**FORUM:** Environmental Committee

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

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Republic of Guatemala, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Ecuador, People's Republic of China, Federative Republic of Brazil, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Bulgaria, Kingdom of Belgium, The Federation of Malaya

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE,

*Recognizing* the pressing need to develop methodologies for mitigating the environmental effects of fast fashion and minimizing clothing consumption rates across all nations,

*Acknowledging* the previous notable efforts were devoted mutually by member states to tackle the demanding issue, including the European Union (EU)’s promotion of sustainable textile management,

*Deeply concerned* with the climate consequences that are associated with the production of fast fashion,

*Aware of* the fact that the fast fashion industry accounts for nearly 10% of global carbon emissions annually,

*Taking note of* the close to 79 trillion liters of wastewater produced annually by the fast fashion industry,

*Referring* to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Goal 12, which seeks to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns,

*Fully aware* that the production and disposal processes associated with fast fashion leads to increased carbon emissions, water pollution, and landfill waste, with approximately 92 million tons of textile waste generated annually, and that 85% of textiles end up in landfills, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations and natural habitats, as highlighted by various environmental studies,

1. Calls upon all member states to address the environmental impacts of fast fashion to ensure transparency and accountability of the manufacturing and distribution process, through measures such as but not limited to:
	1. inform fashion industries to openly disclose data regarding the supply chain and the consumed materials during the manufacturing process with purposes such as:
		1. ensuring that all customers are aware of the environmental consequences of fast fashion supply chains
		2. minimizing the usage of unsustainable materials by informing textile industries to ensure the transparency of the information of their clothing by disclosing data
	2. establish a standardized reporting framework to ensure the transparency of the potential environmental impacts of the production, disclosing key information including factory locations, supplier names, processing facilities, and specific environmental metrics such as water usage, carbon footprint, and waste management practices in ways including but not limited to:
		1. conducting biennial reports on the results of actions and sharing of information and useful tactics between nations to maximize the results of frameworks and policies
		2. establishing a centralized United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)-supported public database enabling consumers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), national governments, and industry stakeholders to track data on the environmental and social impact of products
		3. using supply chain management software, blockchain, smart labels, and other tools to track products from raw materials to finished goods
	3. promoting and accrediting Fashion Revolution's *Fashion Transparency Index,* which discloses transparency scores of the world’s 250 biggest fashion brands, by the government and the UN to encourage consumers to make informed and sustainable purchases;
2. Strongly encourages member nations, especially More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and top countries of fast fashion production, to invest in research and development (R&D) of sustainable textile technologies, particularly those focused on reducing carbon emissions, water usage, and waste production in the manufacturing process by:
3. allocating funding to support research on alternative sustainable fibers, including but not limited to:
	1. developing bio-based or biodegradable fibers (e.g., algae-based, hemp, bamboo, or linen fibers) that have a significantly lower environmental footprint compared to conventional synthetic fibers
	2. promoting the production of plant-based alternatives to synthetic fibers
	3. encouraging the development of fibers resistant to wear and tear, extending the life cycle of garments and reducing the frequency of consumption
4. promoting the development and adoption of low-impact, water-efficient textile dyeing and finishing technologies by:
	1. supporting R&D in waterless drying processes, such as air-drying technology or those utilizing supercritical carbon dioxide
	2. advocating for the use of natural and non-toxic dyes (e.g., plant-based or mineral-based dyes)
	3. researching water recycling systems for textile dyeing plants to minimize freshwater consumption and prevent contamination of the local water supply
5. funding the development of renewable energy-powered textile manufacturing systems in major fast-fashion manufacturing facilities (e.g., solar, wind, or geothermal energy) to replace fossil fuels in the production process
6. facilitating the development of waste-reduction technologies throughout the textile production cycle by:
	1. developing technologies for garment repair, such as systems that enable the disassembly of garments for recycling
	2. advancing biodegradable packaging for fast fashion products
7. creating an international research team involving governments, private sector companies, and academic institutions for knowledge exchange and sharing of technological advancements in sustainable textile production;

3. Urges the further implementation of environmental standard regulations worldwide to ensure the proper usage of materials and textiles, minimizing environmental harm and promoting sustainable production, in ways such as but not limited to:

1. creating organizations under the UNEP to oversee the enforcement of global environmental standards for the textile and fashion industry
	1. recommends the establishment of the UNEP Textile Sustainability Committee (UNEP-TSC) to draft and create international guidelines for sustainable material sourcing, textile production, and waste management
	2. urges UNEP-TSC to develop global eco-friendly materials certifications for fashion brands, ensuring that textile environmental standards while being created or made
	3. calls for UNEP-TSC to host annual global assemblies calling for nations to report on findings and results of standards and regulations set on textile sustainability
2. setting clear standards for the usage of materials, ensuring that resources such as water, energy, and raw materials are used efficiently and sustainably in textile production through methods such as but not limited to:
	1. recommending the establishment of a global textile material certification system that ensures materials used in textile and fashion production are from certified and responsible sources
	2. urging the adoption of best practices for sustainable textile production, such as zero-waste manufacturing processes, reduction of harmful chemicals, and energy-efficient practices;

4. Calls for the UNEP to raise awareness towards textile sustainability and eco-friendly production, educating consumers on the environmental impacts of fast fashion and encouraging more sustainable purchasing behavior in ways such as but not limited to:

1. awareness programs making posters, brochures, and other educational materials for the public to raise awareness on the environmental impacts of fast fashion through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. recommending the creation of a global awareness campaign led by UNEP-TSC to educate consumers about the environmental costs of fast fashion and the benefits of sustainable practices
	2. encouraging the placing of brochures and posters in highly accessed public spaces, such as shopping malls, transportation stations and airports, schools, and government buildings, to reach a broader and diverse audience
	3. utilizing social media platforms to spread awareness about the environmental impacts of fast fashion and encourage collective action among consumers
	4. encouraging project-based learning initiatives where students create sustainable fashion items, promoting hands-on experience and awareness about eco-friendly practices
2. promoting slow fashion as an alternative to fast fashion, encouraging consumers to prioritize quality and ethical production over quantity and purchases based on trend
	1. recommends UNEP collaborate with international fashion brands and influencers to create public service announcements and campaigns displaying the benefits of slow fashion
	2. calls for establishing international slow fashion days to celebrate and promote the principles of sustainable fashion through events, fashion shows, and exhibitions, calling on famous companies and corporations to advocate for such celebrations
3. integrating sustainability education into school curriculums, teaching students about environmental and ethical challenges of the fashion industry equipping students in fashion and design programs while promoting project-based hands-on learning initiatives
4. facilitating collaborations between sustainable fashion designers and mainstream and local brands to create accessible and affordable collections that highlight eco-friendly materials and ethical production processes
5. establishing incentives for consumers who adopt sustainable fashion through partnerships with financial institutions and payment platforms such as credit card payment and e-banking through ways including:
	1. implementing a rewards program that offers cashback or discounts for consumers who purchase sustainably sourced clothing
	2. encouraging e-commerce platforms such as ASOS, Shein, and Zalando to integrate sustainable fashion choices into their main sales platforms;

5. Requests for member nations to adopt Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies for all fast fashion brands to ensure that producers take responsibility for the entire lifecycle of their products, regulated by international bodies such as the UNEP through ways such as:

* 1. establishing an international reporting system for fast fashion brands to track and disclose their compliance with EPR obligations for annual reports, following the model of the UN Global Compact’s environmental and human rights reporting frameworks
	2. establishing incentives, such as tax reductions or subsidies, for brands that develop and implement systems for product take-back, repair, and recycling by:
		1. basing incentives on the volume of clothing collected and the percentage of materials recycled or reused, with higher incentives awarded for companies that use a greater proportion of sustainable materials in their product
		2. ensuring consistency in these incentives across different nations with a UNEP-developed framework for a fair evaluation
		3. allocating subsidies or low-interest loans to fast fashion brands that partner with local repair shops, repair hubs, or textile recycling facilities
	3. integrating national EPR policies with the global framework established by the UNEP's “Circular Economy: Global Opportunities and Local Action” initiative for streamlined process and traceability through ways such as:
		1. developing large-scale recycling facilities in key global textile-producing regions to ensure textiles are repurposed into new products
		2. collaborating with international partners like Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Global Recycle Standard (GRS) in creating textile collection hubs for recycling
	4. enhancing existing certification systems in the fashion industry, such as OEKO-TEX for sustainable textile production to ensure the garment supply chain meets established environmental standards;

6. Endorses the recycling and upcycling of materials to increase the longevity of textile products, thereby reducing waste and the need for new materials, in ways such as but not limited to:

1. promoting textile recycling programs working with local and national governments to reduce wasteful production worldwide by:
	1. working towards the establishment of recycling centers for fabrics and materials to increase access for citizens
	2. recommending the creation of partnerships between public and private-owned companies to support the further establishment of local recycling facilities that can process textiles and convert them into new garments
2. encouraging the use of upcycled materials in the production of new clothing, therefore reducing the demand for raw resources and lowering the environmental footprint of the fashion industries in ways such as:
	* 1. urging fashion brands to integrate upcycled fabrics and components into product lines, offering a market for recycled materials and promoting sustainable fashion practices
		2. recommending the development of recognition labels for upcycled materials, ensuring consumers can identify products made from repurposed fabrics to maximize usage of upcycled material
3. promoting collaboration with local textile manufacturers and small-scale manufacturers to upcycle textiles in traditional or artisanal ways to preserve the heritage and cultural aspects while reducing the environmental footprint in ways such as:
	* 1. calling for the creation of support networks for local artisans to share knowledge and best practices in the upcycling of textiles to preserve culture within articles of clothing while becoming increasingly eco-friendly
		2. encouraging governments to provide tax breaks to small businesses engaged in textile recycling and upcycling, serving as an incentive for other businesses to join and enabling them to expand their capacity and market capabilities
4. developing textile recycling technologies through:
	* 1. the implementation of textile recycling bins
		2. close-looped systems to claim fibers from used garments
		3. chemical processes of recycling
	1. establishing incentives, such as tax reductions or subsidies, for brands that develop and implement systems for product take-back, repair, and recycling by:
		1. basing incentives on the volume of clothing collected and the percentage of materials recycled or reused, with higher incentives awarded for companies that use a greater proportion of sustainable materials in their product
		2. ensuring consistency in these incentives across different nations with a UNEP-developed framework for a fair evaluation
		3. allocating subsidies or low-interest loans to fast fashion brands that partner with local repair shops, repair hubs, or textile recycling facilities;

7. Emphasizes increased collaboration between governments, fashion brands, and NGOs, overlooked by the UNEP, to support the transition to a more sustainable economy relating to fast fashion, financed by all participating member states, through ways such as but not limited to:

* 1. creating an international fund to support sustainable fashion projects in developing countries, where the impact of fast fashion is most pronounced, with an estimated 60% of the world's clothing produced in low-income countries, in order to:
		1. give subsidies to companies to follow sustainable practices to support both global and local firms
		2. introducing taxes or incentives for consumers to purchase second-hand clothing or sustainable brands, potentially reducing new clothing purchases by 20%
	2. supporting the further strengthening of the existing UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion by:
		1. expanding its regime to include additional countries that are heavily involved in the textile production process
		2. engaging private-sector partners, especially fashion brands committed to sustainability.