Issue: Promoting Sustainability in Fashion Design & Production and Fostering Sustainable Consumption & Behaviour

A resolution to create a comprehensive framework for sustainable production practices, ensuring that manufacturers in the fashion and clothing industry prioritize environmental conservation and resource efficiency.

Submitted by China

Recognizing the urgent need to address the environmental and social impact of the fashion industry, which plays a significant role in global resource consumption and waste generation,

Acknowledging the potential of sustainable fashion practices to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production),

Considering the importance of international collaboration between governments, industries, and research institutions in promoting sustainable materials, practices, and ethical labour standards in the fashion supply chain,

Affirming the critical role of consumer awareness and education in shaping responsible consumption habits and fostering a shift towards sustainable and ethical choices,

Reaffirming the principles of the circular economy as a viable and effective approach to reducing waste, promoting resource efficiency, and extending the life cycle of fashion products,

1. Encourages Member States to incentivize the adoption of eco-friendly materials, including organic fibres, recycled fabrics, and innovative biodegradable materials, in fashion production processes,

2. Calls for the support and promotion of research and development in sustainable textile technologies, urging collaborations between governments, industries, and research institutions to accelerate progress in the field,

3. Urges the fashion industry to adopt circular economy principles, emphasizing the reduction of waste, the reuse of materials, and the recycling of products in both design and production processes,

4. Requests that all member states adopt legislation for manufacturers to optimize production processes, minimizing water, energy, and resource consumption in the fashion industry

    i) Water consumption benchmarks shall be established, and manufacturers exceeding these benchmarks shall be required to implement corrective measures to reduce water usage in all stages of production, including dyeing, finishing, and washing processes..
    ii) Energy audits and reporting shall be mandatory, with manufacturers obligated to set and achieve targets for reducing energy use per unit of production.
    iii) A minimum percentage of sustainable and eco-friendly materials (e.g., organic fibers, recycled fabrics) must be used in the production of clothing items. Manufacturers exceeding specified waste thresholds shall implement strategies for waste reduction, recycling, and upcycling.
    iv) Manufacturers shall provide detailed information on their supply chain, including the origin of raw materials, processing facilities, and transportation methods. Transparency audits shall be conducted to ensure accuracy and compliance with disclosure requirements.

v) Manufacturers must obtain and maintain certifications from recognized sustainability standards, ensuring adherence to environmentally friendly and ethical production practices. Failure to meet certification standards may result in penalties, suspension of production, or exclusion from industry partnerships and collaborations.
vi) Manufacturers must use environmentally friendly packaging materials, and single-use plastics shall be minimized or eliminated where possible. Packaging waste reduction targets shall be established, with manufacturers required to implement measures to achieve these targets,

5. Advocates for fair wages, safe working conditions, and the elimination of child labour in the fashion supply chain, emphasizing the importance of ethical labour practices,

6. Recommends the establish of a United Nations global regulatory body: United Nations Global Sustainability & Fair Labour Compliance Authority (UNGSFLCA) to monitor and enforce compliance with the legislation and policies that this resolution calls for and ensure they are adopted in a consistent way by all member states. Manufacturers found in violation of these rules shall face fines, production restrictions, or suspension from industry associations until corrective actions are taken. These rules aim to create a comprehensive framework for sustainable production practices, ensuring that manufacturers in the fashion and clothing industry prioritize environmental conservation and resource efficiency.

7. Supports transparency initiatives to ensure consumers are informed about the ethical standards maintained by fashion brands and retailers, promoting responsible consumer choices,

8. Calls for the launch of public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the environmental and social impact of fashion choices, emphasizing the need for responsible consumption,

9. Encourages responsible consumption practices, emphasizing the longevity of products, clothing care, and the value of choosing sustainable and ethical brands,

10. Further requests member states create Extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that requires retailers to offer take-back or recycling programs for used garments, promoting circular business models in the fashion industry. Extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies shall be enforced, holding manufacturers accountable for the environmental impact of their products throughout their lifecycle,

11. Encourages the adoption of rental and resale platforms to extend the life cycle of clothing, reduce overall consumption, and promote a more sustainable fashion industry,

12. Calls for measures that foster the growth of sustainable fashion services and products, including the elimination of VAT on such activities to incentivize sustainable practices.