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THE SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

TRACK IT, TRACE IT, WEAR IT!



Programme of events - Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan & United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

DAY 1 - 24 MARCH 2022

DONORS' COORDINATION MEETING

Tashkent time: 12.00 - 13.30

Venue: Hilton City Tashkent, Tashkent Hall, 2nd floor, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Simultaneous interpretation: English, Russian, Uzbek

Purpose

This meeting with national authorities and donors is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with support of the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan (CEU). The purpose is to gain an overview of the ongoing efforts, including technical cooperation activities, to advance sustainability and circularity in the textile and leather sector in the country. The meeting also offers an opportunity to explore potential synergies and areas of cooperation for the ongoing and planned UNECE capacity building actions, in collaboration with national actors (e.g. the UNECE cotton blockchain pilot with IFC-Indorama, submission of pledge from the Uztextileprom Association to the UNECE Call to Action).

1. What is the status (key drivers, goals, progress, gaps) of the country's strategy to support compliance with Environmental Social Governance (ESG) requirements in this sector? Are there tailored measures for SMEs?
2. What are the targeted investment areas (e.g. technology, innovation) and sectors that benefit from such strategy?
3. How can traceability and transparency actions support national authorities and the industry to achieve the objectives of such strategy, so to enhance country's access to market and investment opportunities?

Agenda

12.00 - 12.15	Opening and introductory presentation: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan, Uztextileprom Association
12.15 - 13.15	Round of brief interventions from national authorities and donors:
13.15 - 13.30	Q&A, next steps and closing
13.30 - 15:00	Lunch for all forum participants



List of participants

DONORS

- [Delegation of the European Union to Uzbekistan](#), François Begeot, Head of Cooperation
- [International Labour Office](#), Jonas Astrup, Chief Technical Advisor, Uzbekistan
- [GIZ Uzbekistan](#), Gina Burgard, Project Manager Uzbekistan Cotton Project
- [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Lead
- [International Trade Centre](#), Joseph Wozniak, Head of Trade 4 Sustainable Development (T4SD) Programme
- [World Bank - International Finance Corporation](#)
 - Salah-Eddine Kandri, Regional Upstream Lead for Manufacturing, Agribusiness, & Services in Middle East, Central Asia and Turkey
 - Zafar Kashimov, Senior Country Officer Uzbekistan TBC
 - Nazirbay Ibragimov, Project Manager
 - Ulugbek Rahimov, Project Economist
 - Ekhrom Jumanazarov, Financial Advisor
- [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) TBC
- [Asian Development Bank](#) TBC
- [United Nations](#), Roli Asthana, Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan TBC
- [United Nations](#), Ann-Mari Sundsten, Special Assistant to the UN Resident Coordinator/Development Coordination Officer and Javlon Boymat, Assistant to UN Resident Coordinator TBC

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

- [Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations](#), Erkin Muhitdinov, First Deputy Minister
- [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan](#) TBC
- [The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan](#) TBC
- [Agency for International Cooperation and Development under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade](#), Shakhrukh Rakhimov, Director
- [Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan and Uztextileprom Association](#), Ilkhom Khaydarov, Chairman
- [Uzcharmsanoat Association](#), Fakhriddin Boboev, Chairman
- [Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan](#), Eka Margishvili, Executive director
- [Uztextileprom Association](#), Dilbar Mukhammedova, Advisor to the chairman
- [Uzcharmsanoat Association](#), Farkhod Nurmukhammedov, Deputy Chairman

UNECE PROJECT TEAM

- [UNECE, Project Lead and Economic Affairs Officer](#), Maria Teresa Pisani
- [UNECE, Economic Affairs Officer](#), Kamola Khusnutdinova
- [UNECE Secretariat](#), Olivia Chassot and Luca Brunello
- [UNECE Project Business Expert Blockchain Pilots](#), Andrea Redaelli
- [UNECE Project Expert Data & Business Model](#), Gerhard Heemskerk
- [TMSHELL Law Firm, Lawyer and UNECE Project Expert](#), Claudia di Bernardino
- [Sustainable Leather Foundation, Managing Director and UNECE Project Expert Leather Value Chain](#), Deborah Taylor
- [Filmar SpA, CSR Manager and UNECE Project Expert Cotton Value Chain](#), Piera Solinas



UNECE



CEU
Confederation
of Employers
of Uzbekistan

UZTEXTILEPROM
ASSOCIATION



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP
JOINT EVENT IN CONNECTION WITH
1st TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT FORUM

CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS OF UZBEKISTAN
DECENT WORK - THE BASIS OF A STABLE SOCIETY OF EMPLOYERS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
THE SUSTAINABLE GARMENT AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY OF THE FUTURE
- INNOVATION FOR INCLUSIVE AND CIRCULAR VALUE CHAINS

Hilton Tashkent City, Tashkent Hall - 2nd floor, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

As part of the institutional development of the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan (CEU), an international conference is being held with a focus on Decent Work as a basis of a stable society and of effective and inclusive social dialogue among national and regional partners. In conjunction with this conference and with the Tashkent International Investment Forum from 24-26 March 2022, UNECE is organizing a workshop on the topic of “The Sustainable Garment and Footwear Industry of the Future - Innovation for Inclusive and Circular Value Chains” for improved compliance with Decent Work requirements in the garment and footwear sector, which demands verifiable production data, delivered through supply chain traceability and transparency.

This event will present the results of:

- The activities of the CEU, including the implementation of the International Project on Employers' Associations of Central Asia, under the “German Cooperation” initiative on social dialogue, in partnership with the ILO. In this connection, roundtable discussions will explore the prospects for labor rights in Central Asia, and the adopted measures to create decent working conditions for employees in the region.
- The ongoing collaboration with UNECE, which aims to build the capacity of industry actors in the region to put in place the policy recommendations, implementation guidelines, information exchange standard, and blockchain solution, known as ‘The Sustainability Pledge’, adopted at the 27th UN/CEFACT Plenary in April 2021.

The overall purpose is on one end to contribute to the establishment and reinforcement of social dialogue in Central Asia and to strengthen the role of business organizations and associations in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) as social partners for politics, business and enterprises; and on the other end to train regional actors on the tools they need to drive action on Decent Work and circular approaches on a wide scale, to better access market and investment opportunities for sustainable development.

This event is organized with support of the **UNDP Tashkent** and **Encompass Consulting**.

DAY 2 - 25 MARCH 2022

Simultaneous interpretation: English, Russian, Uzbek

Venue: Hilton City Tashkent, Tashkent Hall, 2nd floor, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Agenda

08.00-09.30

BUSINESS BREAKFAST & WELCOME OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Investment Potential of Textile, Leather and Silk Industries

Moderator

- [IFC](#), Ashruf Megahed, Regional Head of Industry, Manufacturing, Agribusiness, and Services Middle East, Central Asia and Turkey,

Discussants

- [Confederation of the Employers of Uzbekistan](#), Ilkhom Khaydarov, Chairman
- [Sustainable Leather Foundation](#), Deborah Taylor, Managing Director and UNECE Project Expert
- [UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Lead
- [Indorama Agro](#), Deepak Riana, General Director
- [Global Textile Group of Companies](#), Muzaffar Razakov, Co-founder

09.45-10.15

OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

- [Senate of Oliy Majlis](#), Tanzila Narbayeva, Chairperson (TBC)
- [Ministry on Investment and Foreign Economic Relations](#), Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister (TBC)
- [Delegation of European Union to Uzbekistan](#), Charlotte Adriaen, Ambassador
- [UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary
- [International Labour Office](#), Olga Koulaeva, Director of DWT/CO for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (online)

10.15-11.00

DECENT WORK IN UZBEKISTAN

Moderator

- [Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan](#), Eka Margishvili, Executive Director

Presenters

Decent work as the basis of a stable society of employers and the main line of interaction within the social dialogue of national partners

- [Confederation of the Employers of Uzbekistan](#), Ilkhom Khaydarov, Chairman

The role of the state in the formation of a stable society of employers

- [Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations](#), Erkin Muhitdinov, First Deputy Minister

The role of trade unions of the republic in the promotion and actualization of decent work in the republic.

- [Council of Trade Unions Federations](#), Kudratilla Rafikov, Chairman

Assessment of the trilateral dialogue in Uzbekistan, the involvement of social partners in improving the conditions for ensuring the principles of decent work.

- [International Labour Office](#), Vladimir Curovic, Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Senior Specialist in Employers' Activities

11.00-11.45**UNECE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS IN THE GARMENT AND FOOTWEAR SECTOR - FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACTION PLAN**

Learning Objective: Scaling-up: the sustainability pledge and toolbox. Principles and components of a traceability system. Making traceability and transparency, sustainability and circularity work for small actors and vulnerable groups. Understanding how to integrate traceability and transparency in the overall sustainability strategy

Moderator

- [UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer and Project Lead

Presenters

- [TMSHELL Law Firm, Lawyer and UNECE Project Expert](#), Claudia di Bernardino
- [UNECE Project Business Expert](#), Andrea Redaelli

Discussants

- [International Trade Centre](#), Joseph Wozniak, Head of Trade for Sustainable Development Programme
- [Uzcharmsanoat Association](#), Farkhod Nurmukhammedov, Deputy Chairman

11.45-12.00**THE SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN**

(1) CEU, (2) UZBEKISTAN TEXTILE AND GARMENTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, (3) UNECE

12.00-13.15**PANEL DISCUSSION - UZBEKISTAN - SOCIAL DIALOGUE OF CENTRAL ASIA**

Learning Objective: Acquaintance with the activities of the project: Clarification of the main goals and indicators of CIP as a regional project to support employers' associations in the countries of Central Asia.

Moderator

- [Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan](#), Eka Margishvili, Executive Director

Discussants

- [BMWV](#), Susan Bach, Managing Director, in the Association of Business Associations for Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Education and University Division (online)
- [National Confederation of Employers of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#), Valentina Breusova, Vice President
- [Social Dialogue in Kyrgyzstan JIA](#), Parhad Pakyroov, Executive director
- [International Labour Organization](#), Vladimir Curovich, Senior Specialist in Employers' Activities
- [GIZ](#), Gina Burgard, Project Manager Uzbekistan Cotton Project
- [amfori](#), Guggi Laryea, Stakeholder Engagement Senior Manager (online)

13.15-13.30**SUMMING UP THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE**

- [Uzcharmsanoat Association](#), Fakhridin Boboev, Chairman
- [UNECE - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), Maria Teresa Pisani, Project Lead and Economic Affairs Officer

13.30-15.00**Lunch**

15.00-16.00**THE BUSINESS PROCESS ANALYSIS AND DATA MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR VALUE CHAINS**

Learning Objective: Identify key business processes, actors and sustainability criteria for traceability and transparency, verification methods and key data collection points

Moderator

- [International Trade Centre](#), Joseph Wozniak, Head of Trade for Sustainable

Development Programme

Presenters

- [UNECE Project Expert Data & Business Model](#), Gerhard Heemskerck
- [TMSHELL Law Firm, Lawyer and UNECE Project Expert](#), Claudia di Bernardino
- [Sustainable Leather Foundation](#), Managing Director and [UNECE Project Expert](#) Leather Value Chain, Deborah Taylor
- [Filmar SpA](#), Piera Solinas, CSR Manager and [UNECE Project Expert](#) Cotton Value Chain

Discussants

- [International Labour Office](#), Jonas Astrup, Chief Technical Advisor, Uzbekistan
- [InTrade AG/Swiss Capital International Group AG](#), Umid Mirzaev

16.00-16.25

Coffee Break

16.25-16.30

HIGHLIGHTS

UNECE Innovation for Sustainable Development Review (I4SDR) for Uzbekistan

- [UNECE](#), Jakob Fexer, Economic Affairs Officer (online)

16.30-17.30

THE TECHNOLOGY MODEL FOR TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AND DUE DILIGENCE IN TEXTILE AND LEATHER

Learning Objective: Deep dive into the UNECE blockchain system for due diligence and sustainability, emphasizing the importance of technology interoperability. Learn about the methodology to build use cases

Moderators

- [UNECE Secretariat](#), Olivia Chassot and [UNECE Project Business Expert](#) Blockchain
- Pilots, Andrea Redaelli

Presenters

- [TMSHELL Law Firm, Lawyer and UNECE Project Expert](#), Claudia di Bernardino
- [The University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland](#), Giacomo Poretti, IT Engineer Senior Researcher (online)
- [Filmar SpA](#), Piera Solinas, CSR Manager and [UNECE Project Expert](#) Cotton Value Chain

Discussants

- [Indorama Group](#), Prakash Kejriwal, Director
- [International Finance Corporation](#), Ulugbek Rahimov, Project Economist
- [Haelixa](#), Gediminas Mikutis, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer (online)
- [Better Cotton Initiative](#), Rachel Beckett, New Country Start-up Manager

17.30-17.45

CLOSING CEREMONY

- [Confederation of the Employers of Uzbekistan](#), Ilkhom Khaydarov, Chairman
- [UNECE- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#), Elisabeth Tuerk, Director Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (online)

VENUE: Hilton Tashkent City, Tashkent Hall, 2nd floor
2, Islam Karimov Street Block 5, 100027, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

REGISTRATION: [Link](#)

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UNECE: Maria Teresa Pisani, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE
- maria-teresa.pisani@un.org

DAY 3 & 4, FIELD TRIP - 26-27 MARCH 2022

26 March

06.00-07.00 Departure to Tashkent train station

07.00-11.00 Journey to Samarkand

11.00-12.00 Transportation of the participants to the factory “**Samarkand Afrosiyob Jeans**”

12.00-13.30 Field visit to the factory “**Samarkand Afrosiyob Jeans**” – Introduction to a fully integrated textile unit

27 March

Departure to Samarkand train station

10.50-13.00 Journey to Tashkent

14.30-18.30 Visit of **Uztex Group** and **MS Barer** both in Tashkent region

LINKS AND REFERENCES

- [UNECE No.46 Policy Recommendation Enhancing traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector - English](#) and [Russian](#)
- [UNECE Call to Action for Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector - English](#) and [Russian](#)
- [UNECE project's leaflet](#)
- [UNECE The Sustainability Pledge Website](#)