

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION

10 different United Nations organizations have established the [United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion](#) and launched it during the 2019 [UN Environment Assembly](#), which took place in Nairobi (Kenya) in March 2019. The fashion industry is the second-biggest consumer of water, generating around 20 percent of the world's wastewater and releasing half a million tons of synthetic microfibers into the ocean annually.



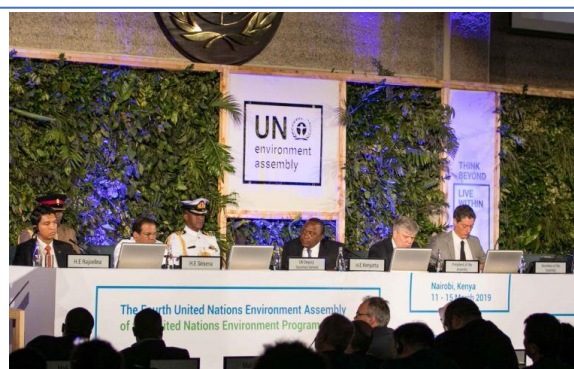
UN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION

The United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion is an initiative of United Nations agencies and allied organizations designed to promote projects and policies changing the path of fashion, reducing its negative environmental and social impacts and turning fashion into a driver for improving the world's ecosystems and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the [launch event of the Alliance](#) the relevant data on the current impact of the fashion industry have been presented. The industry is valued at around \$2.4 trillion, employs over 75 million people worldwide and the scale of the industry is only expected to grow over the coming years. It loses about \$500 billion of value every year due to the lack of recycling of clothes thrown into landfills. The industry accounts for a staggering 8-10 per cent of global carbon emissions, more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined. Part of these emissions come from pumping water to irrigate crops like cotton, oil-based pesticides, machinery for harvesting, and emissions from transport. The industry is responsible for 24 percent of insecticides and 11 percent of pesticides. The [UN Environment website](#) presents other relevant data on the current negative impact of the fashion industry on the environment.

The Alliance was founded by the following organizations and the specific contributions to the common platform are indicated in the respective links:

- [Connect4Climate – World Bank Group](#)
- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)
- [ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative \(EFI\)](#)
- [UN Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)
- [UN Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#)
- [United Nations Environment Programme \(UN Environment\)](#)
- [UN Global Compact](#)



- [United Nations Office for Partnerships \(UNOP\)](#)

According to the initiative, fashion includes clothing, leather and footwear, made from textiles and related goods. The scope of the Alliance's work extends from the production of raw materials and the manufacturing of garments, accessories and footwear, to their distribution, consumption, and disposal. Sustainability encompasses social issues, such as improvements in working conditions and remuneration for workers, as well as environmental ones, including the reduction of the industry's waste stream, and decreases in water pollution and contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

This initiative of the United Nations can represent an important point of reference for the actors of territorial development (farmers, producers and artisans, companies and cooperatives, research centers and universities) who already operate by creating goods and products for a sustainable fashion. The Alliance is improving collaboration among UN agencies by analyzing the efforts in making fashion sustainable, identifying solutions and gaps in the actions, and presenting these findings and challenges to governments so that they can activate appropriate policies.

The pioneer experiences related to the fashion industry that are taking place in many countries of the world for the production of organic fibers and natural dyes, for the sustainable use of local natural resources to create high quality goods and products, for the recycling of local waste or clothing to create new materials, for the construction of production chains capable of directly accessing the markets, can be strengthened by framing in this important initiative taken by the United Nations that brings together various international organizations.

To know more

[United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion website](#)

[Alliance in news.un.org website](#)

[UN Environment Assembly](#)

[Sustainable Fashion in UN Environment website](#)

[A new textile economy in UN Environment website](#)

[UN Fashion week and awards website](#)

[Forests for Fashion in un.org website](#)

[Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action - un.org website](#)

[Fashion Industry Charter - unfccc website](#)



**UNITED NATIONS
FASHION WEEK AND
AWARDS**

UNFASHIONWEEK.ORG