



Dear all,

We hope you are all well, safe and healthy!

We are excited to share a new round of updates and news from the world of sustainable and circular textiles with you. As this month marks 10 years since the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh, we wish to commemorate the victims and highlight the importance of improving labour standards in the textile industry. On the 25th of April, events will take place to commemorate this and also discuss the progress that the industry has made since - as featured below in our upcoming events section.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and as always, thank you for keeping us updated and we look forward to keep sharing your resources here and on our website.

We want to hear from you



# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Led by **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and held annually since 1973, **World Environment Day** is one of the largest and most influential platforms to mobilize commitments and actions to protect the planet. On 5 June each year, UNEP collaborates with a different Member State to host a global event celebrating the World Environment Day and to decide on an annual theme that shapes a worldwide advocacy campaign. For 2023, the theme of World Environment Day is **solutions to plastic pollution**, hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands.

As members of the Textile Expert Community, we are seeking your support in this event to amplify the call to governments, cities, and industry to transition to a plastic circular economy. Your organization can get involved by organizing and registering your **#BeatPlasticPollution** event or activity on the World Environment Day map on and around 5 June, showcasing your work on the [Live Updates Feed](#), sharing our multimedia and social media content found on the [TrelloBoard](#), and disseminating our [key messages](#), [calls to actions](#), and upcoming Practical Guide, which will be available on the World Environment Day site.

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## Call for Expressions of Interest to host World Environment Day 2024 or 2025

In light of the upcoming World Environment Day 2023, UNEP now invites Member States to express their interest in being the global host country for **World Environment Day 2024 or 2025**, by the deadline of **15 May 2023**. Contact UNEP's Division of Communications through [unep-communication-director@un.org](mailto:unep-communication-director@un.org) for any queries.



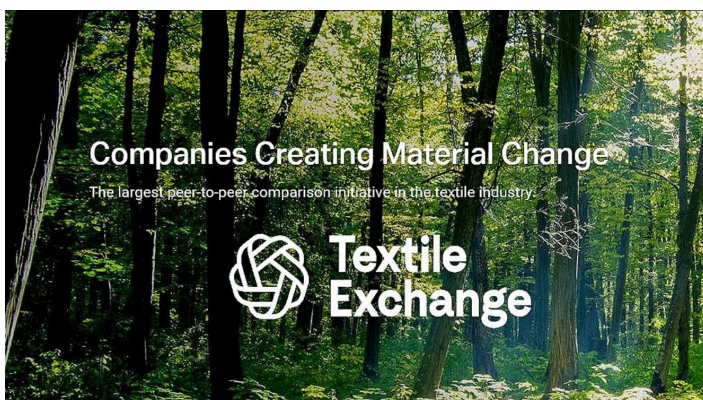
Following the call for literature issued in the [February newsletter issue](#), UNEP is continuing to collect submissions for our **LCA metastudy**. Please share with us any research you may have or be aware of on assessments of circular textiles models. Please email to Elise Vens at [elisabeth.vens@un.org](mailto:elisabeth.vens@un.org).



The international trade of used textiles is complex; it is important to understand the flow between countries as well as the environmental and social impacts of traded textiles.

Understanding these flows and impacts require both a global overview of the trade flow, as well as on-the-ground analysis of country impacts and operations. To that end, if you are working on any projects on the **trade of used textiles** (including what happens to traded used textiles in their final country of destination), or know of any, **UNEP's Textile Flagship Initiative is calling for information** on those projects to identify synergies and avoid duplication - please email [elisabeth.vens@un.org](mailto:elisabeth.vens@un.org).

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**Textile Exchange** has enhanced its **Materials Benchmark** survey, a peer-to-peer comparison

initiative in the fashion industry, to monitor the development of its Climate+ goals. In order to achieve long-term business benefits, more resilient livelihoods, improved community health and wellbeing, and safer interfaces between wild and managed lands and species, the emphasis of this survey is on measuring and accelerating raw material management and sourcing practices that prioritise both climate and nature. The Materials Benchmark will run from 2023 to 2025, and participants are encouraged to commit to reporting for the full three years. New participants can sign up [here](#), and returning companies can continue their benchmarking journey by logging back into the [data reporting portal](#).

## Upcoming Events



To mark 10 years since the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh, the **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)** is hosting an event to highlight improvements made in Asia's textile industry since then and to discuss remaining challenges. BMZ's Parliamentary State Secretary, Dr. Bärbel Kofler will be discussing these questions together with other high-level speakers. The event titled, "Decent Work For All: Asia's textile industry 10 years after Rana Plaza" will take place on **25 April, 9:00AM – 1:00PM (CEST)** in person and virtually. Find the

agenda of the event [here](#) and follow the live stream [here](#).

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**Fashion Revolution's** annual campaign works to bring together stakeholders of the fashion activism movement for seven days; this year's campaign runs from **22-29 April** on the theme [Manifesto for a Fashion Revolution](#). To mark the tenth anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory collapse, they use their 10-point Manifesto to demand a safe, just and transparent global fashion industry, and the [Good Clothes, Fair Pay](#) campaign to advocate for change in living wage legislation along the fashion supply chain. On **25 April**, Fashion Revolution will hold a hybrid event at the European Parliament with MEPs Delara Burkhardt, Saskia Bricmont and relevant industry stakeholders. Register [here](#) to attend online or in-person.

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# Innovation Forum

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Over April and June, the **Innovation Forum (IF)** will be hosting two conferences (one for Europe, and one for the US) on sustainable apparel and textiles. The focus of these two-day events will be on how brands must coordinate efforts and modify existing procedures to meet rising stakeholder demands. The [event](#) will take place on **25 April and 26 April** in Amsterdam, and the [US edition](#) will be on **21 June and 22 June** in New York.

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On 16 May, the **Global Fashion Agenda (GFA)** and **GIZ** will host their first joint event in Phnom Penh, titled “**Textile Waste Opportunities for Circular Textiles, Garments and Footwear in Cambodia**”. This event will bring together stakeholders to discuss circular business models and opportunities of valorising textile waste in the region and will feature Mushtaq Memon from UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The target audience includes manufacturers, brands, recyclers, textile waste handlers, government representatives and associations. Learn more and register to participate [here](#).

Past events





On 23 March, a webinar of the **Innovation Forum** (IF) took place under the name *Closing the loop: The role of recycled and recyclable materials in a circular economy*. The event consisted of an insightful panel discussion on topics such as the barriers and challenges in using and re-using recycled materials, the roles of businesses and consumers, and the available tools for impact measuring of using recycled fabrics. Please find a link to the webinar [here](#).

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On 28 March, **Draper's Sustainable Fashion Conference** took place in London. The day covered a wide range of subjects regarding sustainability in fashion retail, from establishing circular models to comprehending upcoming regulations aimed at transforming the sector. Visit [Draper's website](#) to get updated on the conversations from the event.

## Publications and Resources



A recent report, jointly published by **UN Climate Change** and **CDP**, titled "**Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action**" examines how companies in the Fashion Charter are meeting their climate commitments based on three years of reporting, underscoring the urgency of action needed to tackle the industry's carbon footprint. The report shows some progress has been made – such as complying with basic reporting requirements, disclosing more climate-related information and collaborating with each other – but the sector still has a long way to go. Read more and find the full report [here](#).

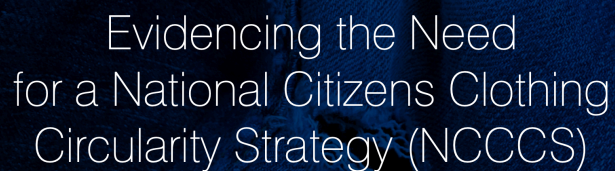
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Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The "**Green Action in Enterprises**" (GAIN) project by the **GIZ** aims to improve the technical capacities of selected state institutions in Jordan, develop services and increase access to technical and financial support services for industries, and optimize environmental and resource-efficient measures in the production processes of the private sector. The goal is to create a green industrial landscape with sustainable practices and environmental benefits, supporting policymakers, service providers, and businesses. More information about this project can be found [here](#).

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Evidencing the Need  
for a National Citizens Clothing  
Circularity Strategy (NCCCS)

The **Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow**, in collaboration with the **British**

**Standards Institution**, recently published a white paper titled "**Evidencing the Need for a National Citizens Clothing Circularity Strategy (NCCCS)**". A digital copy of their report can be found [here](#), as well as a [link](#) to the supporting short film.

## In the News



[Musa&Co](#) has been selected as the winner of the **Fashionomics Africa Contest** by the African Development Bank's Fashioneconomics Africa team in collaboration with UNEP, BPCM, the Centre for Sustainable Fashion, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the Parsons School of Design. Musa&Co is an Angolan brand that creates seasonless, ethically handcrafted accessories. Find out more about the competition and the other finalists [here](#).

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**The Hollywood Reporter** released their second annual (digital-only) **Sustainability Issue**, which celebrates what the entertainment industry is doing to address the climate crisis and examines what more can be done. In this edition they highlight the [Green Carpet Fashion Awards](#), [The Environmental Cost of Red Carpet Fashion](#), and compiled the best sustainable looks stars wore at the Academy Awards – from recycling old looks, selecting from designer archives and wearing clothing made from upcycled or renewable fabrics that reduce waste and carbon emissions. Read the full Sustainability Issue [here](#).

In case you know of other people interested in receiving our news, feel free to [share this link](#) to sign up for our textiles newsletter. You can find our previous newsletter editions [here](#).