Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains

Enhancing transparency in the textile and leather sector for informed and responsible choices
The textile and leather sector is one of the most polluting industries, responsible for more than 1.7 mln tons of CO2 emissions per year, and 90 mln tons of waste per year, of which 20% only are recycled. Not to mention the health impacts, as about 8% of dermatological diseases are reported to be caused by the chemicals in the clothing and footwear we wear. With current trajectories of production and consumption, these pressures will intensify by 2030, with an estimated increase of about 60%.

On 24th April, it is going to be five years since the Rana Plaza’s tragic collapse of a garment factory, where 1,100 lives were lost and many more injured. Significant progress has been made, but more remains to be done on safety risks, while inspection and compliance need to be enhanced to better safeguard the working conditions of more than 60 millions workers in the industry, of which 75% are women.

Global and complex value chains, with production facilities scattered all over the world, makes it very hard to gain accurate information about how and where such impacts occur. In order to increase the industry’s ability to manage its value chain more sustainably, both consumers and businesses must first be aware of the nature and magnitude of these risks. Improving transparency and traceability of value chains has therefore become a priority.

At this conference, possible approaches in terms of supporting policies, regulations and standards, along with innovative solutions will be discussed, to guide the sector towards more responsible production and consumption patterns, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 of the UN Agenda 2030.

### AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

**9:00 - 9:30 Registration**

**9:30 – 10:00 Opening - Welcoming remarks**

Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary

HE M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United Nation Offices in Geneva