

Forum on due diligence in the  
garment and footwear sector

**ROUNDTABLE FOR POLICY  
MAKERS**

11 FEBRUARY 2020  
OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE  
PARIS, FRANCE



## ■ About the Roundtable for Policy Makers

Held in lead-up to the OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector, this second annual Roundtable will convene policy makers from across key economies engaged in the garment and footwear sector and its supply chain to discuss policy options for enabling and promoting vibrant and responsible supply chains in the garment and footwear sector. It will take stock of existing policy options and government-backed initiatives in the sector, explore how national textile strategies can support and enable responsible business conduct in the sector, as well as discuss how governments can achieve greater harmonisation of government monitoring and reporting.

## ■ Participant information

The Roundtable for Policy Makers is only for government officials from OECD member and Adhering governments and governments from key economies in the garment and footwear sector along with representatives from intergovernmental organisations.

The Roundtable is by invitation only.

## ■ Date, time and venue

Tuesday, 11 February 2020, 11:00-18:00, OECD Chateau Room D.

## ■ Chatham House Rule

The Roundtable is held under the Chatham House Rule: Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

## ■ Languages

English-French interpretation is available during this Roundtable

## ■ Contact

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# Forum on due diligence in the garment and footwear sector

## ROUNDTABLE FOR POLICY MAKERS

### Chateau Room D

#### AGENDA

Tuesday 11 February 2020

The Roundtable will be chaired by **Ms Christine Kaufmann**, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct.

11:00 – 11:30

#### 1. Opening of the Roundtable

##### Opening remarks

**Ms Gabriela Ramos**, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa

**Ms Madelaine Tuininga**, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission

11:30 – 12:30

#### 2. Taking stock of new or updated government activities to promote responsible supply chains in the sector

This session will give the opportunity to participants to share relevant government policy updates on activities in producing and importing economies to promote responsible supply chains in the garment and footwear sector.

These may include for example, information about: new and emerging supply chain legislation; significant government-backed multi-stakeholder initiatives; or investment and trade regimes.

12:30 – 14:00

#### Lunch break

12:45 – 13:15

Lunchtime discussion: Trends in responsible investment – implications for the garment and footwear sector, **Ms Barbara Bijelic**, Legal Expert, OECD RBC Centre

14:00 – 16:00

#### 3. Good practice in integrating Responsible Business Conduct considerations into national garment & textile industrial strategy

This session will look at how governments are incorporating responsible business conduct (RBC) considerations into their **national garment and/or textile industrial strategy**\*. The first half of this session will explore the **process** for integrating RBC considerations into an **industrial strategy**. We will explore the steps governments can take to establish commitment to global standards on RBC within a textile strategy as well as to build engagement with stakeholders on the key RBC issues to be prioritised. Governments will share key learnings and challenges encountered.

The second half of this session will deep dive on the **content** of an RBC-integrated textile strategy and how government action can enable business to meet climate and environmental impact targets.

\*While the session discusses policy tools in the context of an industrial or sector-specific strategy, the session is intended to be useful for policy makers across the value chain, even where a relevant sector-specific strategy may not be in place.

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**Session moderator:**

**Ms Mathilde Mesnard**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

**Speakers**

**Deep-dive topic one: Incorporating RBC in government textile and garment industrial strategy.**

**Ms Dilara Begum**, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Ms Jos Huber**, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands.

**Mr Dan Rees**, Director, Better Work Programme ILO

***Discussion with Roundtable participants***

**Deep-dive topic two: Building a climate-neutral, natural capital-positive sector through industrial strategy.**

**Ms Thuy Nguyen**, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Government of Viet Nam

**Ms Maylis Souque**, Secretary General of the French OECD National Contact Point for RBC, Advisor for Responsible Business Conduct, France

**Ms Geraldine Ang**, Senior Policy Analyst, Centre for Green Finance and Investment, Environment Directorate, OECD

***Discussion with Roundtable participants***

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**16:00 – 16:30**

**Coffee break**

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**16:30 – 17:30**

**4. Harmonisation of reporting and monitoring requirements in government-backed reporting frameworks and disclosure legislation**

Over recent years it has become standard practice for companies in the garment and footwear sector to report on their efforts to identify and address labour, human rights and environment risks in their operations and supply chains, primarily in the form of an annual sustainability or CSR report. At the same time, businesses have seen a rise in mandatory and voluntary disclosure requirements concerning labour and environmental supply chain due diligence, driven by investors, government regulations, multi-stakeholder and industry reporting requirements and third-party benchmarks.

In last year's OECD Garment Forum we heard strongly from businesses and stakeholders on [the need to harmonise due diligence disclosure](#) and to bring it in alignment with the OECD Guidance. At the same time benchmarks have pointed out that voluntary company reporting is not meeting expectations, given low benchmark scores which indicate a failure to implement due diligence effectively (CHRB Key Findings 2019).

One issue is the quality and alignment of company reporting, another is the difficulty in assessing and providing feedback on a company's report.

Governments have a role to play in addressing this fragmentation and to improve uptake, both through its own role as a legislator, and through facilitating collaboration for harmonisation of tools and standards among governments.

In this session we will hear ideas on how governments can **seek greater alignment with the OECD Guidance and with other monitoring and reporting frameworks for their own disclosure requirements for companies in the sector**. The session will also

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consider what is at stake in the battle for **one common due diligence assessment framework and public reporting framework for the sector**.

Please see the OECD Garment Forum session note [Mandatory Due Diligence, taking stock and looking forward](#) for useful background information.

### Speakers

**H.E. Mr SOM Chamnan, Under-Secretary of State**, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Kingdom of Cambodia

**Ms Rebecca Mills**, Director, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Section, Customs Group, Australian Border Force, Government of Australia (by video)

**Ms Anosha Wahidi**, Director, Sustainable Supply Chain Unit, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

### *Discussion with Roundtable participants*

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17:30 – 18:00

### 5. Looking forward

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This final session will give an opportunity to roundtable participants to **share their reflections on the roundtable** and to **define priority topics** to explore in future policy maker roundtables.

