



**HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
SIDE EVENT  
10 JULY**

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**UN  
PARTNERSHIP  
ON  
SUSTAINABLE  
FASHION  
AND  
THE SDGs**

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**13:15-14:30  
CONFERENCE ROOM 4**



# PROGRAMME

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## OPENING REMARKS

**H.E. MARIE CHATARDOVÁ** - PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC

**MS. OLGA ALGAYEROVA** - EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNECE

## KEYNOTE SPEECHES: SETTING THE SCENE

**MR. PAOLO NALDINI** - DIRECTOR, CITTADELLARTE FASHION B.E.S.T.

**MS. LAURA CHOI &** - PRESIDENT, FASHION FOR CONSERVATION

**MS. ALVA HOLMES** - CO-FOUNDER, FASHION FOR CONSERVATION

## MODERATION

**MR. ROBB SKINNER** - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNOP

## DISCUSSION: ELEMENTS FOR A UN PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE FASHION AND HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN CONTRIBUTE

**MS. BIRGIT LIA ALTMANN** - ASSOCIATE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, UNECE

**MS. CHLOÉ MUKAI** - PROJECT AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, ETHICAL FASHION INITIATIVE, ITC

**MS. ELISA TONDA** - HEAD, CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION UNIT,  
UN ENVIRONMENT

**MS. AMBER BARTH** - SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER, ILO OFFICE FOR THE  
UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

**MS. LILIAN LIU** - MANAGER OF PARTNERSHIPS, UN GLOBAL COMPACT

**LINDITA XHAFERI-SALIHU** - GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION OUTREACH OFFICER,  
UNFCCC

**MS. GUILIA C. BRAGA** - PROGRAMME MANAGER, CONNECT4CLIMATE,  
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS, WORLD BANK GROUP

**MS. TERESA MOREIRA** - HEAD OF COMPETITION AND CONSUMER POLICIES  
BRANCH, UNCTAD (TO BE PRESENTED BY MS. LEONIE MEIER, UNECE)

**MR. OLA GORANSSON** - PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR, DIVISION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, UNDESA

**MS. KAREN NEWMAN** - EXPERT

## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

**MS. MONIKA LINN** - PRINCIPAL ADVISOR AND CHIEF, SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER UNIT, UNECE

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# BACKGROUND

The fashion industry is a \$2.5 trillion-dollar industry that employs over 75 million people worldwide, most of them women. Fashion is therefore a key economic sector, which has an essential role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the same time, fashion is an environmental and social emergency. Nearly 20 percent of global waste water is produced by the fashion industry (SDG 6), which also emits about ten percent of global carbon emissions - more than the emissions of all international flights and maritime shipping combined (SDG 13). Cotton farming is responsible for 24 percent of insecticides and 11 percent of pesticides despite using only 3 percent of the world's arable land (SDG 3). In addition, the textiles industry has been identified in recent years as a major contributor to plastic entering the ocean (SDG 14), which is a growing concern because of the associated negative environmental and health implications. Moreover, fast fashion is also linked to dangerous working conditions (SDG 8) due to unsafe processes and hazardous substances used in production (SDG 3). Costs reduction and time pressures are often imposed on all parts of the supply chain, leading to employees suffering from long working hours and low pay, with evidence, in some instances, of a lack of respect for fundamental principles and rights at work.

Changing consumption patterns towards sustainable behaviours and attitudes requires a shift in how we think about and value garments (SDG 12), with the goal to integrate the true costs of all the resources required for the production process and account for all environmental and social impacts.





Despite several organisations' initiatives, there is yet no coherent, coordinated approach taken by the United Nations to address issues related to the fashion industry. In order to change this, stakeholders from different UN organisations, civil society and industry gathered at the panel event "Fashion and the SDGs: what role for the UN?", which was organized in March 2018 in the context of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region. The panel discussed how the UN could reach a more comprehensive approach towards the development of a sustainable fashion industry in order to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The event was successful in establishing a clear link between the fashion industry and the SDGs, many of which will be reviewed at the UN High Level Political Forum, in particular through SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production and SDG 15 on life on land.

Recommendations discussed prior and during the event included the importance of exploring the establishment of a UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion. Indeed, it is recognized by SDG 17 that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require different actors working together. With this idea in mind, distinguished panelists from different UN organisations will explore the elements of what a UN Partnership on Sustainable Fashion could look like.

## CO-HOSTING UN ORGANISATIONS:



United Nations  
Office for Partnerships



United Nations  
Global Compact



United Nations  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



UN  
environment



International  
Labour  
Organization



International  
Trade  
Centre