

Manufacturers Network

for Due Diligence in Garment & Footwear Supply Chains

The OECD established an informal network of manufacturers in the garment and footwear sector in 2019, to provide a discussion space for manufacturers to share experiences on implementing due diligence in their operations and supply chain, build a common understanding of due diligence topics and challenges, and bring a shared voice to the broader discussions at the annual OECD Garment Forum.

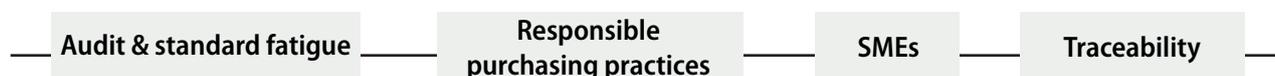
This note presents a brief rationale and overview of the Manufacturers Network and its objectives.

Why a Manufacturers Network?

In recent years key end markets for the garment and footwear sector have seen an increase in government legislation as well as investor and civil society-driven disclosure requirements related to responsible business conduct risks in companies' global supply chains. While these emerging requirements can represent a stronger inducement for companies to carry out due diligence and to work with their suppliers to identify and address risks, it can also lead to buyer-driven approaches that may not be tailored to manufacturers' needs and circumstances.

Since 2019, the Manufacturers Network has met annually at the OECD Garment and Footwear Forum and via peer-led webinars. Participants identified a number of topics which pose challenges for uptake and implementation of due diligence among manufacturers, and which could be explored through collaboration.

The topics prioritised for collaboration are:



What are the objectives of the Network?

- Share information on emerging responsible business conduct (RBC) risks affecting manufacturers and/or their suppliers and successful practices that manufacturers associations or their members have undertaken to address those risks
- Share information on existing RBC tools and support that is available to manufacturers associations and identify needs
- Springboard collaboration (could be shared research or other) on RBC issues of mutual interest
- Harmonise key shared messaging on the manufacturer experience of due diligence (best practices and challenges), in order to create an important feedback loop to brands, retailers, governments and other stakeholders at OECD fora
- Contribute manufacturer perspectives to sector-wide discussions on responsible purchasing practices to prevent contribution to harm in the supply chain

In addition to the above, the informal network can raise the capacity of manufacturers associations to address responsible business conduct risks and sustainable development and strengthen supplier-driven approaches.

Who is the Manufacturers Network for?

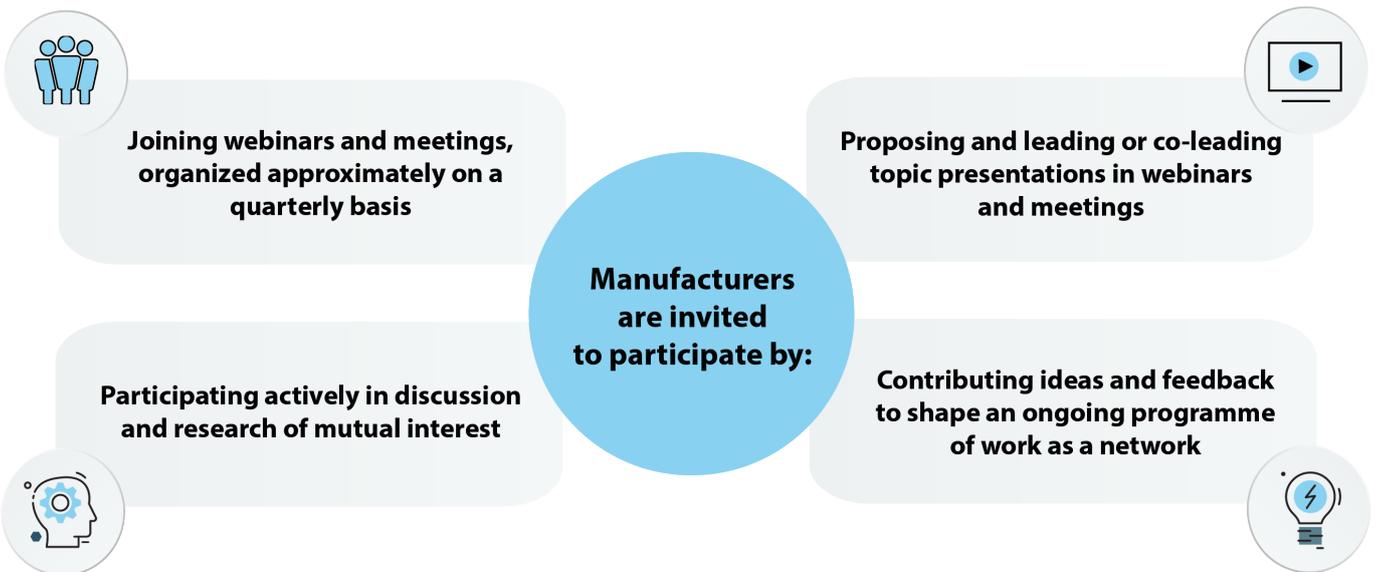


The Manufacturers Network is intended to gather representatives of garment and footwear manufacturers associations across the supply chain regardless of their geographic location, size, position in the supply chain or their leverage.

What is the role of the OECD?

The OECD plays the role of convenor assisting coordination of the network, acting as a neutral third party, setting up webinars or meetings, helping coordinate with participants on discussion topics and distributing pre- or post-meeting reading materials or action points as needed, and advising on technical questions relating to the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector.

How can manufacturing associations participate in the network?



About the Garment and Footwear Due Diligence Forum

The OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector convenes 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.

The 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.



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