

AGENDA

16-17 February 2023

9th OECD FORUM
on Due Diligence in
the Garment and
Footwear Sector



■ DAY 1: THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2023

9:00 – 10:00	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE
10:00 – 11:00	Opening session, CC15

Welcome and opening remarks

Carmine Di Noia, Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Keynote speech

Nazma Akter, worker rights activist, founder of Awaj Foundation, and President, Somnilito Garments Sramik Federation, Bangladesh

Introduction to the Forum agenda

Matthias Altmann, Sector Lead, Garment & Footwear Sector, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

Julia del Valle, Policy Analyst, Garment & Footwear Sector, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

Andrea Schill, Policy Analyst, Garment & Footwear Sector, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
---------------	--------------

11:30 - 13:00	Closing living wage gaps in garment supply chains: From commitment to action, CC15
---------------	--

Living wages are an essential element of the concept and standards of responsible business conduct, on which there is broad consensus that a joint approach is needed to achieve systemic change. The session will provide an overview of the current state of play and explore existing methodologies and frameworks for collaboration between industry, trade unions and governments to close living wage gaps and address other RBC risks linked to low wages. The panel will reflect on main obstacles and identify key areas for action and next steps to scale up implementation in the industry. The session will also provide the opportunity to present and discuss a Handbook for companies to enable living incomes and wages in global supply chains currently developed by the OECD.

Speakers

- Bärbel Kofler, Member of the German Parliament and Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany
- Allan Jorgensen, Head of the Centre for Responsible Business Conduct, OECD
- Patrick Belser, Senior Economist, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Evelyn Astor, Economic and Social Policy Advisor, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Arnoud Van Vliet, Manager CSR and Quality, Zeeman

Moderator

Frankie Whitwell, Managing Consultant, twentyfifty

13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
---------------	-------------

14:30 - 16:00	Assessing RBC due diligence implementation: Reflecting a risk-based approach, CC15
---------------	--

Assessing company due diligence efforts is essential to ascertain whether increasing reporting requirements, voluntary commitments and due diligence obligations are effectively implemented in garment and footwear supply chains. The session will explore different options for assessing RBC due diligence. It will consider the opportunities and challenges involved in moving beyond traditional compliance-based checklists towards more risk-based, dynamic approaches. The panellists will discuss assessment efforts by, for example, voluntary initiatives and government agencies and explore whether different sources of information and meaningful indicators of progress are sufficiently considered when assessing RBC due diligence.

Speakers

- Aruna Kashyap, Associate Director on Corporate Accountability, Human Rights Watch
- Hester Janssens, Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships Manager, Fair Wear Foundation
- Sarosh Kuruvilla, Professor of Industrial Relations, Asian Studies and Public Affairs, Cornell University
- Emily Norton, Policy and Legal Adviser, Due Diligence & Alignment Assessments, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

Moderator

Hannah Koep-Andrieu, Head of Due Diligence, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

16:00 – 16:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:30 - 18:00

Due Diligence of circular value chains: Addressing the risks associated with circular processes, CC4

Increasing expectations from consumers and legislators on garment and footwear sector actors' sector to reduce its environmental footprint are driving brands and producers alike to look for ways of keeping the value of products and materials as long as possible in the production and use cycle. In transitioning to circular approaches, companies create new business linkages both upstream and downstream of their value chain that require them to extend their due diligence to new associated risks. The session will explore what new business relationships, for instance, with recyclers, sorters, collectors or new materials producers and processors imply for RBC due diligence, and what considerations are important when exercising due diligence on circular value chains.

Speakers

- Mauro Scalia, Director Sustainable Businesses, Euratex
- Maria Luisa Martinez Diez, Public Affairs Director, Global Fashion Agenda
- Zubeida Zwavel, Executive Director, Centre for African Resource Efficiency and Sustainability, South Africa
- Payal Jain, Head of Sustainability - Global Production, H&M

Moderator

Libby Annat, Partner, Due Diligence Design

Worker engagement and the role of trade unions in due diligence, CC6

To ensure meaningful due diligence, companies need to actively engage with workers and trade unions in every step of the due diligence process. The session will provide an opportunity to reflect on the right to Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining and discuss the need for engaging trade unions and workers in the design, implementation and tracking of due diligence. Panellists will identify obstacles to meaningful worker engagement, share best practice examples, and discuss approaches how to improve worker engagement in the sector through, for example, workers' access to data, training, use of worker voice tools and global framework agreements.

Speakers

- Andrei Vasiliev, Social Impact Manager, Bestseller
- Kenichi Tomiyoshi, Executive Vice President, Japan Textile Federation
- Nazma Akter, President, Sommlito Garment Sramik Federation
- Veronica Nilsson, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)

Moderator

Githa Roelans, Head, Multinational Enterprises Unit, International Labour Organisation (ILO)

18:00 - 20:00

Cocktail, Rooms Roger Ockrent and Georges Marshall, Chateau de la Muette

■ DAY 2: FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2023

9:00 – 9:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE
<p>09:30 – 11.00</p> <p>Implementing impactful due diligence: A practical perspective from Vietnam, CC4</p> <p>Greenwashing your clothes? Addressing unsubstantiated sustainability claims in the garment and footwear sector, CC6</p>	
<p>The panel consists of producer representatives joining live from a local event organised by The Industry We Want in Hanoi, and representatives from consumer countries joining from Paris. They will discuss how due diligence legislation and accompanying support measures proposed by consumer countries affect purchasing and production practices on the ground, and how producer needs can be better accommodated in the implementation of due diligence legislation and support.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anosha Wahidi, Head of Division, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) • Mathijs Crietee, Secretary General, International Apparel Federation • Joy Roeterdink, Head of Corporate Sustainability, Suit Supply • Nguyen Van Binh, Director General, Ministry of Labour, Legal Department • Luu Tien Chung, Vice Chairman, Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) <p>Moderator</p> <p>Alexander Kohnstamm, Executive Director, Fair Wear Foundation</p>	<p>For many companies in the garment and footwear sector, product sustainability claims have been the answer to increased market expectations to prove their efforts. Recent investigations by consumer market authorities in the sector, however, found that product claims used by companies and retailers are often not sufficiently backed by product-specific data, were too generic or selective. The session aims to explore the types of claims used by companies and retailers and discuss the implications of unsubstantiated claims for companies and the industry at large. Panellists will discuss whether claims can become more credible by improved data collection, transparency, and awareness. They will also explore whether collecting specific and reliable data to back sustainability claims will remain impossible as long as supply chains remain volatile and complex.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Harding-Rolls, Campaign Manager, Changing Markets Foundation • Jeremy Lardeau, Vice President of Higg Index, Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) • Kristin Komives, Director of Programmes, ISEAL • Tonje Drevland, Assistant Director, Supervisory Department, Norwegian Consumer Authority <p>Moderator</p> <p>Andrea Schill, Policy Analyst, Garment & Footwear Sector, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct</p>
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
<p>11:30 – 13:00</p> <p>Due Diligence in conflict-affected and high-risk contexts: enhanced due diligence or responsible disengagement?, CC15</p>	
<p>Since the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, the recent financial and humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka, the civil conflict in Ethiopia's region of Tigray, or the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, major garment producing countries have turned into high-risk areas. This confronts responsible international buyers with the dilemma of having to decide whether to continue to operate in those areas to secure the jobs of garment workers, or to disengage to avoid involuntarily contributing to human rights violations. The session will take a critical look at these options and review other considerations when sourcing from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. It will examine the stakes in light of OECD recommendations on enhanced due diligence and responsible disengagement, as well as some of the practical challenges entailed in applying these recommendations in high-risk settings.</p>	

Speakers:

- Christina Hajagos-Clausen, Director for Textile and Garment Sector, IndustriALL Global Union
- Vicky Bowman, Director, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business
- Karina Ufert, Director, European Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar
- Peter McAllister, Executive Director, Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)
- Linda Kromjong, President, amfori - Trade with Purpose

Moderator:

Benjamin Katz, Sector Lead, Mineral Supply Chains, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

13:00 – 14:30**LUNCH BREAK****14:30 - 16:00****Due diligence costs and responsibilities: Collaborative approaches to buyer supplier relationships, CC15**

Buyer-supplier collaboration on due diligence implementation based on distribution of costs and responsibilities along the supply chain can help support the development of effective due diligence processes and a more equal distribution of the burden of compliance. Within the context of increasing due diligence legislation, and the risk of unduly cascading RBC expectations to upstream parts of the supply chain, the panel will reflect on the benefits and limitations of buyer-supplier collaboration models and highlight current industry examples of successful approaches to shared implementation of due diligence.

Speakers:

- Anant Ahuja, Head of Organizational Development, Shahi Exports
- Xhiaoqi Liang, Chief Researcher & Deputy Director at China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)
- Sarah Dasduh, Professor of Law, Director of Business and Human Rights Law Program, Rutgers Law School
- Michael Bride, Senior Vice President Corporate Responsibility, Global Affairs, RMG Sustainability Council Board Member, PVH Corp.

Moderator:

Joris Oldenziel, Independent Member, Dutch National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines

16:00 - 16:30**Closing Remarks, CC15****Speakers:**

Madelaine Tuininga, Head of Unit, Multilateral Trade and Sustainable Development Policy, Green Deal, Conflict Minerals, DG TRADE, European Commission