

AGENDA

23-24 February 2022

OECD 8th Forum
on Due Diligence
in the Garment
and
Footwear Sector

**RETHINKING THE
BUSINESS MODEL FOR
RESPONSIBLE SUPPLY
CHAINS**



■ About the 8th OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector

The theme of the 2022 Forum is **Rethinking The Business Model For Responsible Supply Chains**. Discussions will consider key developments in the sector, some affecting the very essence of supply chain structures and the capacity of different actors to adopt risk-based due diligence in their day to day activities. A series of panel sessions will explore which type of business models and broader policy initiatives deliver better practice on RBC, across topics from purchasing practices to supply chain dialogue structures, from living wages to climate risk mitigation and adaptation, and from mandatory due diligence to public procurement. Together, participants will focus on opportunities and next steps for scaling those initiatives that demonstrate impact.

■ About the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector

The [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector](#) establishes a common understanding of due diligence in the sector to help companies meet expectations on due diligence laid out in the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (OECD Guidelines). The OECD Due Diligence Guidance, which was developed through a multi-stakeholder process, was approved by all governments adhering to the OECD Guidelines and endorsed by business, trade unions and civil society. It is a direct response to the G7 Leaders' Declaration on 7-8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, which welcomed international efforts to promulgate industry-wide due diligence standards in the textile and ready-made garment sector. The Guidance is applicable to all companies – large and small – operating in global garment and footwear supply chains.

■ OECD Fora on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector

The OECD Garment Forum convenes over 600 representatives from government, business, workers and civil society to discuss key issues and risks related to due diligence in global garment and footwear supply chains in a neutral environment. A common denominator of the discussions is the OECD Due Diligence for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector. The OECD Forum pushes the needle by focusing on challenging processes and issues related to due diligence and driving towards solutions. The Forum also plays a role in supporting alignment across governments and industry initiatives on expectations of business.

During the week of the OECD Garment Forum there will also be a number of side sessions organised by partners. The side session agenda will be made available on the OECD Forum webpage nearer to the Forum date.

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■ Disclaimer

Time presented is CET European Central time and schedule may change. An updated version of the agenda will be shared nearer to the event.



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For more information visit: <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/responsible-supply-chains-textile-garment-sector.htm>

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■ DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022

10:00 – 11:30 Collaboration among manufacturers on responsible purchasing practices: the missing piece of the puzzle?

Efforts towards harmonisation of expectations on responsible purchasing practices at the industry level are gaining momentum, notably among manufacturers. Recent key developments, for instance the Sustainable Terms of Trade Initiative (STTI), seek to facilitate a more balanced buyer-supplier dialogue. Within this context, this session will emphasise the importance of manufacturers having a unified voice and how this may contribute towards greater accountability and a joint and balanced ownership of due diligence responsibilities between buyer and supplier.

12:00 – 13:30 Opening plenary

12:00 - 12:20 Opening speeches

12:20 - 13:30 Opening plenary: Due diligence implementation in the garment and footwear sector: What is moving the sector forward?

In the road to due diligence implementation, certain business models and policy approaches are driving better Responsible Business Conduct practices. This opening session will explore perspectives from different stakeholder groups on the types of business models and broader policy initiatives that raise structural opportunities for scaled and improved RBC performance in the sector. A panel will discuss the importance of a number of different approaches, considering business models, supply chain structures, access to finance, design, circularity, transparency expectations, and agreements with trade unions.

13:45 - 15:00 Enabling living wages through responsible purchasing practices – taking stock

This session will provide an overview of different approaches buyers and suppliers are adopting to ensure that purchasing practices enable suppliers to pay living wages. The panel will discuss existing tools and monitoring frameworks that support these actions, and consider the intention-impact gap, what it will take to scale up good practices to achieve impact, and which co-dependent RBC actions (beyond purchasing practices) can support these efforts.

15:30 - 16:45 Due diligence reporting on responsible purchasing practices: what the data tells us

The session will provide an overview of the current state of play of responsible purchasing practices (RPP) coverage within due diligence reporting. The session will highlight major barriers to comparable data collection and development of measurable indicators and surveys, as well as share examples of good practice in reporting on purchasing practices across self-reporting, established benchmarks and ESG frameworks. A panel will identify key areas for action and priority next steps to improve development of specific data points and supplier assessments, to allow for sector-wide tracking of this issue.

17:30 - 18:30 Responsible garment and footwear supply chains in the Latin America and the Caribbean region: key issues and opportunities

This session will provide an opportunity to explore current RBC issues and practices within the LAC region, drawing from the key findings of the OECD Garment and Footwear sectoral report on RBC in the region. The new Portuguese language version of the OECD Garment Guidance will also be launched.

■ DAY 2: THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022

10:00 - 11:30 Addressing climate risk through due diligence for RBC: Practical actions for business

In the wake of COP 26, the UN Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow in November 2021, this session provides an opportunity to reflect on collective steps to bring the sector's contribution to climate change within global emission reduction targets, as well as preparing adaptation strategies. Hearing from practitioners applying the RBC framework to their climate mitigation and adaptation risks, the session will also provide an overview of a forthcoming OECD tool, developed in partnership with UNFCCC and UNEP, to support companies to conduct due diligence on their climate risks.

12:00 - 13:15 Considering the potential role of sectoral initiatives in mandatory due diligence

Governments are increasingly strengthening their policy tools on RBC to include legislation on human rights and environmental due diligence. Within this context, this session aims to explore the potential role for sustainability initiatives in the context of mandatory due diligence frameworks. Drawing from the current example of the EU Conflict Minerals regulation and the OECD's Alignment Assessments, the session will explore the benefits and limitations of recognising credible sustainability initiatives as a means to assessing individual companies' due diligence practice.

The session will also discuss how the OECD's Alignment Assessment methodologies can support a common understanding of due diligence and a harmonised model for recognising different types of initiatives that are aligned with international due diligence standards.

13:45 - 15:00 Exploring the impact of emerging government policy on forced labour risks

Governments are using a range of tools to tackle forced labour risk in global supply chains, from disclosure-based due diligence law, customs border checks and product bans, through to facilitating collaboration and providing issue- and sector-based guidance to businesses based on the OECD due diligence guidance.

The session will explore experiences implementing these policies, both from the perspective of government agencies responsible for enforcement, and businesses striving to meet the expectations of the policy measures. Further, the panel will consider how and to what extent these policy approaches are driving forced labour prevention and remediation in the supply chain, through some key examples.

15:30 - 16:45 Learnings from the pilot: Integrating RBC in Public Procurement of Textiles

Last year, the OECD ran a pilot to support public buyers in integrating OECD risk-based due diligence into their purchases of uniforms and other garments. This session will provide the opportunity to hear from pilot participants on their experiences, and how the pilot has helped them address key challenges. The panel will also reflect on those areas where public buyers require targeted support, building on and going beyond the existing OECD Guidance.

