



# SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY IN THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

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Dear all,

As we are approaching the end of what has been a challenging but yet regenerating and fruitful year, we are happy to share with you our last round of updates and news for 2020 on a collection of your work on sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain.

As always, thank you for keeping us informed and please do keep on sending us your news – we look forward to reading from you and sharing your resources also via our [website](#).

We would like to wish you all very nice end-of-year celebrations and all the very best for the new year to come. We hope you enjoy reading this update and very much look forward to continuing being in touch in **2021!**

We want to hear from you!



UNEP is looking for technical intermediaries in three countries on the African continent that can act as UNEP's implementing partners for its "InTex" project. This three-year project funded by the European Commission (EC), promotes innovative business practices and economic models in the textile value chain – with a focus on implementing product environment footprint and eco-innovation in SMEs in the partner countries. The three partner countries are to be selected through a call for proposals, and with it also the three technical intermediaries UNEP will partner with to implement the three components with a national focus. This call for proposals is open until 11 January 2021. For more information on the application process, eligibility criteria and to submit proposals, please visit this [page](#), and we are grateful if you can share this with your relevant networks.



The African Development Bank's Fashionomics Africa initiative is launching its first [online competition](#) to support designers of sustainable and circular fashion. The contest invites African fashion brands pursuing environmentally friendly measures, sustainability and circular economy actions to participate. The designer submitting the "best sustainable design" will win \$2,000 and other prizes. A four-person judging panel representing the African Development Bank

and the other competition collaborators – UNEP, Parsons School of Design and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation – will choose three finalists by 22 January 2021. The public will select the winner via an online vote application between 25 January and 8 February 2021. The competition is open to entrants from across the African Continent; the application deadline is on 31 December 2020 at 23:59 GMT. You can submit your proposal [here](#). We are also grateful if you can share this contest with your relevant networks.



BSR®



The BSR, in partnership with the University of Lincoln, is conducting a [survey](#) gathering the fashion industry and stakeholders' perspectives on the future of jobs in fashion, as part of their collaborative project "Keeping Workers in the Loop: Towards an inclusive and regenerative fashion system". The survey consists of a small set of questions that are largely multiple choice and is expected to take 20-30 mins to complete. Respondents will receive the results in return for their thoughts. The survey promises to yield interesting results for the expert community and helps to envisage the future of work in fashion. All responses submitted are greatly valued; you can [participate](#) until 22 January 2021.

## Events



The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has organised a series of five Fashion Shows under the motto “to thrive – not just survive”, discussing the need and opportunities to radically redesign the fashion industry. The shows highlight the EMF’s three ambitions to [Make Fashion Circular](#): ensuring fashion products are used more, made to be made again, and made from safe and recycled or renewable inputs. The 30-minute-long Fashion Shows took place every Thursday from 15<sup>th</sup> October - 12<sup>th</sup> November and featured speakers from the Make Fashion Circular team and across the fashion industry.

Watch [this opening session](#) with the Make Fashion Circular team or watch the entire show on [the EMF’s webpage](#).



The African Development Bank has organised the fourth episode of its [Fashionomics Africa Webinar Series](#) on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, themed “Financing the Fashion Industry”. The webinar identified innovative business

models for fashion entrepreneurs to take advantage of the current financing system, and the challenges faced by fashion entrepreneurs – especially women and youth – in accessing finance. It further shared lessons on financing instruments that are paramount to developing the fashion industry on the continent. The webinar featured various speakers, including from WIC Capital, a fund that finances businesses run by women in West Africa, the State Bank of Mauritius, as well as Thundafund, South Africa's leading online crowdfunding marketplace, and Senegalese brand Sarayaa Fashion. The full recording will soon be available [here](#).

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# FASH MASH

FashMash Pioneers has hosted a talk on Fashion's Biodiversity Strategy on November 30. Together with leading biodiversity expert Dr. Helen Crowley, it discussed the significant links between the fashion industry and the biodiversity crisis, and the much-needed ways of transforming the sector to help restore natural ecosystems and protect species. Watch the full recording [here](#). Find the references mentioned during the event here: The Guardian biodiversity [article](#), World Economic Forum - New Nature Economy [Report](#), G7 Fashion [Pact](#), Science Based Targets [initiative](#), Kering Biodiversity [strategy](#).

You can also [rewatch](#) FashMash's Pioneers' latest webinar interview from Tuesday, December 8 with Marc Jacques Burton on the evolution of Streetwear in the fashion industry.

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The 2021 OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector will be hosted by the OECD on 3-4 February 2021, as part of a full week of virtual events. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of garment value chains with devastating impacts on workers and the environment. The first day of the Forum will discuss lessons taken from the crisis, the role of sectoral dialogue, and how to build a more resilient and sustainable sector. You can [register online here](#) or have a look at the [preliminary agenda](#).

*Meet us at the Forum:* WWF and UNEP will be hosting a session on “Reshaping the Textile Sector to Boost Sustainability (in the post-COVID world)” – we will share more details on time and speakers with you in our next news update.

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The ILO and its International Training Center (ITCILO) are hosting their next webinar “Sharing is caring: unpaid care work, families and the world of work” on 16 December at 2:30 pm Bangkok time, as part of the [Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains Asia](#) project.

Women face gender-specific barriers relating to norms and attitudes around their roles and abilities, including their disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work. With COVID-19 adding to this burden, measures supporting women to share work and family responsibilities – and encouraging men’s involvement – are critical. This webinar will introduce key concepts and data on unpaid care, work, maternity protection as it relates to the garment sector. It will be available in English with interpretation into Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, and Vietnamese. Sign up for the webinar [here](#).



UNECE-UN/CEFACT’s hosted an [online policy dialogue](#) “Accelerating action for Sustainable and Circular Value Chains in Garment & Footwear” on 23-24 November. Gathering more than 230 experts, the event provided industry actors and stakeholders with recommendations to scale-up innovation, facilitate environmental and ethical choices, and advance sustainability and circularity in the sector. UNEP was happy to share findings from our [recent textile report](#) in one of the sessions. Have a

look at the [meeting page](#) with presentation material as well as the [project page](#).

At the following UNECE-UN/CEFACT Plenary on 26 November, governments agreed to add the project's [Call to Action](#) for approval to its upcoming plenary in April 2021. This is a significant step as it invites actors in the garment and footwear industry to take action for traceability and transparency in their industry, using an agreed set of measures proposed by UNECE and aligned with the 2030 Development Agenda commitments. Provide your [feedback and suggestions](#) until 20 December.

## New Publications and Initiatives

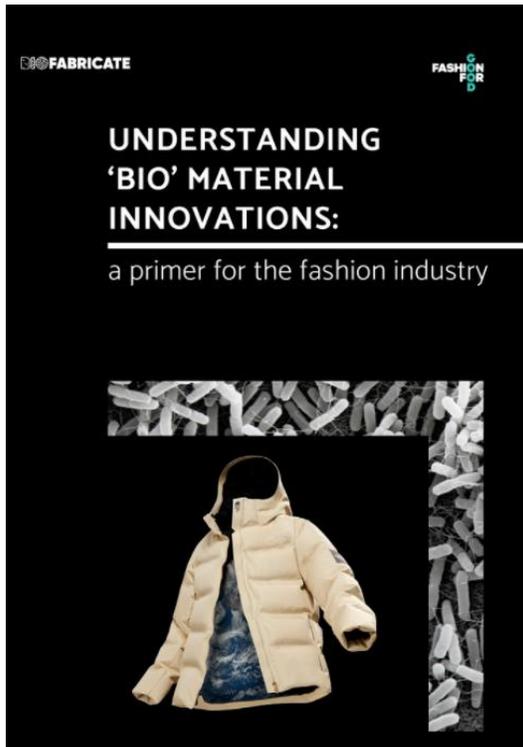
 GLOBAL FASHION AGENDA



The Global Fashion Agenda has officially launched the [“2020 Circularity Fashion System Commitment Final Report”](#) during its Circular Fashion Event on November 30. You can rewatch the event [here](#)). The report marks the end of the three-year commitment launched during the Copenhagen Fashion Summit 2017: 86 signatories, representing 12.5% of the global fashion market, set targets against a four-action point framework over the course of the commitment. The final report reveals the progress made, key

learnings and major barriers the industry currently faces. It can be downloaded [here](#).

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Fashion for Good and Biofabricate launched their new co-authored report “[Understanding 'Bio' Material Innovations: A Primer for the Fashion Industry](#)” during a [special event](#) on 7 December. As fashion brands make bolder commitments to address their environmental and social impact issues, there is growing interest in new, more “sustainable” biomaterials. But what exactly are biomaterials? How are they made? What do they contain and how do they differ? What are the challenges in the development process? The report provides the first comprehensive review of biomaterial technologies for fashion. By collating key learnings and insights from leading biotech and fashion industry experts, the report serves as a foundational reference for change and innovation across the supply chain. Download the report [here](#).

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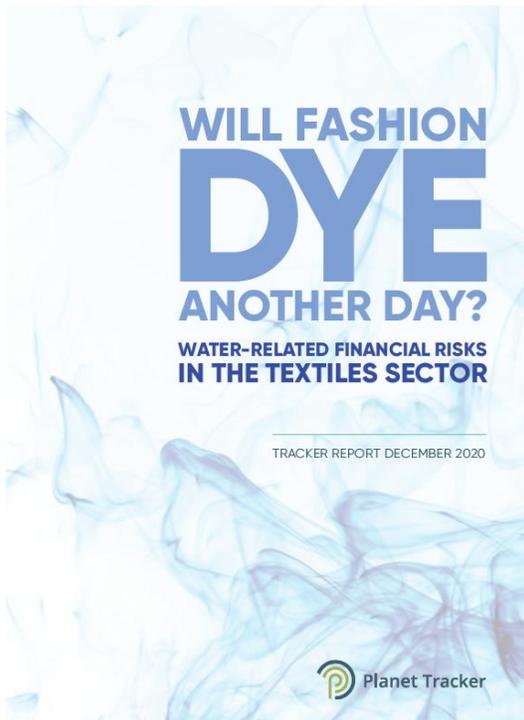
The [Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform](#) has been officially launched at a [UNDP Plenary Meeting](#) on 20 November 2020. The platform was established with full participation of the Mongolian government and numerous initiatives working with herders and the cashmere sector. Some of its core objectives are: formulating and implementing a collective action plan that addresses the root causes limiting the sustainability of cashmere in Mongolia; ensuring a strong legal and institutional framework for sustainable cashmere; establishing partnerships, investments, and actions that accelerate current efforts to advance sustainable cashmere production and processing. Learn more about the platform [here](#).

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Fashion for Good and CAIF have released a new report [“The State of Circular Innovation in the Indian Fashion and Textile Industry”](#). The Indian fashion industry currently employs over 45 million people, contributes 15% of the country’s export earnings and 7% of the country’s industry output. Unlike other countries where the predominant focus is on consumption, India is taking on dual roles as both a producer and consumer. As India further adapts from being solely a hub of manufacturing to also becoming a key consumption region, there is clear recognition of the opportunity to side-step the challenges faced by consumer-driven economies and propel the industry towards sustainability. These and other topics are explored in the report; you can download it [here](#).

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Planet Tracker launched a new report on the 14 December 2020 called "[Will Fashion Dye Another Day?](#)". This report focuses on the financial risks arising from the over- and misuse of water in the wet processing stage of clothing production, with much of the global production situated in areas where water stress and the associated risks are already high. By layering wet processing factory geolocation data and water risk scores, Planet Tracker linked 230 of these wet processing companies, with a combined market cap of USD 586 billion, to investors. Given their aggregate investment of USD 7 billion in wet processing, the report found that individual investors and families were the most heavily exposed, with 67% suffering from "extremely high" or "high" water risks. You can download the report [here](#).

## Online Course



The Sustainable Fashion Academy offers an online course "Sustainability Fundamentals" run three times a year. The course provides brand and retail professionals the foundational knowledge and inspiration they need to engage with sustainability challenges and opportunities within their companies, and to become confident ambassadors for

sustainability. Since the course's launch, thousands of textiles professionals have participated and year after year they give the course high marks. It is also open to those outside the industry interested in sustainability and its role in fashion and apparel, including students, journalists and NGOs.

The course dates for the coming year are as follows: *Term 1*: January 25 to April 11, 2021, *Term 2*: April 6 to June 20, 2021, *Term 3*: September 13 to November 28, 2021. You can [register online](#) via the course page, where you can also find [course structure](#), [syllabus](#), [pricing and discounts](#).

