

# SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY IN THE TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN

FEBRUARY 2021 - ISSUE NUMBER 13

Dear all,

We hope that you are all well and healthy.

We are excited to share 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 hope you enjoy reading this update and look forward to continuing being in touch!

## TV Broadcast



Univision, the largest Spanish-language media company in the United States, has released a new television report on the impacts of the fashion industry on biodiversity. The broadcast features interviews with various experts from the field, including Elisa Tonda, Head of UNEP's Sustainable Consumption and Production Unit, and Wendy Savage, Director of Social Responsibility at Patagonia. You can watch the full broadcast [here](#).

## Call for Public Vote/Proposals



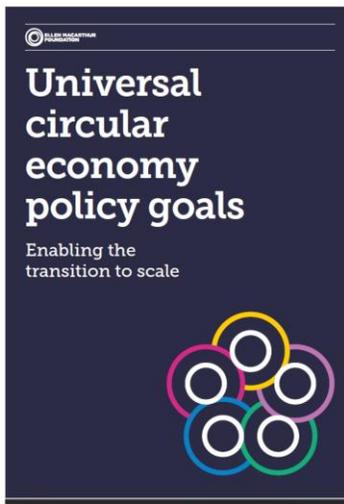
Fashionomics Africa is excited to announce that it has opened up a public vote to determine the winner of the Fashionomics Africa contest – a challenge prize run by the African Development Bank, in collaboration with UNEP, Parsons School of Design and Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Make Fashion Circular initiative. The objective of the contest is to identify sustainable African fashion brands committed to changing how fashion is produced, bought, used and recycled. The three finalists – [Labakelagos](#), and [Pine Kazi](#), [CiE Luxuries](#) – were selected among more than 100 applications from all over the African continent. The [public vote](#) is open from now until 3 March 2021 – take your vote for the most sustainable and innovative candidate [here](#). The winner will be announced during the week of 8 March 2021; the evaluation criteria followed by the jury can be consulted [here](#).



Textile Exchange is calling for breakout session proposals for the Textile Sustainability Conference in Dublin taking place from 15-19 November 2021. Topics for 2021 Submissions are: Investments driving change; Indigenous voices and diversity in climate equality; Action-driven sustainability communications and messaging; Addressing farm-level labor to drive positive change; Water scarcity and contamination in raw material production. Received proposals will be evaluated against Textile Exchange's [Climate+ Strategy](#), which has a goal of 45% reduced CO2 emissions from textile fiber and material production by 2030, and the conference theme "Reset. Rethink. Redesign. Regenerate."

Submissions are open until March 19. They must be an executive summary of 350 words or fewer. Only submissions through the [official submission website](#) will be eligible; preference will be given to Textile Exchange members and partners. All breakout sessions must be for educational purposes to drive action and to meet the goals of the Textile Sustainability Conference. Learn more and apply [here](#).

New Publications



The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has released a new paper ["Universal circular economy policy goals: enabling the transition to scale"](#), setting out five policy goals that provide a framework for national governments, cities and businesses to create a universal transition to a circular economy that fosters innovation and decouples growth from finite resource consumption and environmental degradation. The five goals provide a blueprint for cooperation across private and public sectors, with the goal of aligning ambitions and creating a common direction, helping to avoid the creation of a patchwork of fragmented solutions. You can download the full paper or the executive summary in multiple languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese) [here](#) and [watch the recording](#) of the launch event.



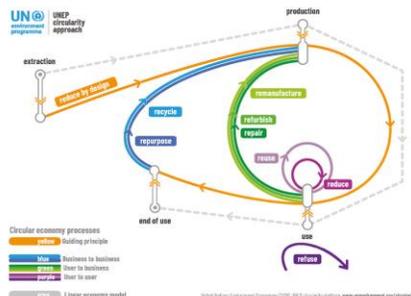
The European Environment Agency has released two new briefings on textiles. The first briefing, titled ["Plastic in textiles: towards a circular economy for synthetic textiles in Europe"](#), provides an overview of the synthetic textile economy in Europe while analyzing environmental and climate impacts, and highlighting the potential for developing a circular economy value chain. You can download the underlying report [here](#). The second briefing, ["A framework for enabling circular business models in Europe"](#), presents an analytical framework to identify actions that can be taken to implement circular business models effectively. It builds on the increasing interest in strategies to enable materials and products to remain in the economy for as long as possible as opposed to being used once and then discarded. Download the report underlying the briefing [here](#).



The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has released a news piece [“Cleaning up the garment and footwear sector: regulation for action”](#) following the UNECE-ITC side session about Decent work, transparency & traceability in the garment sector held during the [OECD Due Diligence Forum for the Garment and Footwear sector](#) in early February. Panelists discussed how voluntary initiatives have proved to be insufficient to move the process forward, making binding regulations by governments, regulators and policy makers necessary. You can also have a look at the [recommendations, standards and guidance](#) developed by UNECE’s traceability initiative for policy makers and governments to put into place to advance traceability and transparency.



Ahead of the [fifth United Nations Environment Assembly](#), UNEP has released a story called ["In the textile industry, old is increasingly becoming new"](#). This article looks at concrete initiatives that are taking place around the globe in the textile sector to improve sustainability and circularity. Switching to more circular business models, including fashion rentals, re-commerce, repair and refurbishment, could for example help the industry cut around 143 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2030. The story also presents the 2021 UNEP activities such as the roadmap for a more sustainable and circular textile value chain, set to be released in June 2021. Visit the [UNEP circularity platform](#) to learn more about the circularity concept and how it can contribute to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. You can also access a [dedicated textile section](#) and a list of useful [resources on building circularity](#).



## Events

ual: london college  
of fashion

centre for  
sustainable fashion



The Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion, UAL, supported by Kering, IBM and Vogue Business, has launched its sustainability education programme [“Fashion Values”](#) on Monday, 22 February, as part of the London Fashion Week. The objective of the programme is to create an open-access online learning platform with sustainability at its core, bringing together a network of thought leaders in design, research and education. You can watch the recording of the event [here](#).



The African Development Bank Group, in collaboration with Afreximbank, is hosting the sixth episode of the Fashionomics Africa Webinar Series themed [“African Continental Free Trade Area: Opportunities for Fashion Entrepreneurs”](#) on Friday, 26 February 2021, at 12.00 - 14.00 GMT. The webinar will discuss the new AfCFTA agreement, which came into force on 1 January 2021 with 54 signatory countries, and the implications of this agreement for the creative industries and in particular the fashion sector in Africa. Panelists, including Laduma Ngxokolo from Maxhosa Africa and Mahlet Afework from MAFI MAFI, will identify and present the opportunities and challenges that arise with the implementation of this free trade area in Africa while sharing tips and lessons learned on potential tools that will be crucial for fashion entrepreneurs to take full advantage of this new landscape. You can register for the webinar [here](#).



Textile Exchange and FSC have hosted a webinar [“Sustainable Forest Management Solutions, A Textile Exchange Webinar”](#) on 23 February, discussing how sourcing man-made cellulosic fibers (MMCF) from sustainably managed forests, supported by FSC certification, can help keep forests healthy for future generations. The company has been working since 2015 to develop complete certified textile supply chains that will enable textile manufacturers to sell clothing and other products bearing the FSC label. [Watch the recording](#) once it is uploaded to hear speakers from FSC discuss these topics.



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](#).