Information, including case studies on product lifetime extension and product sustainability information in textiles. UNEP also convenes an expert community to share existing and jointly develop new knowledge and solutions to advance towards sustainable and more circular textile value chains, such as an upcoming roadmap report which will chart a shared pathway for actors to collaborate and move the sector towards greater sustainability and circularity. Through its eco-innovation work<sup>14</sup>, UNEP supports businesses to shift towards SCP, with close links also to SDG 8.

12 For more information, visit: 2018 Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (2018).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> For more information, visit: IOM Croporate Responsibility to Eliminate Slavery and Trafficking. https://crest.iom.int/about

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/197282018 background notes SDG 11 v3.pdf <sup>13</sup> For more information: https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/initiative/sustainable-fashion-how-companies-providesustainability-information-consumers

14 More information on UNEP's eco-innovation work and the InTex project: https://www.unep.org/intex

The IFC led Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) in Bangladesh has established the institution "Textile Technology Business Center", which is geared towards meeting the knowledge gap related to improving operational efficiency for sustainable production in the sector. The program is promoting public private dialogue across relevant stakeholders to encourage collective actions in the right direction to facilitate needed policy reforms.

Achieving the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle is a specific target under SDG12 (target 12.4) and one of the core objectives of SAICM, a global multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder, voluntary policy framework that aims at minimizing significant adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment. SAICM provides a continued space for dialogue and action for multiple stakeholders to define coordinated approaches and actions to implement solutions across the lifecycle, promote innovation and improve transparency and awareness raising.

#### SDG 13: Climate action

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. As part of its sectoral engagement, UNFCCC has initiated a broader climate action work program, convening fashion stakeholders to develop a coherent, unified position on climate change. This work culminated in the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action<sup>15</sup>, which aims to drive the industry to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, including a target of 30% GHG emissions reductions by 2030 and a commitment to analyze and set a decarbonization pathway for the fashion industry drawing on methodologies from the Science-Based Targets Initiative. Under UN Climate Change, the Signatories and Supporting Organizations of the Charter work collaboratively to deliver on the principles enshrined in the document. This is done through Working Groups, which bring together relevant stakeholders, experts and initiatives in the fashion and broader textile sector.

#### SDG 14: Life below water

FAO's Blue Fashion initiative supports new ocean-based value chains by raising awareness and partnering with designers to promote material innovation. The innovative use of aquatic resources in the fashion industry can increase the sustainability of both the fashion and fisheries sectors. The capture fisheries and fish farming sectors generate enormous amounts of fish skin, which are most often discarded as waste. These fish skins can be turned into fish leather and other products, adding value to locally caught or farmed fish, leading to higher incomes and creating alternative employment opportunities for local communities. Seaweed cultivation, which is on the rise across the North Atlantic, can serve as a renewable material source while storing carbon and helping to combat ocean acidification.

The issue of marine and freshwater pollution due to the release of microplastics, e.g., through abrasion of synthetic textiles during washing, is of particular concern. UNEP will release a study on microplastics in wastewater in 2021<sup>16</sup>, in order to close the knowledge gap around this issue. In terms of policy actions, microfibers have not received enough attention (UNEP 2020a), which is why the UN could support countries in exploring effective regulations and financing mechanisms.

#### SDG 15: Life on land

 $\frac{https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Industry\%20Charter\%20\%20Fashion\%20and\%20Climate\%20Action\%20-\%2022102018.pdf$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> For more information, visit:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/microplastics-wastewater-towards-solutions">https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/microplastics-wastewater-towards-solutions</a>

In order to address in a systemic manner some of the key challenges facing the cashmere sector in Mongolia, including environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and animal welfare, UNDP is supporting the government with climate-informed livestock and natural resources planning, to ensure livestock targets are within the carrying capacity of the land and consider climate impacts. Efforts also include ecosystems based management approaches to reverse land degradation, and support to herders to access markets for sustainably sourced livestock products. In addition, a multi-stakeholder collaboration mechanism has been set up to establish partnerships, and coordinate investments and actions that accelerate current efforts to advance the sustainability of cashmere production and processing in Mongolia and position Mongolia as a global leader for sustainable cashmere.

Another land-based resource, forests, provide important raw materials for the fashion industry. The so called man-made cellulosic fibers (MMCF) such as Viscose/Rayon, Lyocell, Modal and Cupro, form the second biggest cellulosic fibre group after cotton. As a derivative of wood pulp and other natural plant materials, MMCF can play an important role in regenerating ecosystems, as well as ensuring the health of carbon sinks, which play an essential role in stabilizing the Earth's climate. To date, however, the sector has faced considerable social and environmental challenges – from deforestation and biodiversity impacts related to raw material sourcing, to safe chemical use and labour rights concerns in the production process. The Forests for Fashion initiative aims to highlight the role of forest products from sustainably managed forests in contributing towards a sustainable fashion sector through awareness-raising campaigns, exhibitions, and designer partnerships.

#### **SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions**

The themes of SDG 16, peace, justice and strong institutions are the foundation for business success. However, it can be difficult to understand how these concepts relate to business' strategies, operations and relationships. The UN Global Compact through its Action Platforms aims to provide global business standards in understanding, implementing and reporting on business engagement in these areas. Several of UN Global Compact's platforms and projects have included a focus on the fashion industry, including on water stewardship, climate and sciences-based targets, supply chain and traceability. Local Networks around the world have also undertaken work with the textile and apparel sector, including Global Compact Network Argentina, which organizes annual training that translates the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact for the fashion industry specifically.

#### SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

Sustainable Development Goal 17 recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. Goal 17 further seeks to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

In the area of fashion, UN agencies have used their convening power to bring together a variety of diverse stakeholders to promote open dialogue, knowledge sharing and collaboration. The Better Work Programme, a partnership between the ILO and International Finance Corporation (IFC) for instance, convenes governments, global brands, factory owners, unions and workers to improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive. The IFC led Advisory Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT) in Bangladesh is a holistic program that supports the entire textile value chain. PaCT leveraged key partnerships with strategic players who needed to come together to push this common agenda – the need for uptake of resource efficiency measures. PaCT is built on relationships with major brands who source from Bangladesh, industrial associations with significant membership base of textile factories, financial institutions, and technology vendors who bring efficient technologies

to emerging markets. In addition, PaCT supports the government to bring about systemic and positive environmental changes for Bangladesh's textile sector and has been contributing to the sector's long-term competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

The UN Office for Partnership in collaboration with the Conscious Fashion Campaign created a global partnership platform driving fashion industry change by convening leading global fashion industry event organizers, who are committed to accelerate positive change in support of the SDGs. Through advocacy, education, and engagement these convening pillars of the fashion community mobilize industry stakeholders to advance solutions for sustainable innovation to drive a recovery that leads to more inclusive, green economies, and stronger and resilient societies.

#### 2.3. Individual agency initiatives

Table 2 below provides a comprehensive overview of recently completed, current and planned UN-led initiatives on fashion. Some agencies such as UNDP have a very large portfolio of relevant projects, thus only some of them are listed here to provide relevant examples <sup>17</sup>. The more detailed knowledge base (excel) also includes information about impact and output of the initiative, beneficiaries, time frame, budget, partners and donors.

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Visit <a href="https://open.undp.org/">https://open.undp.org/</a> to browse all UNDP projects.

Table 2. Individual agency initiatives

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
Members of th	ne Alliance							
ITC/EFI	Ethical Fashion Initiative Country Projects	Country projects	Initiative under the Poor Communities and Trade programme, creates and strengthens social enterprises in emerging economies to connect international brands in fashion, interiors and fine foods with talented local designers, artisans and micro-producers.  EFI thereby builds productional capacity to ensure goods are suitable for the international market.	1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16	Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Italy, Mali, Kenya, Tajikistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Democratic Republic of Congo	Artisan communities	Garment production, consumption	https://ethicalfashio ninitiative.org/
ITC/EFI	Responsible Sustainable Ethical Trade - ReSET	Sustainability framework	An innovative system to manage socially and environmentally responsible fashion supply chains.	1, 2, 5, 8, 13	Global	Corporate engagement, sustainability framework	Whole value chain	
ITC/EFI	EFI Venture Studio	Programme	The EFI Venture Studio is a programme to help kick-start a selection of businesses, support them in becoming investment-ready and equip them with the tools they need to achieve impact.	1, 8, 10	Global	Business support	Garment production; design; Consumption	https://ethicalfashio ninitiative.org/ventur e-studio
ITC/EFI	The Opportunities are Here	Campaign	Campaign that seeks to create awareness around the economic opportunities that exist in selected countries, support the development of business ideas of young entrepreneurs and transform youth from job seekers into job creators.	1, 8, 10	Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Kenya	Youth Employment	Garment production; design; Consumption	https://ethicalfashio ninitiative.org/oppor tunitiesarehere
ITC/EFI	EFI Accelerator	Programme	Accelerator programme to support African designers to promote local fashion talent, develop the industry on the continent and improve export capacities.	1, 8, 10	African countries	Designer support	Design	https://ethicalfashio ninitiative.org/desig n- mentorship/acceler ator
ITC	Trade for sustainable development programme	Programme	Partnership-based programme which helps businesses, regardless of their position in the value chain, chart their path to more sustainable trade by better understanding the sustainability initiatives landscape and to connect with business partners.	17	Global	Standards, network	Whole value chain	https://www.intrace n.org/t4sd/
ITC	Social and Labor Convergence programme - ITC partnered with SLCP to support the SLCP gateway	Multi- stakeholder initiative	Multi-stakeholder initiative to reduce audit fatigue and improve working conditions by implementing a converged assessment framework that supports stakeholders' efforts to improve working conditions in global supply chains	8	Global	Improve working conditions, reduce audit fatigue	Yarn and fabric production, garment production	https://slconvergenc e.org/

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
ITC	Global Textiles and Clothing Programme	Programme	Programme promotes Textile and Clothing exports from countries in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa with the aim to stimulate employment and income generation along the value chain.	8, 12, 9, 5	Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan	Trade, value addition	Whole value chain	https://www.intrace n.org/projects/Glob al-Textiles-and- Clothing- Programme-GTEX/
ITC	Facilitating Increased Trade and Participation in Coffee and Pashmina Value Chains Project	Project	Project assists the Government of Nepal to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction by increasing trade and participation in regional and global valuechains, ffocusing on coffee and pashmina.	8, 9, 12	Nepal	Trade facilitation, cashmere	Whole value chain	https://www.intrace n.org/Nepal-TIP/
ITC	Zambia Cotton project as part of ITC's project "ACP: Strengthening Productive Capabilities and Value Chain Alliances"	Project	Project aims to increase productivity and yields and support quality improvements of seedcotton and prices. It also aims at increasing resilience of women farmers through artisanal fibre value addition.	8, 9,	Zambia	Cotton and artesanal fibre value addition	Fibre production	
UNCTAD	Creative Economy Programme	Programme	Programme generates and analyses data on the trade in creative goods and services.	17	Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe	Trade in creative goods	Distribution (trade)	https://unctad.org/e n/Pages/DITC/Crea tiveEconomy/Creati ve-Economy- Programme.aspx
UNDP / UNEP / UNIDO	GEF-GOLD	Project	Project aims to reduce the use of mercury in artisanal gold mining and introduce and facilitate access to mercury-free extraction methods, while also working with governments to formalize the sector, promoting miners' rights, safety and their access to markets	3, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17	Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, the Philippines, Peru	Gold, mercury	Raw material production	https://www.thegef. org/multimedia/gef- gold-program
UNDP	Small Grants Programme (supporting natural fiber production)	Project	Small grant programme to support the production of natural fibers with improved management of water, soil, and pastures that enables sustainable lifestyles and improved livelihoods.	15	Peru	Natural fibres	Fibre production	https://undp.shortha ndstories.com/gef- sgp-diamonds-of- the-andes/
UNDP	Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk Management of Rural Communities in Mongolia	Project	Project funded by the Green Climate Fund, aims to strengthen the resilience of resource-dependent herder communities in four aimags (provinces) most vulnerable to climate change.	1, 12, 13, 15, 17	Mongolia	Rural development, herders, climate change adaptation	Fibre production	https://www.adaptat ion-undp.org/

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
UNDP	Green Commodities Programme (Mongolia: Sustainable Cashmere)	Pilot project	Pilot project to test the viability of a value chain business model for sustainably produced cashmere.	8, 15	Mongolia	Eradicate poverty, Cashmere production	Fibre production	-
UNDP	Promoting Decent Youth Employment in Cambodia	Project	Project aims to support the Royal Government of Cambodia to promote and expand decent employment among youth in the context of the changing landscape of Industry 4.0. (focus on garment industry)		Cambodia	Youth Employment, Industry 4.0	Manufacturing	https://open.undp.or g/projects/0011078 9
UNECE	Forests for Fashion Initiative	Communications project	Communications project in cooperation with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) linking forest products from sustainable forest management to the world of fashion.	12, 15	UNECE region	Wood-based fibres/cellulose	Fibre production	http://www.unece.or g/forests/forest4fas hion
UNECE	Traceability for Sustainable Garment and Footwear	International framework initiative and transparency and traceability tool	International framework initiative and transparency and traceability tool aiming at enhancing transparency and traceability for sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear industry.	1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17	Global	Transparency, traceability, cotton, leather	Whole value chain	https://www.unece. org/tradewelcome/tr aceability-for- sustainable- garment-and- footwear.html
UNEP	Expert community	Expert community	Expert community convened by UNEP to share existing and jointly develop new knowledge and solutions to advance towards sustainable and more circular textile value chains and provide leadership.	12, 17	Global	Circular textiles, knowledge, leadership	Whole value chain	https://www.onepla netnetwork.org/une p-textile-value-chain
UNEP	Circularity Platform	Knowledge platform	The UNEP Circularity Platform provides an understanding of the circularity concept, its scope and how it contributes to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. Its dedicated section on textiles (accessible at https://buildingcircularity.org/textiles/) offers a direct access to UNEP resources on textiles, and feature stories illustrating UNEP-led projects on building circularity in the textile value chain.		Global	Circular textiles	Whole value chain	https://buildingcircul arity.org/textiles/
UNEP	The Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (SLE) programme's work on fashion	Project	The Anatomy of Action campaign's media tool kit "Fashion Slow Down" is a core action that asks people to buy better and avoid fast fashion that is based on mass production at the cost of environmental and human justice.	12	Africa Asia / Pacific Europe and Central Asia Latin America / Caribbean Middle East North America	Consumer education	Consumption	https://www.onepla netnetwork.org/sust ainable-lifestyles- and-education

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs	Geographical	Keywords	Segment of the	Website of
				target ed	focus		value chain targeted	initiative
UNEP	Programme on Eco-labelling and Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production	Knowledge programme	Knowledge programme supporting the provision of quality information on goods and services through training webinars, working groups, knowledge hubs, guidelines and case studies.	12	Africa Asia / Pacific Europe and Central Asia Latin America / Caribbean Middle East North America	Consumer education	Whole value chain	https://www.onepla netnetwork.org/con sumer-information- scp#
UNEP	Chemicals in Products (CiP) programme	Knowledge repository, multi- stakeholder engagement	Programme includes a set of objectives and methodologies that facilitate stakeholders' access to information on the chemical content of manufactured products.	3, 9, 12, 17	Global	Chemicals	Garment production, consumption, end-of-life	http://www.saicm.or g/Default.aspx?tabi d=5473
UNEP	Best Practices for Exchange of Information on Chemicals in Textile Products (past)	Past project	Past project identified and demonstrated best practices and stakeholder roles and responsibilities for chemicals information exchange in textile products	12	China	Chemicals	Garment production	https://www.thegef. org/project/global- best-practices- emerging-chemical- policy-issues- concern-under- strategic-approach
UNEP	Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM	Project	Project that aims to accelerate the adoption of national and value chain initiatives to control Emerging Policy Issues (EPIs), and contribute to the 2020 SAICM goal and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	3, 9, 12, 17	Global	Chemical policy issues of concern	Whole value chain	https://www.thegef. org/project/global- best-practices- emerging-chemical- policy-issues- concern-under- strategic-approach
UNEP	Regional Asia Textile Project (linked to UNIDO Africa Textile Project)	Planned project	Planned Project will aim to significantly reduce the use, releases and exposure to chemicals of concern including POPs in the textiles sector in the selected countries	12, 3, 6	Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Viet Nam	Chemicals	Garment production	-
UNEP	World Conservation Monitoring Centre	Knowledge programme	Knowledge programme to improve the understanding of the impacts and dependencies the fashion sector has on biodiversity. Much of the current focus relates to raw material sourcing and ensuring the appropriate use of biodiversity data and metrics.	15	Global	Biodiversity	Fibre production	-
UNEP	West Asia - Sustainable Fashion Programme	Communications project	Communications project to push the industry towards more sustainable practices, aiming to spread awareness on the industry's detrimental impacts, promote circularity and sustainable consumption and production, while encouraging cross-sectoral collaborations to find innovative solutions.  Furthermore, with the appointment of the regional Goodwill Ambassador, Rami Kadi, the programme	12	West Asia	Consumer education	Consumption	-

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
			aims to utilize both platform's full potential in order to reach wider audiences and educate the public on the important of transitioning to sustainable consumption and production patterns.					
UNEP	West Asia- Designers for the Future Competition	Project	The competition calls for all regional talents with an aptitude for fashion and sustainability. It aims at promoting sustainable production and a circular mindset. Additionally, it serves to exemplify regional designers' abilities to innovatively utilize their materials to their full potential hence demonstrating waste reduction and efficient resource use.	12	West Asia	Producer Education	Production	
UNEP	UNEP India Office initiatives	Circular design initiative, Education programme, Research	Three ongoing initiatives including 1) Circular design challenge, 2) Developing a course module on sustainable fashion for the National Institute of Fashion Technology, 3) Developing a roadmap to understand key hotspots in the Surat textile cluster in India	12	India	Consumer education, Circular design	Whole value chain	-
UNEP	InTex project	Project	Project to generate and enhance access to science-based data on life cycle environmental footprints and socio-economic impacts of different business models including value retention processes, for evidence-based decision making. The project will drive the uptake of eco-innovation and Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)in SMEs in the textile sector in three countries in Africa.	8, 12	Global and Africa	Innovative business models	Whole value chain	unep.org/intex
UNEP	Sustainable Fashion Communications Strategy	Communications project	Global communications project that will aim at advocating for regenerative practices in fashion; persuading marketers to realign their messaging to a 1.5 degrees pathway; helping to drive uptake of sustainable fashion beyond just European markets; using influencers and celebrities to motivate and influence change and shift from consumption to alternative narratives; providing citizens with tools to activate and drive change within their communities	12	Global	Communications, consumer education	Whole value chain	Strategy to be published in 2021 by UNEP Communications Division
UNEP	Roadmap for a sustainable and circular textile value chain	Report	Report to outline a shared roadmap with prioritised actions for textile value chain actors to collaborate and move the sector towards greater sustainability and circularity. Informed by multi-stakeholder consultations with experts from the UNEP textiles community, including UN Alliance members.	12	Global	Circular textiles, knowledge, leadership	Whole value chain	To be published in 2021

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain	Website of initiative
				ed	10003		targeted	Initiative
UNFCCC	Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action	Charter	Charter resulting from UNFCCC and fashion stakeholders working to identify ways in which the textile, clothing and fashion industry can move towards a holistic commitment to climate action and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.  Signatories commit to working collaboratively on climate action.	13	Global	Climate action	Whole value chain	https://unfccc.int/cli mate- action/sectoral- engagement/global- climate-action-in- fashion/about-the- fashion-industry- charter-for-climate- action
UNGC	Making Global Goals Local Business	Corporate sustainability campaign	Corporate sustainability campaign to drive business awareness and action in support of achieving the SDGs.	5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17	Global	Corporate responsibility	Yarn and fabric production; Garment production; Consumption (incl. distribution, retail and use); Corporate strategy;	https://unfashionalli ance.org/members/ unglobalcompact/
UNOP	Conscious Fashion Campaign	Global partnership platform	Global partnership platform driving fashion industry change by convening leading global fashion industry event organizers, who are committed to accelerate positive change in support of the SDGs	17	Global	Fashion event partnerships	Consumption	https://www.conscio usfashioncampaign. com/
WB	Fashion4Climate	Awareness- raising campaign	Virtual Reality Installation: "XRay Fashion" - 15- minute experience with accompanying fast fashion awareness package	13	Global	Climate action	Yarn and fabric production; Garment production; Consumption	https://www.connect 4climate.org/initiativ es/fashion4climate
IFC	IFC efforts in the global apparel supply chain	Initiatives	IFC convenes public and private stakeholders, promotes access to finance, and helps manufacturers obtain the technical knowledge they need to improve environment and safety standards.	-	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Vietnam	Dialogue, environment and safety standards, access to finance	-	https://www.ifc.org/ wps/wcm/connect/in dustry ext content/i fc external corpora te site/manufacturi ng/blogs+and+articl es/manufacturing t extiles
IFC	Vietnam Improvement Programme (VIP)	Project	IFC initiative to improve resource efficiency in the local apparel, textile, and footwear sector. IFC, in partnership with the Clean Technology Trust Fund and Korean Green Growth Trust Fund works with factories that supply large retailers and clothing companies including VF Corp., Target Corp., Puma, New Balance, and Adidas.		Vietnam	Resource efficiency	Yarn and fabric production; garment production	https://www.ifc.org/ wps/wcm/connect/n ews ext content/ifc external corporate site/news+and+ev ents/news/impact- stories/strengthenin g-fabric-vietnam- apparel-industry
IFC	Advisory Partnership for	Programme	Holistic program that supports the entire textile value chain in adopting Cleaner Production practices and engages with brands, technology		Bangladesh	Climate change, resource efficiency, wastewater,	whole value chain	https://www.textilep act.net/

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain	Website of initiative
	Cleaner Textiles (PaCT)		suppliers, industrial associations, financial institutions, government to bring about systemic and positive environmental changes for the Bangladesh textile sector and contribute to the sector's long-term competitiveness and environmental sustainability.	ea		hazardous chemicals management	targeted	
IFC	Sustainable Cotton Supply Chain Development in Uzbekistan	Project	IFC project to scale up sustainable cotton production and harvesting without the need to use forced labour, using a sustainable cotton standard system based on the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) principles. The project also aims to develop and implement a chain of custody (traceability) system which would allow industry stakeholders to trace compliant cotton from the field to spinning mills.		Uzbekistan	Sustainable cotton	Fibre production	https://www.ifc.org/ wps/wcm/connect/f Oce0a83-8596-4dff- bf36- 5b17d3137266/Co mmunique- sustainable-cotton- supply- uzbekistan.pdf?MO D=AJPERES
ILO /IFC	Better Work Programme	Flagship Programme	Brings diverse groups together – governments, global brands, factory owners, and unions and workers – to improve working conditions in the garment industry and make the sector more competitive. Its two-fold strategy promotes compliance with national law and international core labour standards in global garment and footwear supply chains and bolsters a more stable and profitability sector that can influence supply chains beyond the garment industry.	8, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Vietnam	Working conditions, labour rights and competitiveness	Apparel factory and buyer/supplier level	https://betterwork.org
ILO	Advancing Decent Work and inclusive industrialization in Ethiopia (ONEILO SIRAYE)	Programme	Programme seeks to improve respect of workers' rights leading to greater incomes and compensation, enhanced safety, equality, voice, and representation. The programme also aims to lift industrial productivity and competitiveness to enable a global competitive textile and garment sector; and encourage accountable and transparent government institutions.	8, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Ethiopia	Worker's rights, competetivenss, governance	Garment production	https://www.ilo.org/afri ca/technical- cooperation/WCMS_68 7547/lang en/index.htm
ILO	Decent Work in the Garment Sector Supply Chains in Asia	Project	Project aims to contribute to improved working conditions and rights of women and men workers as well as improved social dialogue, productivity, gender equality and environmental sustainability in the garment sector in Asia.	5, 8	Asia	Social dialogue, gender equality; enhanced productivity and competitiveness; reduced environmental impact	Garment production	https://www.ilo.org/as ia/projects/WCMS_6 81538/lang en/index.htm
ILO	Future skills needs in Brazil, Ethiopia, Jordan and Peru	Research	This research project contributes to the acquisition of competences, skills and qualifications in the textile and clothing sectors in Brazil, Ethiopia, Jordan and Peru, promoting decent work in the	4, 8, 9, 17	Brazil, Ethiopia, Jordan, Peru	Decent work, skills training	Textile and clothing industries	

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
			cotton chain and in line with the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work.				g5:00	
ILO	Improving Working Conditions in the Ready-Made Garment Sector in Bangladesh (RMGP Programme)	Programme	The programme fosters safer working conditions for both women and men in the Bangladesh RMG sector. The strengthened capacity of regulatory agencies responsible for ensuring safety will ultimately benefit workers in all industrial sectors.	8.8	Bangladesh	Occupational safety and health (OSH)	Garment production	https://www.ilo.org/dh aka/Whatwedo/Proje cts/safer-garment- industry-in- bangladesh/lang- en/index.htm
ILO	International Labour and Environmental Standards Application in Pakistan's SMEs (ILES)	Project	Project aims to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in Pakistan by supporting the economic integration and increased competitiveness of Pakistan into the global and regional economies	8, 9, 12	Pakistan	Compliance with international labour and environmental standards	Textile, leather and ready-made- garment sector	https://www.ilo.org/isla mabad/whatwedo/proje cts/WCMS_577265/lan gen/index.htm
ILO	Eliminating child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textiles and garment value chains	Several projects: ACCEL, Clear Cotton, FPRW in cotton, and ILO/Brazil South-South programme)	The projects aims to enhance evidence-based knowledge on FPRW in the cotton supply chain and to contribute to the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains	8.7	Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Mali, Pakistan, Peru	Child and forced labour, cotton	Fibre production, Yarn and fabric production, garment production	https://www.ilo.org/ip ec/projects/global/W CMS 649126/lang en/index.htm https://www.ilo.org/afri ca/technical- cooperation/accel- africa/lang en/index.htm https://www.ilo.org/ne wdelhi/whatwedo/proj ects/WCMS 654951/ langen/index.htm
ILO/World Bank	Third Party Monitoring of child and forced labour in cotton sector in Uzbekistan	Project	Project aims at assisting the Government of Uzbekistan in achieving its goal to eradicate child and forced labour in the annual cotton harvest and providing the World Bank Group with a reliable dataset and analysis to inform decisions on investment risks and opportunities in the country.	8.7	Uzbekistan	Child and forced labour, cotton	Fibre production	https://www.ilo.org/m oscow/projects/WCM S_704979/lang en/index.htm
ILO	Cotton with Decent work	South-South cooperation programme	Aims at contributing to the promotion of decent work in cotton-producing countries	8, 17	Mali Mozambique Paraguay Peru	Decent work	Cotton production	https://www.ilo.org/br asilia/programas- projetos/WCMS_451 695/lang pt/index.htm
ILO	Responsible supply chains in Asia	Project	Project aims to promote responsible business practices into the operations of multinational enterprises and their supply chains. The programme in China is working to enhance respect	8, 12, 17	China	Responsible supply chains	Fabric production, garment production	https://www.ilo.org/beij ing/what-we- do/projects/WCMS_63 0692/lang en/index.htm

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
			for labour rights and environmental standards in the textiles sector.					
ILO	Sectoral Policies	Policy advice	Aims to promote decent work in the textiles supply chain through promoting social dialogue and consensus building among governments, employers and workers; knowledge development and sharing; supporting to implementation of international labour standards; building capacity; and, strengthening partnerships. A new Code of practice on safety and health in the sector will be submitted to discusson and adoption by a meeting of expert in October 2021.	4, 8, 9, 17	Global	Sectoral engagement, decent work	Fibre/Yarn/Fabric production, Garment production, Leather & Footwear Consumption (retail)	http://www.ilo.ch/glob al/industries-and- sectors/textiles- clothing-leather- footwear/lang en/index.htm
ILO	Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)	Global project	Improves productivity and working conditions in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Through the the combination of practical training and infactory consulting, the programmes helps SMEs to participate in global supply chains.	5, 8, 9, 12	China, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Turkey	Improve working conditions in SMEs	Yarn and fabric production, garment production	https://www.ilo.org/em pent/Projects/WCMS_6 07488/lang en/index.htm
ILO	Technical support to Covid-19 Global Call to Action in the Garment Industry	Call to Action	The ILO provides technical support to this unparalleled effort by actors across the supply chain governments, international organizations, brands and retailers/e tailors, manufacturers, employers organizations, trade unions, other stakeholders and development partners to respond to the impacts of COVID 19 in the garment industry	1, 8, 12	Global	COVID-19 response	Garment production	https://www.ilo.org/glo bal/topics/coronavirus/s ectoral/WCMS 742343 /langen/index.html
ILO	Protecting garment sector workers: Occupational safety and health and income support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic	Project	The programme helps to coordinate public and private sector responses to the pandemic. Its integrated strategy aims to assist both workers and private sector businesses rebuild their economic activities, mitigate further interruptions in the supply chain, and provide direct support to garment sector workers, especially women in selected countries.	1, 3, 8, 17	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam and Madagascar	COVID-19 response	Garment production	https://www.ilo.org/par dev/donors/germany/W CMS 753552/lang en/index.htm: https://www.ilo.org/D evelopmentCooperati onDashboard/#aa39 bs5
ILO	Vision Zero Fund	Programme	It brings together governments, employers' and workers' organizations, companies, and other stakeholders to jointly advance towards the vision of achieving zero severe and fatal work-related accidents, injuries and diseases in global supply chains. VZF works at global, country and workplace levels, seeking to strengthen the enabling environment for safe and healthy working conditions; improve national legal and policy frameworks; and implement more effective	3, 8	Ethiopia, Myanmar, Madagascar, Lao PDR	Occupational safety and health (OSH)	Garment production in Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Myanmar; Cotton, textile and garment production in Madagascar.	https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/governance/labadmin-osh/programmes/vzf/langen/index.htm

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
			prevention, protection and compensation mechanisms for women and men working in garment and agriculture supply chains.					
Non-members	of the Alliance							
FAO	Blue Fashion	Fish value chain development initiative under the FAO Blue Growth Initiative	Fish value chain development initiative under the FAO Blue Growth Initiative, aiming at creating a new value chain for otherwise discarded fish skins and improving income and livelihoods of small-scale fisheries.	14, 8, 12	Faroe Islands, Kenya, Brazil	Fish skin leather	Fibre production, Yarn and fabric production, garment production	http://www.fao.org/f ao- stories/article/en/c/1 171688/
FAO	Mountain partnership	Labelling scheme	Labelling scheme for high value mountain products that aims to improve the livelihoods and domestic economies of small-holder mountain producers by providing capacity, enabling access to new markets and creating links with the private sector. The MPP initiative has a sustainable fashion component in Kyrgyzstan in collaboration with Italian designed Stella Jean.	1, 5,	Kyrgyzstan	Mountain products	Garment production; Consumption (incl. distribution, retail and use);	http://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/regionalcoope ration/climate-change-and-mountain-forests/mountain-partnership-products-initiative/en/http://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1 378092/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuL9ffHaE7s
FAO	+ Cotton project	Trilateral South- South Cooperation initiative	Trilateral South-South Cooperation initiative	1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 17	Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Paraguay, Peru	Cotton, south-south cooperation	Fibre production	http://www.fao.org/i n-action/program- brazil- fao/projects/cotton- sector/en/?fbclid=lw AR1- J1FUgdtXgHTldGV vS0eRS 0pvz7jha0 k4XztfLWd7W kxY Y-c8qEjlU
IOM	Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) Fashion	Regional Partnership Initiative	Programme that aims at Strengthening Corporate Responsibility to Eliminate Labour Exploitation, Slavery and Trafficking in Apparel and Home Textile Supply Chains	8, 10, 12, 17	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, India, Thailand	Migrants workers, labour mobility	Garment production; Consumption (incl. distribution, retail and use); Fibre production; Yarn and fabric production;	https://crest.iom.int/ news/crest-fashion- iom-partnering- fashion-industry- eliminate-slavery- and-trafficking

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
UNESCO	Silk Roads Programme	Programme	Online platform that presents and promotes the creative industries of the regions along the Silk Roads in view of protecting craft creations for future generations.		40 countries along the silk road	Cultural diversity, artisanal production	Textile production	https://en.unesco.or g/silkroad/
UNESCO	Africa Fashion Reception	Initiative	The Africa Fashion Reception is a Pan Africa initiative organized by Legendary Gold Limited in collaboration with the African Union and UNESCO. It aims to promote cultural diversity and build bridges by creating free trade and partnerships among fashion practitioners across Africa		Africa	Cultural diversity	Garment production, consumption	https://africafashion reception.com/hom e/index.php/about- afr/
UNICEF	Network on Children's Rights in the Garment and Footwear Sector	Partnership initiative (together with Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM)	Multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate dialogue between international garment and footwear brands and retailers, manufacturers and sustainability experts to improve the impact on children's rights in the global garment and footwear supply chain.		Global	Children's rights	whole value chain	-
UNICEF	Girls Forward campaign	Cause-related marketing campaign	As part of the three-year global partnership focused on gender equality, luxury fashion house Chloé will contribute to UNICEF's global ambition to reach 6.5 million young women with the necessary skills to develop digital and entrepreneurial skillsets, allowing them to acquire independence, contribute to progress and participate actively in the labor force. This will be implemented through UNICEF's programs in countries such as Bolivia, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal and Tajikistan	5	Bolivia, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Tajikistan	Gender equality, youth skills	Consumption	https://www.unicefu sa.org/press/releas es/international- womens-day- unicef-and- chlo%C3%A9- launch-girls- forward-campaign- promote-young
UNIDO	Promoting Circular Economy in the Textile and Garment Sector through sustainable (POPs) Chemicals and Wastes Management in Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius and South Africa	Planned project	Project will aim to strengthen the sound management of industrial chemicals and their wastes through better control, and reduction and/or elimination in the abovementioned countries to promote circular economy in the textile garment sector.	12, 3, 6,	Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa	Chemicals, waste management	Whole value chain	https://www.thegef. org/project/promotio n-circular-economy- textile-and-garment- sector-through- sustainable- management
UNIDO	SwitchMed Programme	Programme	Programme aims to lay down the foundation for a local recycling value chain and prepare the fashion industry to deliver more circular products that meet	8, 9, 12, 17	Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt	Chemicals, waste management,	Garment production, end- of-life	https://switchmed.e u/industry-service- providers/developin

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain	Website of initiative
				ed	locus		targeted	muauve
			consumer preferences and requirements; and to accelerate the textile finishing industries' shift towards adopting safer chemical protocols.			recycling, circular economy		g-circular-value- chains/
UNIDO	Industrial modernization and competitiveness improvement of carpet weaving and embroidery/textile sectors in Tajikistan	Project	Project to advance industrial modernization and competitiveness of carpet weaving, embroidery and textile sectors in Tajikistan.	9, 5	Tajikistan	Artisan communities	Textile production	https://www.unido.org/our-focus-advancing-economic-competitiveness-upgrading-businesses-and-industrial-infrastructure/industrial-modernization-and-competitiveness-carpet-weaving-embroidery-and-textile-sectors-tajikistan
UNIDO	The Egyptian Cotton Project	Project	The project supports sustainability and inclusiveness from cotton cultivation to fashion design. It includes application of sustainable certification scheme for growers (BCI) and a pilot trial on recycling denim cotton in collaboration with local manufacturers. technology provider and international brands.	9	Egypt	Sustainable cotton, recycling, circular economy	Fibre production; Yarn and fabric production; End- of-life	https://open.unido.o rg/projects/EG/proje cts/160068?_ga=2. 71594647.5213915 37.1607087536- 1253928429.16070 87536
UNIDO/FAO /UNCTAD	Programme for Country Partnerships - Ethiopia	Flagship initiative	The PCP is supporting the Government of Ethiopia in the establishment of a leather industry cluster on the basis of an existing concentration of tanneries in the town of Modjo. The PCP will also help set up four footwear and leather goods clusters, and strengthen the fashion design and training capabilities of the Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI).	9, 17	Ethiopia	Industrial development; leather	Yarn and fabric production, garment production	https://www.unido.o rg/programme- country- partnership/ethiopia
UNODC	Preventing Violent Extremism for children in conflict with the law	Partnership initiative	UNODC in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, through its Department of Children Services, is supporting a rehabilitation and reintegration initiative for adolescent girls in conflict with the law at the Kirigiti Rehabilitation School and Dagoretti Rehabilitation School in Kenya.  The initiative seeks to empower adolescent girls and provide them with life-skills, entrepreneurship skills, education and vocational training, as well as psycho-social support.		Kenya	Youth empowerment, education and vocational training, rehabilitation		https://www.unodc. org/easternafrica/ab out/preventing- violent-extremism- for-children-in- conflict-with-the- law.html

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
UN Women	Global Partnership to champion women's rights and empowerment in the apparel industry	Partnership initiative (together with Fast Retailing)	Global Partnership to champion women's rights and empowerment in the apparel industry	5	Bangladesh, China, Vietnam	Women in garment sector	Garment production	https://asiapacific.u nwomen.org/en/ne ws-and- events/stories/2019/ 06/fast-retailing- and-un-women- sign-global- partnership
WTO	WTO Cotton Days	Trade reforms and development assistance	The "WTO Cotton Days" bring together, twice a year, WTO delegates, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), international experts and representatives of governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as key private sector actors, to discuss cotton trade aspects, market trends, and progress in development assistance.	17	Global	Cotton, market trends, trade	Fibre and other cotton-related agricultural products production, processing and trade	https://www.wto.org /english/tratop e/ag ric e/cotton e.htm
WTO, ITC	Cotton portal	Information enhancement initiative	The ITC/WTO cotton portal goal is to enhance market transparency by providing a single entry point for all the cotton-specific information available in WTO and ITC databases on market access, trade statistics, and support measures, as well as other relevant information such as development-assistance related information and links to relevant documents and webpages. The targeted users are producers, traders, investors and institutions especially in developing countries with an interest in cotton trade and other related issues	1, 2, 8, 17	Global	Cotton, market trends, trade and cotton development	Fibre production	https://www.cottonp ortal.org/cotton/
WTO, UNCTAD, ITC	WTO-UNCTAD- ITC initiative on cotton by-products	Joint initiative	The joint initiative aims to assist LDCs in developing cotton by-products, towards: (i) creating new income streams for farmers and processors with a particular attention to the most vulnerable, women and youth, (ii) increasing domestic value added, (iii) facilitate access to new markets, (iv) improve trade balances and (v) promote the circular economy by reducing waste.	1, 8, 9, 12	Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Togo	Cotton by-products	Fibre production	https://unctad.org/pr oject/unlocking- hidden-value- cotton-wto-unctad- itc-initiative-cotton- products
WTO, UNCTAD, FAO, UNIDO, ITC, ICAC	World Cotton Day (WCD)	Joint initiative to promote the natural fibre	The yearly celebration aims to highlight the global importance of cotton and its direct impact on poverty reduction, economic growth, and life on land; seek new collaborations with the private sector and investors for the cotton-related industries and production in developing countries; encourage research and academic debate on	1, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17	Global	Cotton, rural development, industrial development, sustainability, trade, responsible consumption	Cotton productions, Yarn and fabric production, garment production	www.wto.org/worldc ottonday www.worldcottonda y.com

Organization	Name of initiative	Type of initiative	What it is about	SDGs target ed	Geographical focus	Keywords	Segment of the value chain targeted	Website of initiative
			cotton production and transformation; and promote technological advances on cotton.					

# 2.4. Partnerships and collaboration

The table below illustrates the partnerships and ongoing collaboration between UN agencies and other stakeholders.

Table 3 Initiative partners

UN agency	Name of initiative	UN Partners	Other partners
UNECE/FAO	Forests for Fashion Initiative	UN Forum on Forests	Cittadellarte Fashion B.E.S.T.,
			Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
UN/CEFACT	Traceability for Sustainable Garment and Footwear	ITC (Trade for Sustainable Development Programme) UNEP ILO	European Commission, OECD, ACP Group of States, Governments of Italy and the Netherlands, WRAP, SEDEX, SAC, Textile Exchange, MFI, Bocconi University, Cittadellarte Fashion B.E.S.T
FAO	Blue Fashion		Nordica Atlantic Cooperation ( NORA), Commonwealth Fashion Council
FAO	Mountain partnership		The MPP initiative has numerous partners. The main partner of the ethical fashion component is the designer Stella Jean
FAO	+ Cotton project		Brazilian Association of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Companies (ASBRAER). Brazilian Association of Cotton Producers (ABRAPA). Brazilian Agricultural Research Company (EMBRAPA). Empresa Paraibana de Investigación, Extensión Rural e Regularización de Tierras (EMPAER-PB) Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, Paraguay, and Peru
ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative	Ethical Fashion Initiative Country Projects	UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion members, IOM, UNHCR	Companies such as Vivienne Westwood, United Arrows, Ratti, institutions such as Fair Labor Association and Catadores (Brazil), suppliers such as Verisium. Academia: FIT, Parsons, Bunka Fashion College, LIM University, EU Partnerships
ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative	Responsible Sustainable Ethical Trade - ReSET		Gold Standard, Verisium
ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative	EFI Venture Studio		Common VC
ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative	The Opportunities are Here	IOM	Student organizations, incubators, associations, entrepreneurs, media partners, and influencers in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Uganda
ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative	EFI Accelerator		ACP (Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States), EU
ITC - Trade for sustainable development programme	Trade for sustainable development programme	UN/CEFACT	
ITC - Trade for sustainable development programme	Social and Labor Convergence programme		200 signatories including manufactures, brands, national governments, industry associations, ILO, OECD, Better than Cash Alliance
ITC	Global Textiles and Clothing Programme		
ITC	Facilitating Increased Trade and Participation in Coffee and Pashmina Value Chains Project		Government of Nepal, National Tea and Coffee Development Board, the Nepal Coffee Producers Association, the Nepal Pashmina Industries Association and the Mustang Chyangra Pashmina Farmers' Association
UNCTAD	Creative Economy Programme	UNESCO on International Year of Creative Economy	

UNGC	Making Global Goals Local Business	Expert Network includes representatives from OHCHR, UNEP, ILO, and UNODC UNIDO, UN Women	
UNDP	GEF-GOLD	UNEP, UNIDO	Global Environment Facility, Conservation International and the governments of Burkina Faso, Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, the Philippines and Peru.
UNDP	Small Grants Programme (supporting natural fiber production)		
UNDP	Piloting the Sustainable Cashmere Value Chain Business Model Project		
UNDP	Sustainable Cashmere Platform	Development partners: UNDP, GEF, Ensure, FAO, Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation SDC	Private sector: Mongolian Wool and Cashmere Association; National Federation of Pasture Users Group, Textile Exchange, Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association  Civil Society: Sustainable Fibre Alliance WCS, AVSF, Nature Conservancy; Centre for Policy Research, Mongolian University of Science and Technology
UNDP	Promoting Decent Youth		Private sector, NGOs, CSOs, National
UNEP	Employment in Cambodia Expert community	Expert Network	government
UNEP	Circularity Platform	Export Notwork	
UNEP	The Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (SLE) programme's work on fashion		The Unschool of Disruptive Design
UNEP	Programme on Eco-labelling and Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption and Production		
UNEP	Chemicals in Products (CiP) programme	SAICM stakeholders	
UNEP	Best Practices for Exchange of Information on Chemicals in Textile Products (past)		Ministry of Environmental Protection of China
UNEP	Global Best Practices on Emerging Chemical Policy Issues of Concern under SAICM		
UNEP	Regional Asia Textile Project (linked to UNIDO Africa Textile Project)	OECD, ILO  Linked to UNIDO Africa  Textile Project	BCRC-SCRC Indonesia, Vietnam Centre for Cleaner Production, Vietnam Center for Creativity and Sustainability Study and Consultancy, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam, Certification and voluntary associations
UNEP	World Conservation Monitoring Centre		Textile Exchange, Positive Luxury (WCMC sits on advisory board of these orgs.), Fashion Pact, The Biodiversity Consultancy and Conservation International
UNEP	West Asia - Sustainable Fashion Programme		
UNEP	UNEP India Office initiatives		Clothing Manufacturers Association of India, IMG Reliance
UNEP	InTex project		Moi University (Kenya), International Centre for Environmental Technologies of Tunis (Tunisia), Centre for African Resource Efficiency and Sustainability (South Africa), National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa
UNEP	Sustainable Fashion Communications Strategy		Social media partnership with external influencers and regional offices as well as UNEP goodwill ambassadors
UNFCCC	Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action	International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Over 100 brands and over 40 supporting organizations have signed up to the Charter
UNOP	Conscious Fashion	Corporation (ii C)	Messe Frankfurt – Neonyt, Heimtextil, Hyve
	Campaign		Group – Pure London, Who's Next – Impact, Informa – Coterie, Magic, Project and Jetro – Japan Textile Salon.

IFC	Vietnam Improvement Programme (VIP)		Clean Technology Trust Fund, Korean Green Growth Trust Fund
			Factories that supply large retailers and clothing companies including VF Corp., Target Corp., Puma, New Balance, and Adidas.
IFC	Advisory Partnership for Cleaner Textiles (PaCT)		Brand partners: Levi Strauss and Co., VF Corporation, Gap, Jeanologia, Omera Solar, Tesco, Puma
IFC	Sustainable Cotton Supply Chain Development in Uzbekistan	ILO, World Bank	NGOs, government organizations, private companies, international organizations such as International Cotton Advisory Committee and Better Cotton Initiative
ILO/ IFC	Better Work Programme	IFC, ILO	Governments, donors, trade unions, workers, employers brands and retailers, manufacturers, vendors, garment factories.  Brand partners (43) but working with over 100 brands and retailers more broadly. Buyer Partners include: Abercrombie & Fitch; Aldo Group; American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.; Aritzia; Ascena; Asics; Asos; C&A Columbia Sportswear; Debenhams (official termination tbc); Dick's Sporting Goods Ltd; Disney; Eileen Fisher; Fast Retailing Co., Ltd, Fung Group (Li & Fung and Global Brands Group); Gap Inc.; H & M Hennes & Mauritz AB; Inditex; J.Crew; John Lewis PLC; Kate Spade & Company; Kmart Australia; Levi Strauss & Co.; Marks & Spencer; New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. (NBAS); Next Level Apparel; NIKE, Inc.; Nordstrom Inc.; Patagonia, Inc.; Pentland
			Brands Limited; Primark Stores Ltd.; Puma SE; PVH / Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation; Ralph Lauren; Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI); Ryohin Keikaku Co.,Ltd. (Muji); Talbots, Inc.; Tally Weijl; Target Corportation (US); Target Australia; The Children's Place; VF Corporation; Zalando
ILO	Sustaining Competetive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)	UNIDO	Ministries of Labour, Employers Organizations, Trade Unions, Business Development Service Providers, Private-Sector Partners, and National Cleaner Production Centres private- sector partners.
ILO	Vision Zero Fund		Governments, employers and workers organizations, companies, other stakeholders EU, Germany, France
ILO	Decent Work in the Garment Sector Supply Chains in Asia		Government of Sweden, GIZ (FABRIC), Governments, workers' and employers' organizations, research institutes, multi- stakeholder initiatives.
ILO	Improving Working Conditions in the Ready- Made Garment Sector in Bangladesh (RMGP Programme)	UN Women Bangladesh	Department for International Development (renamed Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the government of Netherlands, the Government of Canada
ILO	Technical support to Covid- 19 Global Call to Action in the Garment Industry		Government observers on International Working Group: Germany and Ethiopia  ILO acts as neutral convener at national and
ILO	Promoting fundamental principles and rights at work in the cotton supply chain		global level  INDITEX, Industria del diseno textil S.A.  Implementing partners: National and state Governments, district administration; workers organizations; employers organizations; businesses; research organizations; civil society organizations and cooperatives.
ILO	Advancing Decent Work and inclusive industrialization Programme in Ethiopia (ONEILO SIRAYE)		Brand Partners include H&M, PVH and TCP
ILO	Clear Cotton - Eliminating child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile	FAO	MInistries of Labour; Ministries of education; Ministries of agriculture; employers' and workers' organizations; civil society

	and garment value chains: an integrated approach		organizations; cooperatives and national cotton companies
ILO	Occupational safety and		Companies
	health and income support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic		German Ministry for Development Cooperation (BMZ)
ILO	ACCEL Africa - Accelerating Action for the Elimination of Child Labour in Supply Chains in Africa	UNICEF	Government, employers, workers, civil society organizations, African Union, supply chain actors and research institutions
ILO	Third Party Monitoring of child and forced labour in cotton sector in Uzbekistan	World Bank	Line ministries, local government and other competent authorities involved in the system of organized recruitment for the cotton harvest, official NGOs, human rights defenders, Directors and staff of educational and health facilities; Employers' and Workers' organizations
ILO	Responsible supply chains in Asia (China)		EU, OECD, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), China Enterprises Confederation (CEC), All-China Federation of Trade Union (ACFTU)
ILO	International Labour and Environmental Standards in Pakistan's SMEs project- ILES		Implementing Partner for the Environmental Component: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
ILO	Code of Practice on Safety and Health in textiles, clothing, leather and footwear		The Code is submitted for adoption by a tripartite meeting of experts in October 2021.
ILO	Future skills needs in Brazil, Ethiopia, Jordan and Peru		Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) Brazil's National Service for Industrial Vocational Training (SENAI)
UNESCO	Silk Roads Programme		Azerbaijan China Germany Kazakhstan Oman
UNESCO	Africa Fashion Reception		Legendary gold, African Union
UNIDO	Promoting Circular Economy in the Textile and Garment Sector through sustainable (POPs) Chemicals and Wastes Management in Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius and South Africa	Will be implemented in close collaboration with UNEP Regional Textile Asia project	Executive agencies: Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture of Lesotho; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar; Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa; Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous and other Wastes (TBC)
UNIDO	SwitchMed Programme	SwitchMed overall partners with UNEP Economy Division, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and its Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) (but not specifically on textiles)	ZDHC foundation, International brands: H&M, Hallotex S L, Aquafil S.p.A., OTB Group, Nudie Jeans Co., Hugo Boss, Benetton Group, PHV Corp., Inditex S.A., Lenzing
UNIDO	Industrial modernization and competitiveness improvement of carpet weaving and embroidery/textile sectors in Tajikistan		Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan
UNIDO	The Egyptian Cotton Project	ILO, UN/CEFACT	Filmar's Cottonforlife CSR initiative; Circle Economy, Better Cotton Initiative, Italy (AICS) - Donor, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Ministry of Agriculture and Land reclamation of Egypt Brands: John Lewis & Partners, Hugo Boss, Marks&Spencer, Albini Group, Weba group
UNIDO	Programme for Country Partnerships - Ethiopia	World Bank, FAO, UNDP, UNCTAD	Financial partners: African Development Bank, European Investment Bank, Bilateral/multilateral partners: Austria (ADA), China, European Union, Germany (BMZ), Italy (AICS), Japan, OPEC Fund for International Development, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation,

			Sweden (SIDA)  Business sector: Calzedonia, DBL and H&M, Illycaffè, Velocity, Volvo
WTO	WTO Cotton Days	FAO, UNCTAD, ITC, UNIDO, and others	International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and others
WTO	World Cotton Day (WCD)	WTO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC	International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)
WTO	WTO-ITC Cotton Portal	WTO, ITC	International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)
WTO	Joint initiative on cotton by- products	UNCTAD, ITC	
UNICEF	Network on Children's Rights in the Garment and Footwear Sector		Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM)
UNICEF	Girls Forward campaign		Chloé
UN Women	Global Partnership to champion women's rights and empowerment in the apparel industry		Fast Retailing

To illustrate one example of effective collaboration in more detail: in an effort to join their trade-related expertise, ITC, UNCTAD, and the WTO, joined forces to implement the first phase of an initiative on cotton by-products development in LDCs (phase two currently under consideration). The project aims to assist countries in developing cotton by-products, towards creating new income streams for farmers and processors, increasing domestic value added and accessing new markets. The initiative responds to requests by developing countries, notably the Cotton-4, for technical assistance to develop value addition and markets for cotton products beyond cotton fibre. Based on each organization's distinct mandate and areas of expertise, the three organizations collaboratively constitute a network for the efficient coordination of research, stakeholder engagement, consensus-building and technical cooperation. Similarly, the World Cotton Day initiative enables to promote the work on cotton by the WTO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ITC, and ICAC through awareness-raising activities.

A good example of successful multi-stakeholder collaboration with the private sector: UNFCCC uses its convening power to gather industry stakeholders around the issue of climate change. As a result, the Fashion Charter for Climate Action has successfully rallied support amongst the fashion industry to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Over 100 brands have signed up, along with over 40 supporting organizations who collaboratively work to deliver on the principles of the charter. Through eight working groups, relevant stakeholders, experts and initiatives identify and amplify best practices, strengthen existing efforts, identify and address gaps, facilitate and strengthen collaboration, and join resources and share tools to enable the sector to achieve its climate targets<sup>18</sup>.

In addition to partnership and multi-stakeholder initiatives, UN agencies apply a multitude of mechanisms to engage other stakeholders in fashion-related initiatives (Table 4).

Table 4: Examples of engagement mechanisms

Name of organization / initiative	Mechanism of engagement
UN Global Compact	Digital platform for corporate transparency and disclosure: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/participation/report/cop Events: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/events Local Networks: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/engage-locally Sister initiative for investors: https://www.unpri.org/ Digital tools and e-learning
UNECE - Forests for Fashion	Communication mechanisms: exhibitions, leaflets, events
IOM - CREST	Specific mechanisms: e-platforms, conferences, webinars, e-learning module, instructional videos, tailored advisory to private sector, labour supply chain mapping, capacity building, advocacy

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> More information here: <a href="https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/global-climate-action-infashion/about-the-fashion-industry-charter-for-climate-action">https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/global-climate-action-infashion/about-the-fashion-industry-charter-for-climate-action</a>

ILO	Brings together governments, employers and workers together to advance decent work in the sector at global, regional and country levels for the adoption of policies and implementation of programmes in the sector
UNEP	Expert community (newsletter, website); consultation workshops pertaining to the creation of knowledge
ITC - Ethical Fashion Initiative	Organize conferences, seminars, Hackathons (2), and participate in many dialogues around sustainable fashion, involving the private sector, beneficiaries, institutional stakeholders, etc.
World Bank Group - Connect4Climate	Fashion4Climate Website page, exhibits at fashion events, galleries and conferences (UNEA 2019)
UNIDO – the Egyptian Cotton Project	The project has created a Private Sector Working group as an advisory mechanism to identify priorities and support their implementation along the whole cotton-textile value chain, including local manufacturers and international brands and retailers.
UNIDO - SwitchMed	UNIDO acts as a broker between brands and suppliers in the country, identifying pilots and liaising between project partners
UNOP - Conscious Fashion Campaign	The Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network is an online platform for industry stakeholders, Governments and NGOs to showcase actions, report progress and share solutions accelerating the sectors contribution to advance the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. The collaborative community of practice aims to inspire innovative ideas, connect industry leaders, enable new partnerships, and enact sustainable change. Available at: <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/FashionNetwork">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/FashionNetwork</a>
UNDP	As part of country-specific interventions, platforms are established to bring together government, development partners, private sector, experts, international/local NGOs etc. to come to consensus on issues such as sustainability criteria around a specific fiber.

# 3. Opportunities and recommendations

This section is dedicated to the identification of opportunities for coordination and collaboration across the UN system that can be the future focus of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion.

# 3.1. Sustainability and Circularity

In consultation with multi-stakeholder experts and through an analysis of gaps, UNEP has identified a range of priority actions to advance sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain (UNEP 2020), some of which could provide opportunities for UN agencies to support and leverage.

Key needs as identified by UNEP (2020)	Opportunity for UN agency expertise
Stronger governance and policies to drive change  Collaboration and	<ul> <li>Support new, innovative business models and support uptake of sustainable materials (incentives, enabling environment)</li> <li>Provide forum for governments to exchange on good practices in terms of regulating against toxic substances and harmful labour practices</li> <li>Level the playing field by supporting the implementation of production standards and eco-design requirements</li> <li>Provide forum for exchange of experience / knowledge sharing on regulation against toxic substances and harmful labour pracices</li> <li>Strengthen collaboration mechanisms, involving public-</li> </ul>
financing to implement solutions	<ul> <li>private partnerships and cross-government collaboration to support education, skills and incentives for circular business models and sustainable solutions</li> <li>Know-how exchange and cultural heritage promotion as driver for economic autonomy and growth.</li> <li>Leverage funding from financial institutions</li> <li>Instill mindset that circularity is a value-chain wide endeavor that needs to be embedded at the design stage</li> </ul>

 Encourage value chain collaboration and strengthen global knowledge sharing; making guidelines available and ensuring businesses receive the information

Change in consumption habits

Use global communications to change consumer attitudes;
 run awareness-raising campaigns with UN ambassadors

#### 3.2. Decarbonization

As recently stated by Secretary-General Gutierrez, "alongside the COVID-19 pandemic, we face a triple planetary emergency — a climate crisis, a nature crisis and a pollution crisis" Activities on fashion should help address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution by taking a value chain approach to ensure the most impactful actions are being taken, informed by science-based evidence and stakeholder consultations<sup>20</sup>.

Taking a value chain approach is also necessary in order to achieve the required levels of **decarbonization of the supply chain**. In customer-facing sectors such as fashion, where companies' direct emission footprints are relatively low, the significantly larger emission volumes caused in their supply chains need to be addressed. According to McKinsey, the fashion industry could reduce its annual emissions to around half of today's figure (around 1.1 billion tons), by spurring action to reduce emissions across the entire value chain, "from upstream production and processing, through retail operations, to the consumers themselves" (McKinsey 2020). A particular challenge identified by survey respondents is getting all stakeholders to take a holistic view by avoiding burden-shifting and focusing on action that is most impactful rather than easy to achieve. It is also important to recognize each stakeholder' agency, instead of relying on others to drive the change.

The value chain approach is also essential if circularity in fashion is to be achieved. "Circularity goes beyond incremental improvements, e.g., increasing resource efficiency, increasing recycling rates and decreasing hazardous chemical use, and requires a system-wide approach, transforming the way textiles are designed, produced, consumed and disposed of." (UNEP 2020, p. 48) For such a system-wide approach to be successful, multi-stakeholder and value chain collaboration is key (UNEP 2021).

## 3.3 COVID-19 response and building back better

UN agencies have responded to the current crisis by redirecting their attention to addressing the most urgent impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June 2021, the International Labour Conference has adopted a *Global Call to Action for a human-centred COVID-19 recovery*. The Global Call prioritizes the creation of decent jobs for all and addresses the inequalities caused by the crisis. It includes two sets of actions. Firstly, it identifies measures to be taken by governments and their employer and trade union 'social partners', to achieve a job-rich recovery that substantially strengthens worker and social protections and supports sustainable enterprises. A second set of actions covers international cooperation and the role of multilateral institutions, including the ILO, with the aim of increasing the level and coherence of their support for national "human-centred" pandemic recovery strategies.

The Global Call provides a comprehensive framework for several programmes and initiatives that have been undertaken by the ILO to support workers, businesses, and government to overcome the impact of the crisis. Better Work, for example, has redirected financial and

<sup>19</sup> Read the full speech here: <a href="https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm20422.doc.htm">https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sgsm20422.doc.htm</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> More information about the Value Chain Approach: <a href="https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/catalysing-science-based-policy-action-sustainable-consumption-and-production">https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/catalysing-science-based-policy-action-sustainable-consumption-and-production</a>

human resources towards helping factories reopen under new health and safety guidelines and is conducting virtual factory engagement services to continue to monitor working conditions during the pandemic.

For the post-COVID-19 agenda, the UN could use its convening power to promote dialogue between fashion value chain stakeholders on reaffirming commitments towards the SDGs and implementing action for a resilient recovery.

#### 3.4. Upcoming UN observances relevant for fashion

#### UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)<sup>21</sup>

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, led by UNEP and FAO, aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. Actions around ecosystem restoration are particularly relevant for the early stages of the fashion value chain, e.g. lowering the severe impacts of global cotton cultivation, addressing the ecosystem degradation caused by cashmere production, and moving to lower impact raw materials such as used clothing, agricultural residues, and microbial cellulosic fibres.

#### International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development (2021)<sup>22</sup>

The announcement of 2021 as the United Nations Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, recognizes the creative economy and the industries within as powerful forces for social cohesion, economic development, and livelihoods. The creative industries, an important source of both commercial and cultural value, include advertising, architecture, arts and crafts, design, fashion, film, video, photography, music, performing arts, publishing, research & development, software, computer games, electronic publishing, and TV/radio. The International Year is led by UNCTAD and UNESCO and will see some fashion-relevant events<sup>23</sup>.

#### International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (2021)<sup>24</sup>

Led by ILO, The International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour provides an opportunity to address the challenges posed by COVID-19 and to accelerate progress towards the goal set by SDG Target 8.7 to end child labour in all its forms by 2025. The global partnership Alliance 8.7 is driving action towards reaching SDG Target 8.7, and 22 Pathfinder Countries and 230 partner organizations have committed to accelerate action, share knowledge and implement innovative solutions. This will provide an opportunity for fashion-related initiatives to showcase their work.

# 3.5. Opportunities for additional synergies within the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

The following inputs were collected from survey responses and through individual conversations with project officers and provide a list of possible opportunities to further strengthen synergies amongst Alliance members.

#### Strengthen internal dialogue

https://unctad.org/topic/trade-analysis/creative-economy-programme/2021-year-of-the-creative-economy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Full programme of events: <a href="https://unctad.org/topic/trade-analysis/creative-economy-programme/2021-year-of-the-creative-economy">https://unctad.org/topic/trade-analysis/creative-economy-programme/2021-year-of-the-creative-economy</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/int-year/lang--ja/index.htm

- The many existing initiatives, commitments and networks focused on the fashion industry lead to confusion amongst industry stakeholders and call for more coordination and clear mandates.
- Hence, the focus of the Alliance should be inward facing to coordinate internally, rather than promoting the Alliance as a new initiative or commitment to external stakeholders. There is great potential through the Alliance to coordinate existing efforts and to develop joint initiatives across development partners.

#### Improve communication, knowledge creation and country-level collaboration

- Develop joint communication materials and events, building on each organization's respective expertise, and clarifying each organizations' mandate.
- Use this mapping to scope out existing resources and knowledge and build on it, rather than 'reinvent the wheel'.
- The Alliance, through exercises like this mapping, can help individual UN agencies to identify relevant synergies early on to spur collaboration on both knowledge creation and country projects.
- Enhance collaboration at country level (in developing countries) and align messages to policy makers, underlining the long-term economic, environmental and social benefits of sustainability.

#### Supporting regulatory/corporate action

- Engage government officials to share good practice and support countries in developing sound regulation.
- Gather UN agencies and partners (especially private sector) to inform each other about their respective activities on a specific fashion-related topic (e.g., decarbonization) and brainstorm how more synergies could be found, and bigger impact achieved.

# Bibliography

Brooks, A., Fletcher, K., Francis, R., Rigby, E., & Roberts, T. 2018. "Fashion, Sustainability, and the Anthropocene". *Utopian Studies*, 28(3), 482-504. doi:10.5325/utopianstudies.28.3.0482

Cerny-Scanlon, X. and Agnes, K. 2016. "Time for a responsible fashion council?". in S.S. Muthu and M.A. Gardetti (eds.), *Green Fashion, Environmental Footprints and Eco-design of Products and Processes*, doi: 10.1007/978-981-10-0245-8 4

Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2017. "A new textiles economy: Redesigning fashion's future", http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications

International Labour Organization 2016. "Progress and potential: How Better Work is improving garment workers' lives and boosting factory competitiveness: A summary of an independent assessment of the Better Work programme". International Labour Office. Geneva.

International Labour Organization 2019. "The Future of Work in Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Footwear", Working Paper No. 326. Geneva.

International Labour Organization 2020. "Gendered impacts of COVID-19 on the garment sector", ILO Brief. Geneva.

International Labour Organization 2020a. "Thematic Brief – a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals". https://betterwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Thematic-Brief.pdf

McKinsey 2020. "The fashion industry can reduce emissions across the entire value chain". https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/sustainability/our-insights/sustainability-blog/the-fashion-industry-can-reduce-emissions-across-the-entire-value-chain

Quantis 2018. "Measuring Fashion: Environmental Impact of the Global Apparel and Footwear Industries".

United Nations Children's Fund 2015. "The Ready-Made Garment Sector and Children in Bangladesh". https://sites.unicef.org/csr/files/CSR\_BANGLADESH\_RMG\_REPORT.PDF

United Nations Environment Programme . 2016. "Global Gender and Environment Outlook". Nairobi

United Nations Environment Programme 2020a. "Microplastics in wastewater – towards solutions". https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/microplastics-wastewater-towards-solutions

United Nations Environment Programme 2020. "Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain – Global Stocktaking". Nairobi

United Nations Environment Programme 2021. "Catalysing Science-based Policy action on Sustainable Consumption and Production – The value-chain approach & its application to food, construction and textiles". Nairobi.

World Economic Forum 2021. "Net-Zero Challenger: The supply chain opportunity". *Insight Report.* 

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\_Net\_Zero\_Challenge\_The\_Supply\_Chain\_Opportunity\_ 2021.pdf

# Annex I. Methodology

The literature review on key information about fashion-related initiatives included consultation of websites, reports, brochures, and was complemented by conversations with project managers. The following categorization was used to compile information:

#### Type of initiative

Objective and impact Segment of the value chain (categorization into 'fibre production',

'Yarn and fabric production', 'Garment production', 'Consumption (incl. distribution, retail and use)')

Target group (government, producers, brands, workers and trade unions, consumers, NGOs) Time frame

**Budget** 

Partners/initiators (companies, other organizations)

Outputs

Geographical location (country, region, global)

Challenges/issues encountered during implementation

Gaps/priorities going forward/lessons learned

SDGs targeted

A survey was developed in close coordination with the UN Alliance Secretariat, and distributed via email to all UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion focal points and to as many responsible officers outside of the Alliance network as possible. The survey was conducted from 10 December 2020 to 25 January 2021, and involved a mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions (see Annex II for overview of survey questions). In addition to the survey, follow up conversations helped to clarify input or complement survey results.

# Annex II. Survey questions

#### A. Introductory information:

1. Please provide the name of your organization/subprogramme and your contact details.

#### B. Activities related to fashion

- 1. Please list the fashion-initiatives undertaken by your subprogramme/division/organization (initiative name and time-period)
- 2. How would you categorize your organizations' involvement in fashion issues (multiple answers possible)?
  - Direct (e.g. organization has a direct mandate and has significant activities)
  - Partial (e.g. organization has some fashion-related activities within a broader role)
  - Related (e.g. organization has activities in areas that may be linked to fashion
  - None
- 3. Please indicate which value chain stages your fashion-related initiative/s address:
  - Fibre production
  - Yarn and fabric production
  - Garment production
  - Consumption (incl. distribution, retail and use)
  - End-of-life
  - Other (please specify)
- 4. Please indicate which sustainability problems your initiative/s directly address:
  - Impact on climate (GHG emissions)
  - Impact on water resources
  - Impact from land use
  - Impacts on biodiversity
  - Damage to human health
  - Social risks
  - Impacts related to end-of-life
  - Other (please specify)
- 5. Please indicate which Sustainable Development Goals and targets your initiative/s directly contribute/s to?
- 6. Please describe challenges/issues encountered during implementation of your initiative (if any)

#### C. Existing partnerships and collaboration

7. Please provide details on any mechanisms (such as e-platforms, conferences, etc.) put in place by your organization/subprogramme to engage/involve other stakeholders in any of your work which relates to the fashion dimension.

8. Specify UN and non-UN agencies with which you partner on activities related to fashion.

# D. Opportunities to strengthen existing and newer areas of coordination

- 9. Please describe which thematic areas / priorities your organization and the UN system more broadly should focus on going forward.
- 10. Please provide any other information or views regarding how to achieve additional synergies between different agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system with activities and initiatives that might assist in the achievement of the SDGs (specifically those linked to fashion).