**FORUM:** Environmental Committee

**QUESTION OF:** Measures to address the environmental impacts of fast fashion

**MAIN SUBMITTED BY:** The Republic of the Sudan

**CO-SUBMITTED BY:** United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Dominion of Canada, Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Sweden, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Republic of Colombia, United Mexican States, Republic of Botswana

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE,

*Recognizing* the significant environmental impacts of fast fashion, including water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and textile waste, which contribute to the global climate crisis,

*Noting* with concern that fast fashion contributes to approximately 10% of global carbon emissions and significant waste generation, with over 92 million tons of textile waste produced annually,

*Recalling* the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production and Goal 13 on climate action,

*Reaffirming* the importance of policies and regulations that encourage sustainable production and penalize environmentally harmful practices in the textile and fashion industries,

*Stressing* the need for concerted international efforts to promote sustainable fashion practices through innovative technologies, environmentally friendly manufacturing processes and public awareness,

*Recognizing* the socio-economic challenges posed by fast fashion to developing nations, including the decline of local textile industries and the influx of secondhand clothing,

1. Suggest all member states to formulate and implement relevant policies and regulations in ways such as:
   1. calling on each member state to establish an environmental protection legislative framework for the fast fashion industry to ensure that carbon neutrality targets align with international requirements by:
      1. referring to the international standards issued by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
      2. requiring brands in the industry to adopt sustainable technologies in their production processes (such as water-saving processes, low-energy equipment, renewable energy, etc.) and prioritize the use of recyclable or biodegradable materials
      3. assessing the status of carbon neutrality legislation in member states through specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and providing necessary technical support and capacity-building programs
   2. encouraging the establishment of mandatory environmental reporting systems to enable companies to regularly disclose their environmental practices and impacts on the public in ways such as:
      1. require the enterprises, especially multinational fast fashion brands, to publish regular environmental reports, and the format and content of the reports should be unified
      2. encouraging member states to require companies' environmental reporting to be audited by independent third-party certification bodies to ensure data transparency and reliability
   3. incentivizing take-back schemes by providing tax benefits to companies engaging in recycling programs in ways such as:
      1. offer tax brackets to companies that achieve measurable recycling targets, such as processing a specific percentage of returned textiles, incentivizing active participation in recycling programs
      2. encourage collaboration between producers and waste management organizations to streamline the collection, sorting, and recycling processes, enhancing efficiency and creating a closed loop system for textile waste
      3. support innovative take-back schemes through pilot programs;
2. Urges innovation, research and development of new sustainable industrial production materials in methods such as:
   1. calls on countries to increase investment in research and development of sustainable industrial production technologies and new environmentally friendly materials in ways such as but not limited to:
      1. encourages Governments to establish special funds to support technological innovation projects relevant to sustainable development
      2. promote incentives for private sector investment in research and development of sustainable production technologies and environmentally friendly materials, including through tax incentives, subsidies or financing instruments
      3. encourage transnational research and development collaborative projects to promote the globalization of sustainable technologies through the sharing of resources and expertise
   2. encourage universities, research institutions and enterprises to cooperate in developing eco-friendly textile materials and production technologies by:
      1. establishing fashion research alliances to promote collaborative innovation among universities, scientific research institutions and enterprises
      2. supporting technology incubation and acceleration projects to increase the growth of the practical application of laboratory research results in the textile and fashion industries
      3. promoting the joint research and development model of industry, university and research to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the transformation of eco-friendly technologies from theory to practice
   3. recommends the establishment of a technology transfer mechanism to promote new technologies that can effectively mitigate the environmental impact of fast fashion in methods such as:
      1. propose to establish a global environmental technology transfer platform through international organizations to facilitate the sharing and implementation of low environmental impact technologies in the fast fashion industry
      2. encourage technical cooperation between developed and developing countries to promote the spread of green technologies on a global scale;
3. Proposes the establishment of the “Eco Lable” certification for sustainable clothing guide:
   1. for fashion garments to gain the “Eco-Lable,” they must meet the following criteria:
      1. use of organic or recycled materials
      2. low carbon footprint in manufacturing and transport process
      3. implications of ethical labor practices, ensuring fair wages and safe working conditions
      4. longevity of products to minimize waste
   2. the “Eco Lable” would contain clear, consumer friendly information including:
      1. textiles containing up to 60% organic fibers, meeting requirements on the environmental impacts of dying and further material processing
      2. carbon footprint metrics for each garment
   3. encourages member states to promote certification within their industry through ways such as but not limited to:
      1. creation of posters, flyers, and digital medial to educate civilians about fast fashion’s impacts and benefits of the “Eco-Lable”
      2. government support for charging higher fees on garments lacking circular design and high costs on waste management, which does not meet requirements of the “Eco-label”
      3. providing financial support for fashion industries that achieved “Eco-Lable” certificates, supported by the funding of the United Nations (UN)
   4. partnering with existing eco-sustainability organizations for consistency, such as:
      1. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
      2. Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
      3. Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
      4. Fair Trade Certified
   5. requests an annual review of the “Eco-Lable” programme to monitor progress, ensure effectiveness, and foster further improvements;
4. Recommends the establishment of a Fashion Sustainability Index (FSI) to measure and rank companies based on their environmentally friendly performances:
   1. FSI would be based on a percentage score of 100, with the following factors contributing to it:
      1. percentage of sustainable material used (25%)
      2. carbon emissions per garment produced (25%)
      3. waste management (25%)
      4. water and energy consumption during manufacturing (25%)
   2. FSI would collaborate with specialized agencies from the UNEP and are required to:
      1. conduct visits every 4-6 months to major companies for score verification
      2. publish an annual fashion sustainability index report ranking global brands
      3. promote transparency during the conducting, ranking, and publishing procedures
   3. proposes a consumer-friendly platform that provides easy access to FSI rankings, fostering informed decision-making containing:
      1. the fashion company’s ranking
      2. the fashion sustainability report
      3. the rising issue of fast fashion and its environmental impacts
   4. calls for penalty or public disclosures for companies found misreporting their environmental metrics and ranking low on the FSI, such as:
      1. companies should donate 20% of their net profit for the year, to organizations that fight against fast fashion
      2. the company will be facing production termination for 6 months
      3. subject to vary based on severity
   5. suggests the creation of an annual UN-Hosted award for the top preforming brands as recognition for their sustainability efforts to encourage the brands using eco-friendly technologies;
5. Requests fashion companies to adopt Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) that recommends the following list to be an eco-friendly company
   1. addressing the root cause of production by company by:
      1. limiting the number of designs per company by 40%
      2. incorporating eco-friendly materials such as organic cotton, hemp, or recycled textiles for at least 90% of garments produced
      3. reducing water usage to 2000 liters (about 528.34 gal) average per garment
      4. discouraging dangerous chemical usage
   2. encourages companies to minimize packaging waste by:
      1. switching to biodegradable, compostable, or recyclable materials like kraft paper, cardboard, or plant-based plastics (eliminate the usage of single use plastics in packaging
      2. reduce the size of packaging to only what is necessary for protection (not necessarily branding)
      3. introduce reusable packaging systems such as returnable boxes or garment bags that customers can return
      4. combine orders into a single package when possible, reducing the total number of materials used
   3. recommends that production companies collaborate with the following companies that are known for eco-friendly transportation such as, but not limited to:
      1. FedEx Environmental Solutions
      2. DB Schenker
      3. GE Transportation
      4. Euro Cargo Rail
   4. implementing the circular economy models that emphasize repair, reuse, and recycling of textiles by:
      1. establishing accessible textile recycling facilities in urban and rural areas
      2. encouraging the creation of businesses and platforms that facilitate the sales and repurposing of used clothing
      3. mandating that manufacturers design products that can be easily disassembled and recycled;
6. Encourages all member states to adopt systems that will manage the waste of fast fashion through measures including, but not limited to:
   1. establishing comprehensive textile waste processing methods through:
      1. large-scale industrial recycling plants designed to break down synthetic and natural fibers for reuse
      2. integrating textile upcycling workshops into communities as to develop a cultural standard for the practice of repurposing and reusing discarded textiles overtime
      3. collaborating with construction and engineering sectors to use shredded textiles such as insulation, padding or road building materials
      4. investing in innovative uses of textile waste in agriculture, such as processing them into biodegradable mulch covers
      5. implementing technologies that can efficiently separate different textile materials for converting into new raw materials
   2. adopting practices of high-capacity processing in nations such as Germany, Sweden, Japan, Netherlands and Denmark such as:
      1. Closed Substance Cycle Waste Management Act (KrWG)
      2. mandating the use of eco-friendly dyes and materials
      3. encouraging collaboration between government, industry, and academia
      4. implementing recycling technologies such as mechanical processing, chemical depolymerization, thermal recovery systems and hybrid processes which combine mechanical and chemical techniques to process accumulated waste
   3. implementing advanced waste to energy (WtE) solutions:
      1. develop systems to safely convert non-recyclable textile waste into energy through high-efficiency, low-emission technologies
      2. promote research into alternative energy recovery processes, such as pyrolysis or gasification to minimize environmental harm
   4. providing incentives for innovation in waste utilization:
      1. UN funded research and pilot programs that repurpose textile waste into new industries
      2. encourage public-private partnerships to scale up successful models of textile waste conversation into consumer or industrial products by implementing tax breaks for companies that invest in sustainable practices;
7. Encourages all member states to undertake multi-faceted consumer education and public awareness campaigns to encourage consumers to make more sustainable choices when purchasing and using clothing by:
   1. recommending countries to raise awareness of the environmental impact of the fast fashion industry through multi-channel education and communication means in methods such as but not limited to:
      1. recommends all member states to integrate the concept of "sustainable development" into basic and higher education curricula, in line with their education policies, and to increase the teaching of the environmental impact of fast fashion
      2. encourages local governments and community organizations to organize regular educational exhibitions, talks or workshops to highlight the negative impacts of fast fashion supply chains on natural resource consumption, carbon emissions and waste management, while highlighting the importance of sustainable consumption behavior
      3. encourage government departments or private organizations to collaborate with online opinion leaders (Kols) and content creators to co-produce attractive short videos, graphics and live content to help consumers understand the importance of fashion consumption behavior
   2. proposing the production of an international publicity campaign on the theme of "sustainable fashion" to promote environmentally friendly consumption choice
   3. supporting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups to drive changes in consumer behavior in ways such as:
      1. empower community leaders and non-governmental advocates to integrate sustainable consumption into everyday life by organizing sustainable fashion contests, environmental fairs and other forms, thereby subtly influencing consumer behavior
      2. suggests the NGOs to initiate activities such as "Consumer behavior survey" and "Clothing life cycle tracking" which enable the public to experience and learn the importance and feasibility of sustainable fashion
   4. proposes the utilization of social media to:
      1. launch campaigns highlighting the environmental damage caused by fast fashion
      2. share success stories of sustainable fashion initiatives
      3. collaborate with influencers and activists to spread awareness on sustainable choices during the production of garments.