

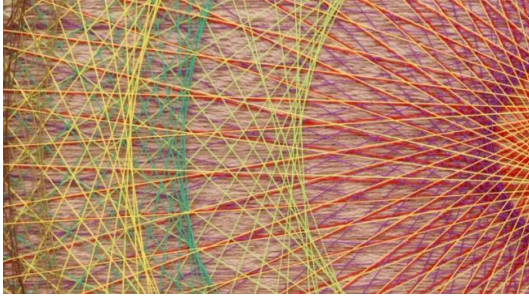


Dear all,

Happy new year! We hope you all had a nice holiday season. Welcome back to this month's newsletter and to a new curated selection of sustainable textiles news to uplift and inspire you for the year ahead. We are excited that textiles will play a prominent role at the upcoming UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya and are busy preparing for various events and activities (more details below). Please do reach out to us if you're planning on attending UNEA-6.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing contributions and we look forward to sharing your resources in this newsletter, and on our website. Don't hesitate to contact us if there is something you would like to share.

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)



Türkiye's Ministry of Trade and the Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management are organizing a UNEA-6 side event on "**Connecting the Threads: A coordinated policy response to transform the textile value chain and offer solutions which preserve nature**". The event will focus on systemic issues in the textile sector, exploring environmental and social impacts throughout the value chain. It will offer a platform to discuss coordinated policy responses and solutions for transforming the textile value chain while preserving nature. This event will take place on February 26th, with more information available [here](#).



The UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment is organizing a special session on textiles at UNEA-6. The "**Thread**

Lightly: Unravelling the Fabric of Sustainable Fashion” session will discuss the importance of shifting textile consumption patterns towards circularity including a central focus on reducing the volume of new items produced each year, as highlighted in our [Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook](#). This session will take place on February 27th at 12:15-13:00 EAT, with more information available [here](#).



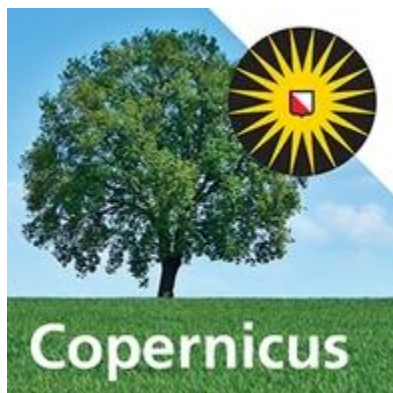
UNEP, in collaboration with the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, is holding an **Exhibition on Sustainable Fashion** at UNEA-6. This exhibition will spotlight scalable innovations that showcase circular business models, design out hazardous chemicals, and encourage responsible consumption and production. Items exemplifying these innovations will be displayed, as well as best practices that

communicate what sustainable fashion is to consumers, and ways to increase clothing utility and lifetime. Don't miss this exhibition if you're attending UNEA-6. This exhibition will run for the entire duration of UNEA-6 from February 26th to March 2nd in Nairobi, Kenya. For more information, please contact: theo.silberston@un.org

Publications and Resources



The Joint Research Center of the European Commission published its report “**Techno-scientific assessment of the management options for used and waste textiles in the European Union,**” which summarizes the scientific knowledge on recycling, recovery, and disposal options for waste textiles, highlighting the dominance of incineration and landfilling, the emerging closed-loop recycling facilities, and the cost-effective and environmentally favorable nature of re-use. Access the report [here](#).



In 2023, the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development released three white papers offering practical recommendations for businesses in the textile value chains of India, the Netherlands, and Spain. The reports focus on Circular Strategies and social impacts, outlining actionable

steps for companies in each country. Additionally, they published a book excerpt "**Circular economy in the textile and apparel sector: an overview of global trends, challenges, and opportunities.**" Access the reports on [Dutch](#), [Indian](#), and [Spanish](#) value chain here, and the book excerpt [here](#).



Ramesh De Silva's report, "**Repair as a Best-Practice in Reducing Pre-consumer Industrial Fashion Waste,**" sheds light on the staggering scale of the \$1.8 trillion global textile industry. The report **highlights the issue of pre-consumer waste**, suggesting that up to 47% of fiber in the fashion value chain becomes waste, and advocates for garment repair as a circular business model, as repairing garments not only extends their life but also conserves resources, significantly reducing CO2

emissions, water usage, electricity, and waste. You can find the report [here](#).



In December 2023, the Policy Hub, in collaboration with 2050, published **"Threads of Change: Exploring the EU's Patchwork of Climate and Textile Policies."** The report identifies climate vulnerabilities in the textile sector for both the EU and globally, outlining opportunities for decarbonization through existing EU policy instruments. Designed for policymakers, it provides a **toolkit for coordinating and integrating climate action through regulatory and financing mechanisms** for the apparel and footwear sector. You can access the report [here](#).

In the news



UNEP's Regional Office for **West Asia's West Asia Sustainable Fashion Academy**, developed with the support of GO4SDGs, has introduced the **West Asia Sustainable Fashion Accelerator**. The accelerator aims to collaborate with emerging and established fashion designers in the West Asian region, addressing technical, commercial, and creative challenges in implementing sustainable practices. The pilot cohort **included five designers who created exclusive looks for Haya Magazine**, applying scalable system thinking and circularity strategies with one-to-one training sessions. You can find the special edition of Haya Magazine and more information on the project [here](#).

Future and Past Events



Multiple events will take place during the **2024 OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector**. Notably, UNEP will have active roles in the sessions **“Creating Resource Management Systems for Used Textiles”** (February 19th), **“Addressing climate adaptation needs through due diligence”** (February 21st), and **“Chemicals Management”** (February 22nd). Join us for valuable conversations on the adaptation needs of garment and footwear companies in combating climate change, industry leadership for chemical management in textile manufacturing, and the extension of responsible business conduct to circular models in the textile industry. The Forum will take place between **February 19th and 23rd in Paris, France**. Register [here](#).



BSR and WRAP are also organizing a session at the **2024 OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector** on a “**Just Transition to a Circular Fashion System: Overcoming the Structural and Commercial Challenges**”. The session will delve into the barriers and solutions for achieving fair and just circularity, with guest speakers sharing experiences on applying circular design principles and addressing challenges. Participants will then engage in breakout discussions to explore solutions and collaborative partnerships for a just transition to circularity. The session is scheduled for **February 20th, from 7:30-9:00 EST/ 13:30-15:00 CET**. Register [here](#).



The **IMPACT+ Symposium** explored **challenges in assessing environmental impact within the fashion and textile industries**, collaboratively addressing shortcomings in current metrics and methodologies. Keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and panel discussions featuring industry experts contributed to shaping future network activities and guiding flexi-fund projects distributed to the academic community in 2024. The event took place on **Tuesday, January 23rd** with more information about the event and IMPACT+ available [here](#).



Join Green Button's webinar on "**Navigating Change: The New EU Waste Policies for Textile Waste Management**", a session designed to explore the European Union's new

approach to textile waste. Discover how these policies are reshaping waste management, treating waste as a valuable resource, and advancing the circular economy. Learn more about the Waste Framework Disposal proposal, emphasizing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for textiles. Expert speakers from RReuse, UNEP and Phoenixt will provide a comprehensive overview of the current state and content of these proposals, discussing their potential implications for brands, retailers, and suppliers. The webinar will be held on February 7th at 10:00 CET. Register [here](#).

SAVE
THE
DATE

FASHION AND THE CITY

The role of municipalities in promoting circularity and more sustainable consumption patterns in the fashion sector

February 5th, 2024
14:00 - 17:00PM CET



Katash, Gwanzié SS23 Collection

An event of



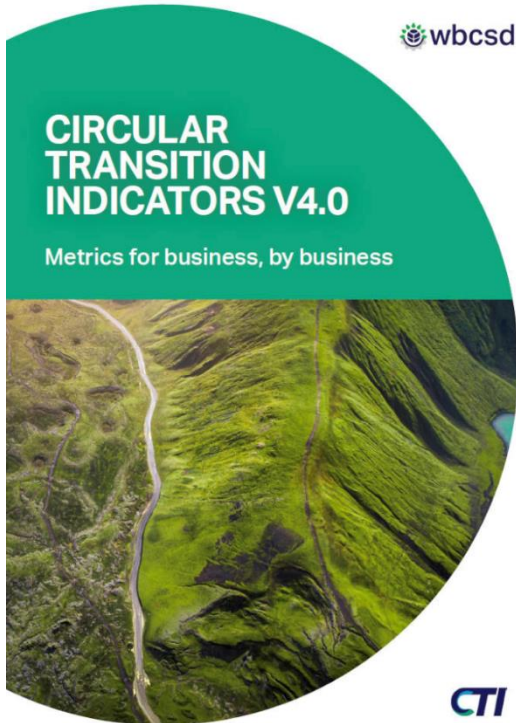
UN ALLIANCE
FOR SUSTAINABLE
FASHION

Organized by



Join the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion webinar "**Fashion and The City: The Role of Municipalities in Promoting Circularity and Sustainable Consumption Patterns in the Fashion Sector**".

The discussion will center on waste reduction, consumption behaviors, circular business services, and the significant role municipalities play in addressing these challenges and is organized by ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNEP, ICLEI, and the University of Geneva. The webinar will take place on February 5th, from 14:00-17:00 CET. Register [here](#).



wbcSD

CIRCULAR TRANSITION INDICATORS V4.0

Metrics for business, by business

CTI

The **World Business Council for Sustainable Development** just released a new sector-specific circularity metrics guidance "Circular Transition Indicators (CTI) for Fashion and Textile". The report will be presented to audiences during a webinar titled "**Sector-Specific Circularity Metrics Guidance for Fashion and Textile Value Chain.**" Participants will explore practical circularity roadmaps with insights from key companies in the CTI Fashion Initiative. Save the date for sessions on February 8th, 2024, at 5:00 - 6:00 CET, and March 7th, 2024, at 8:00 - 9:00 CET. Register for the event [here](#).

Film and Photography



UNEP is pleased to announce the launch of the **Special Programme Project Photo Awards**, a **photography competition opens to partners currently implementing UNEP Special Programme-funded projects**. This competition offers an opportunity to creatively showcase the progress and importance of institutional strengthening for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Participants of all skill levels are encouraged to capture and share impactful stories of their projects, aiming for global recognition and celebrating the success of their contributions to a sustainable future. The deadline is March 15th, apply [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](#).