

SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY IN THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

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Dear all,

We hope you have had relaxing holidays and a smooth start into 2021! We are excited to enter this new chapter by sharing with you a new round of updates and news on a collection of your and our work on sustainability and circularity in the textile value chain.

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

We would like to wish you all the very best for this new year ahead of us. We hope you enjoy reading this update and look forward to continuing being in touch!

Public Consultation – Have your Say!



The European Commission is running a [public consultation](#) for its new roadmap for the “EU strategy for sustainable textiles”. The consultation is open for your feedback until 2 February; you can download the roadmap [here](#); Submitted feedback will be considered for further development and fine-tuning of the initiative.

Events



The [2021 OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector](#) will take place on 3-4 February, as part of a full week of virtual events called the Garment Week. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of garment value chains with devastating impacts on workers and the environment. Among other topics, 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](#) and have a look at the [event agenda](#).



Meet us at the Forum: UNEP and WWF are co-hosting the session “[Reshaping the Textile Sector with a Focus on Sustainability](#)” on February 3, from 4:00-5:15pm CET. The session will feature four speakers, including Bettina Heller from our UNEP Sustainable Textiles Team, as well as from the Vietnam Textile Association, the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) and WWF’s brand partner Tchibo. It will showcase examples of actions implemented to enhance the textile sector’s sustainability during the COVID-19 crisis and measures still needed to ensure a long-term ‘green recovery’. It will also highlight major barriers to transforming business practices, and discuss priority next steps – linking actions to the upcoming UNEP roadmap for a

sustainable and circular textile value chain. Attend our session by registering for the Garment Week [here](#).



The Gender, Women and Civil Society Department of the African Development Bank is inviting fashionpreneurs and industry experts to its fifth episode of the Fashionomics Africa webinar series. The session is themed “[Fashion Enablers: Bridging the Gap for Fashion Entrepreneurs in Africa](#)” and takes place on Friday, 29 January from 12:00 to 14:00 GMT. Panelists, including dama N’Diaye and Daisy Chesang will discuss the role of fashion enablers in improving the exposure of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the textile, apparel and accessories sector. The session will further identify the challenges faced by fashion entrepreneurs, especially women and youth; share tips on overcoming these challenges; and discuss the new tools available for creative minds. Register for the webinar [here](#).

TED^xSUMAS
x = independently organized TED event



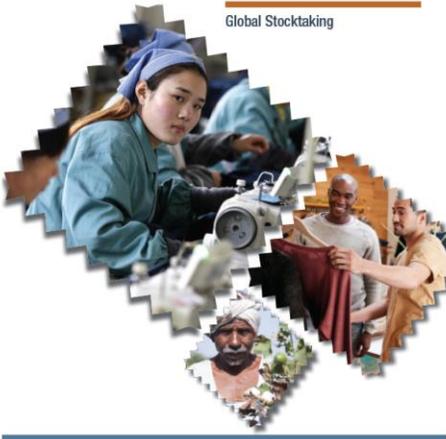
A TEDx SUMAS talk on Sustainable Fashion was given by Silvia Vanni, founder and CEO of [SharemyBag](#), on 23 January. TEDxSUMAS is part of the Countdown global initiative, aimed at accelerating solutions to the climate crisis. The movement is open to everyone – as everyone has a vital role to play. Consumers throw away an average of 30kg of clothes and accessories per year and just 1% of them can be recycled, with only 20% of average consumers' wardrobes being worn on a regular basis. [Watch the recording](#) to hear Silvia speak about sustainable fashion and what her platform is doing to support the shift away from a throwaway fashion culture, guided by the motto “buy less and rent more”.

New Publications

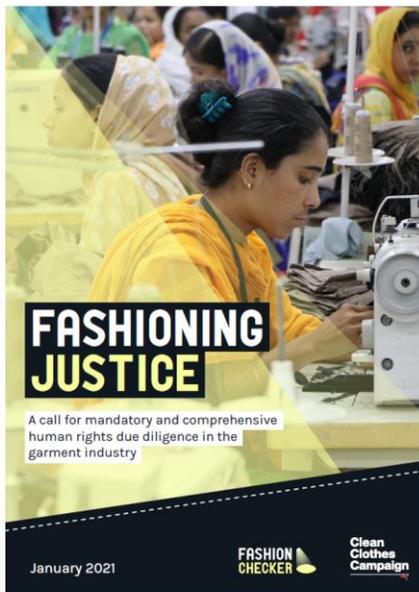


Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain

Global Stocktaking



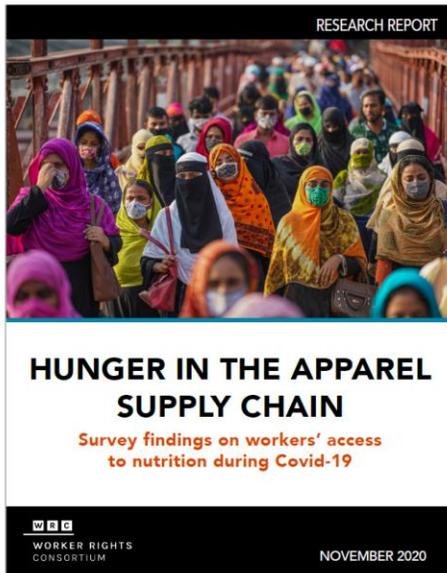
The Executive Summary of UNEP's report "[Sustainability and Circularity in the Textiles Value Chain](#)" is now available in [French](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#). The report aims to map the textile value chain to identify key environmental and socio-economic impacts along the value chain stages and takes stock of existing initiatives working to address them. It then identifies priority actions needed to move towards a more sustainable and circular textile value chain. We have been following with great pleasure the overwhelming interest and attention our report has received by actors around the world since its launch!



Clean Clothes Campaign

The Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) has released a new publication "[Fashioning Justice – A call for mandatory and comprehensive human rights due diligence in the garment industry](#)". Stating that non-enforceable initiatives and voluntary commitments by garment brands have failed to protect workers' human rights and deliver justice, the report puts forward concrete proposals for binding rules aimed at ensuring responsible business conduct. The recommendations are supported with an overview of the policy context and of the current realities in the garment industry.

In light of the [Copenhagen Fashion Summit online forum CFS+](#), the network has launched its [#PayYourWorkers campaign](#), calling upon brands to ensure that their garment workers are paid what they are owed. The campaign further draws attention to how garment workers in global supply chains have been affected during the pandemic. Read more about the initiative [here](#).



The Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) has released a new report “[Hunger in the Apparel Supply Chain: Survey findings on workers' access to nutrition during COVID-19](#)”. The report presents new data about how garment workers' food security has deteriorated amidst the pandemic, as their declining incomes are leading to widespread hunger and inadequate nutrition among workers and their families. The report further states that these alarming patterns are a direct result of apparel brands' responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and the long-term trend of low wages for garment workers in global supply chains, which has left workers unprotected.