Brainstorming Session
The emperors’ new clothes
Ethical and informed choices
Today’s global clothing and textile industry is worth approximately $3 trillion, produces 80 billion garments worldwide every year, and employs about 60 to 75 million people. Clothes now pose a formidable challenge to our planetary boundaries, and solutions are needed at the global level.

As part of this year’s edition of the European Development Days, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in collaboration with Cittadellarte Fashion B.E.S.T, TÜV Rheinland Group, the Italian Chamber of Fashion and other key actors, organises a brainstorming session to engage the global community in developing an initiative to detox the textile and apparel industry and support more informed and ethical choices.

More specifically, the session aims at (1) Discussing practical approaches for encouraging companies in the industry to embrace sustainable business practices, in support of the SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production; (2) Raising awareness as regards production and consumption trends for the clothing and textile, and its environmental and social impacts and long-term consequences; (3) Gathering inputs for the development of trusted, harmonized industry standards, related labels, and certification schemes for traceability and measuring performance; (4) Initiating an effective global partnerships on traceability in the clothing and textile sector.

Expected outcomes of the session include the design and development of cutting-edge recommendations for the key stakeholders involved in the clothing and textile industry – brands, retailers, consumers, governments – to tackle and effectively handle the detox process of the industry itself and foster responsible production and consumption patterns.

The session will feature one moderator and three facilitators, whose role will be steering the discussion and providing the audience with valuable insights and inputs. The session will be roundtable-based and participants will brainstorm with inspiring leading figures of the clothing, textile and fashion sector – from the perspective of both producers and consumers, and policy makers.

Moderator:
Cittadellarte FASHION B.E.S.T

13:30-13:50 Opening – Key note speakers
UNECE; Africa Caribbean Pacific Group of States; European Commission; Danish Fashion Institute/Global Fashion Agenda

Facilitators:
TÜV Rheinland Group
Bocconi University, Milano Fashion Institute
Cittadellarte FASHION B.E.S.T

13:50-14:30 Roundtable A – Clothes can be produced sustainably: experiences and good practices
France, Germany, Italy, GUCCI, ILO

13:50-14:30 Roundtable B – Responsible and Informed Choices: solutions to track and trace sustainability patterns
ECOAGE/The Circle, GS1, REDA Group, The Netherlands, Italian Chamber of Fashion, ITC

13:50-14:30 Roundtable C – Standards and certification: a key to scaling up good practice
UNEP, UNIDO, BiPLO, Rudolf Duraner, GS1, TÜV Rheinland Group, Textile & Health

14:30 – 14:45 Closing Session
UNECE