

# SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY IN THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

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Dear All,

We hope you are all well, safe and healthy!

At the recent Stockholm+50 conference, the individual and collective actions that stakeholders can take to shift towards more sustainability and circularity were highlighted in the event 'Using the clothes we love to protect the nature we need' (more information below), with discussion around the need for global coordination mechanisms and other frameworks that are key to raising and achieving ambitions.

We are therefore excited to share a new round of updates and news from the world of sustainable and circular textiles with you. Numerous insightful events and activities are taking place during this busy period, so we hope that this newsletter can help you keep track.

As always, thank you for keeping us updated and we look forward to continuing to share your resources here and on [our website](#).

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and look forward to continuing to keep in touch!

Internship Opportunity



UNEP is hiring an intern to join the **Eco-innovation Team** from the end of July for 6 months, with **applications closing on 29 June**. We would be grateful if you could share this opportunity with any candidates you feel would be a good fit. Candidates with a background in private sector work on the environment, or a technical background in sectors such as chemicals or textiles are particularly encouraged to apply. This internship can be done fully remotely without any requirements for a French work visa. Interested candidates can apply via Inspira [via this link](#) before 29 June.

## Upcoming Event



Franco-fil, together with **Bureau Institut Français de la Mode Alumni, CPCCAF and Coopération Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale** will hold a hybrid event on the **24th of June** from **17h00 to 21h00 (CET)** on **Fashion Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Africa**. The event will be entirely in **French** and will focus on **Textiles and Sustainable Accessories** and will be divided in two round tables. The first roundtable will be on entrepreneurship in the fashion industry and the challenge of sustainable development. The second roundtable is on the state of the art of fashion entrepreneurship between France and Africa. You can access the complete agenda of the

event through this [link](#). Please click [here](#) to register for the event.

## Initiatives & Projects



The African Development Bank's "Fashionomics Africa Initiative" in collaboration with Parsons School of Design, UNEP and BPCM, have announced the winner of the Fashionomics Africa Contest 2022. Amongst almost 200 African fashionpreneurs who had applied for this second edition of the contest, the brand [LOHIJE](#), from Nigeria, was voted as the best sustainable fashion designer by the public, congratulations! A warm thank you to all organizers and participants and especially to the finalists [REFORM STUDIO](#) and [DIAKWU CLOTH](#) for their participation and engagement. You can watch the announcement of the winner by clicking on this [link](#).



The Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) Innovation Hub presented the GEC Textile Awards on the 6th of March 2022, providing both a prize and sponsorship for sustainable innovations to three startups. The GEC Textile Award is presented to companies that have developed innovative materials, products, processes, logistics concepts or business models

to make fashion or technical textiles more sustainable. Five additional startups were honored as **GEC Textile Future Innovation Champions**, giving them the opportunity to participate in the exclusive GEC <sup>OECD</sup>catalyst program. You can find the list of winners of the GEC Textile awards by clicking [here](#).

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The **OECD** has launched a new e-learning course on **Due Diligence for Garment and Footwear supply chains**. The course is free and is composed of two modules: the **OECD Sectorial Guidance** module will introduce the sector and present the key characteristics and background to RBC and development of the OECD Garment and Footwear Guidance. The second module will be on the **OECD Due Diligence Framework**, presenting the due diligence process step by step and help participants consider key issues such as purchasing practices and stakeholder engagement. You can register for the course by clicking on this [link](#) and you are welcome to contact Julia Del Valle ([Julia.DELVALLE@oecd.org](mailto:Julia.DELVALLE@oecd.org)) should you have any difficulties.

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The **Apparel Impact Institute** has announced their new **Fashion Climate Fund**, which is designed to unlock an estimated \$2 billion in blended capital in additional asset classes, including debt and equity, to help meet the industry's ambition to halve carbon emissions by 2030. The announcement also stated that Lululemon, the H&M Group, the H&M Foundation and the Schmidt Family Foundation are the lead funders. The Fund unites brands, philanthropic donors, and industry stakeholders, representing an opportunity for greater collaboration and cross-pollination of solutions, facilitating investment and collective action to reduce emissions and seek climate justice in the fashion industry. For more information on the Fund and to learn how to become involved, please contact [info@apparelimpact.org](mailto:info@apparelimpact.org). You can find the full press release article by clicking on this [link](#).

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Past Events



As part of the **Stockholm+50 conference**, which brought the global environmental community together to celebrate 50 years of multilateral environmental action to achieve the bold and urgent action needed to secure a better future on a healthy planet, **UNEP**, the **Government of Kenya** and the **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)** held an in-person event on the 3rd of June 2022. The event **Using the Clothes we love to protect the nature we need** provided a space to discuss and agree on concrete steps to be taken at the international level to aid implementation of the priorities identified in UNEP’s upcoming **Sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain – Recommendations for action and a global roadmap report**, with a focus on holistic actions for sustainable consumption patterns and circular business models. You can access the recording of the event through this [link](#).



The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and the **Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)** have co-hosted a virtual webinar that **explores the future of the garment sector** on the **7<sup>th</sup> of June**. The seminar included presentations by **Karina Kallio** and **Katrina Veen**, two PhD scholars involved in the SIDA funded ILO Decent Work in the Garment Supply

Chains in Asia project. They shared their findings to date and explain how trends and issues they have identified will affect the sector into the future and they will also present positive practices and behaviors the sector can take up now to enhance sustainable and responsible production. You can access the recording of the event through this [link](#).



UNECE together with UNIDO held an **International event in Cairo** on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's textile and leather industry in its effort to embrace a responsible industry of the future. The event **Accelerating action for the sustainable garment and footwear industry of the future- the way forward to UNFCCC COP27** was an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue with policy makers, key industry actors, financial entities, associations and stakeholders on priorities and approaches to accelerate the transition towards sustainable and circular business models. The conference included presentations by UNEP and Le Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis ([CITET](#)), fostering discussion on how different actors are supporting traceability, transparency and circularity in the garment and footwear sector to support export to EU markets. You can download the presentations for both days of the event on this [page](#).



The **Global Fashion Agenda** has hosted the **Global Fashion Summit: Copenhagen Edition** on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. Under the theme '**Alliances for a New Era**', the 2022 edition of the summit endeavored to form previously inconceivable alliances within the fashion industry and to examine atypical cross-industry alliances, in a bid to accelerate the transition to a net positive reality. The event included a wide range of international stakeholders and speakers, both from the private and public spheres, including a panel discussion moderated on the on the role of **traceability and transparency for systemic change** on the second day of the event. You can access the full press release of the event by clicking on this [link](#).



**Fashion Takes Action** has launched its first **Fashion Impacts Youth Summit** on May 27th, hosting nearly 1,000 students in grades 6-12 from across Canada as part of the **My Clothes My World** youth education program. Young leaders who are working to transform the fashion industry and students participated to the virtual event, presenting their innovative solutions to the panel of judges and two winners were announced: St. Clement's Grade 8 and William Lyon Mackenzie's Grade 10. You can access the full video of the event [here](#).

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## Publications



The **Textiles Supplement** of the Eco-Innovation Manual, which includes textiles sector-specific information supplementing the manual when working with companies in this sector, is now also available in **French**. You can find the French version of the document in the [core materials section](#) of the UNEP eco-innovation website or directly by clicking [here](#).



# Lifting THE Rug

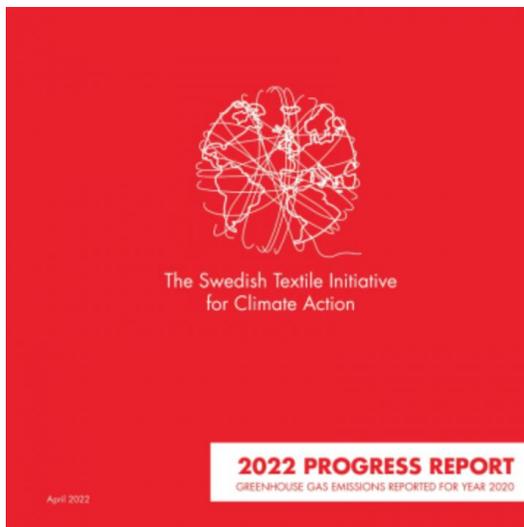
How **Traceability** in  
Textiles Improves Financial  
and Sustainability Performance



Tracker Report | June 2022



A new **Planet Tracker** report found that textile and apparel brands and retailers that implement traceability systems can enhance their net profit by 3 to 7%, as well as identify inefficiencies and help companies stay ahead of upcoming due diligence requirements. The [“Lifting the Rug: How traceability in textiles improves financial and sustainability performance”](#) report outlines the tools that already exist to facilitate traceability and transparency, and the financial benefits of implementing traceability systems, including improved profitability (through better efficiency), better risk management (resilience and responsiveness), and improved environmental outcomes. For more detail, and the full report, please visit [this link](#).



The second **Progress Report** from the **Swedish Textile Initiative for Climate Action (STICA)** has now been published and is available for download. In this report, a majority of STICA member companies present their greenhouse gas emissions for Scopes 1, 2 and 3 activities, as well as disclose their targets. According to **Michael Schragger**, the Initiative Co-founder & Director at STICA, in this report, a majority of member companies are disclosing the full scope of their emissions for the first time, which represents a very important step for understanding what companies should focus on in the coming years,

and also in the name of transparency. The report also includes a number of other important sections, including a discussion on strengths and limitations of the STICA methodology, an analysis of some of the key challenges companies and the industry are facing, and a call to action for policy makers. You can read the report by clicking on this [link](#).

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## In the News



The G7 countries have sent a clear message for more climate action and ambitious environmental policy by building the **G7 Berlin Roadmap on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy** to be implemented until 2025. With the Berlin Roadmap, the **G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency (ARE)** adopts a systemic approach, aiming to promote resource efficiency and circular economy across all relevant sectors, including textiles and fashion. In so doing, the Alliance members aim to contribute to reducing the climate, biodiversity and pollution impacts of material use, including by promoting the sound management of chemicals, throughout the entire life-cycle of products. You can access the complete report by clicking [here](#).



**Planet Tracker** has published an article that discusses the possible consequences of substituting animal-source materials with next generation textile material. The article **New Skin in the Game! Consequences of adopting next-generation leather faster than expected** provides interesting insights on the interconnectedness of the food and textile industries, explaining some of the financial and environmental consequences that could result from the disruption of the leather market by the growing demand for alternative proteins, the introduction of new materials and technologies. Please click [here](#) to read the full article.

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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](#).