

<b>Submitting Country, Organization, Company</b>	ACCREDIA, Italian accreditation body – ICMQ Certification India (Get It Fair)
<b>If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees</b>	100
<b>Title of the action</b>	“Prassi di Riferimento” UNI/PdR 102:2021 - Ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development - Application guidelines to UNI ISO/TS 17033:2020 and related collective project of Ethical labelling of responsibility for sustainable development
<b>Relevant Website</b>	<a href="http://store.uni.com/catalogo/uni-pdr-102-2021">http://store.uni.com/catalogo/uni-pdr-102-2021</a> <a href="https://www.accredia.it/en/2021/01/28/labels-and-slogans-on-the-sustainability-of-products-and-services-how-to-orientate-yourself/">https://www.accredia.it/en/2021/01/28/labels-and-slogans-on-the-sustainability-of-products-and-services-how-to-orientate-yourself/</a>
<b>Partners</b>	UNI, UNECE, Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, Union Trade (CGIL), Trade association (UNIC, Unioncamere, Assocamerestero -Association of Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad-, AICE - Italian Association International Trades-, APQI – Associazione Premio Qualità Italia-), NGO (CDP-Carbon Disclosure Project, AFLIN- Filo di Luce India Onlus-), Academies (Accademia Costume Moda, Milano Fashion Institute), Conformity assessment body (CSQA, ICMQ), Consultant firms
<b>Type of initiative</b>	Public initiative

### Description of action

The “Prassi di Riferimento” UNI/PdR 102:2021 provides application guidelines in terms of responsibility and sustainability of the requirements of UNI ISO/TS 17033, identifying the elements that an organization shall take into consideration in declaring an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development.

The “Prassi di Riferimento” is a document published by UNI, the Italian Standardisation Body, which contains provisions relating to practices shared by interested parties. A UNI/PdR is among the “products of European standardization”, as provided for by Regulation (EU) 1025/2012.

In particular, the ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development, as reported in UNI/PdR 102:2021, can be expressed for different scopes, and can regard a product, a process, a service (e.g. packaging, delivery) or an organization.

The organization that develops an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development should carefully clarify the scope of the claim in order to not be misleading for the consumer/user, to avoid to create negative and distorting effects on the market or generate unfair competition or misleading

advertising.

In addition, the UNI/PdR identifies the indications to set up a correct materiality assessment of the sustainability factors to be included in the scope.

The document also identifies the supporting data and information for an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development, including a traceability system to ensure that the scope and the aspects included in the ethical claim of responsibility for development sustainable are documented.

Information about the procedures, methodologies and other criteria and assumptions used in defining an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development shall be made available and easily accessible. The traceability and transparency system are a fundamental requirement to support ethical claims extended to supply chains.

The analysis process underpinning the ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development indicates a path which, while allowing different grades of depth and complexity based on the breadth of the field of application, ensures to the consumer, in certain and unequivocal terms or with a satisfactory level of materiality, that the claim declared by the organization has been objectively validated/verified and, therefore, corresponds to the truth.

Ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development can be validated/verified only on the condition that the development of these claims contains analysis of the factors relating to the economic, social and environmental fields.

This is the first technical document issued worldwide by a national standardisation body that aims to implement the third-party verification/validation of ethical claims according to international standards ISO 17029.

The verification and validation of the claim ensures that a statement is not only true and unambiguous, but that it covers all the elements relating to sustainability (i.e. social, environmental and economic aspects) that are most relevant to the reference context. Objective data, declared results and achieved objectives are verified.

This standard also allows a national accreditation body (like ACCREDIA) to:

- a) evaluate as "suitable for accreditation purposes" the programmes based on ISO/TS 17033, UNI PdR 102:2021 (such as Get It Fair)
- b) grant the accreditation of verification/validation bodies according to accredited programmes.

In order to decide if it is possible to start the process of validation/verification of an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development against UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029, UNI ISO/TS 17033 and the UNI/PdR, the verification/validation body is required to analyse elements relating to the subject of the ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development, the applicable requirements, the characteristics of the ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development and the methodology used to define the ethical claim. On this regard, if the scope of the claim includes activities participating in global garment and footwear value chains, the standard requires to refer to UNECE recommendation No. 46: Enhancing Traceability and Transparency of Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear and related standards.

In particular, Get It Fair ([www.getit-fair.com](http://www.getit-fair.com)) is a Programme that refers to referring to OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains and ISO 26000. The Programme is an Italian multistakeholder initiative designed according to ISO 17033, ISO 17029 and UNI/Pdr 102:2021. Get It Fair is internationally promoted abroad by the Italian Chambers of Commerce and, at national level, by Unioncamere (National Association of Chambers of Commerce in Italy).

The Programme aims to validate the Ethical claim "GIF Responsible Organization" upon completion of a Due Diligence process and a quantitative evaluation of the exposure level to actual or potential risks that can result into adverse impact on the organization and its stakeholders due to Governance and management system, human rights, safety, environment and business ethics.

Upon positive completion of the Due Diligence process, an organization may receive the following outputs:

- "GIF Responsible Organization" validated claim
- GIF Ethical label (in compliance with ISO 17033)
- GIF Non-Financial Report (in compliance with Directive 2014/95/EU)

The supply chain ethical label strictly requires a robust and standardized traceability and transparency system based on an internationally recognized standard code.

**Type of action**

Traceability

Transparency

**Please select the specific area/s of the action**

Norms and standards

Collaborative initiatives

Ethical claim

## **Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered**

### **Objective**

The purpose of the UNI/PdR, published by the Italian Standardization Body, is to define the requirements for preparing an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable growth of a product, a service, a process or an organization. The process of developing an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development includes the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, social, economic). An ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development makes it possible to promote the demand and supply of those products, services, processes or organizations, whose characteristics can stimulate a process of continuous improvement towards sustainability with the involvement of stakeholders according to the principle of materiality.

### **Commitments**

The ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development, including the assessment of the needs of future generations, offers added value to an organization's policies, the production and consumption of material goods and the daily decision-making process of citizens/consumers. The Get It Fair programme is committed to adopt the UN-UNECE standard for traceability and transparency as a fundamental pillar for issuing an ethical label, extended to the supply chain and implementing the OECD purpose of Due Diligence guidance for responsible supply chains. The GIF Programme has been initially designed to be applied in the garment and footwear supply chain but, at present, it applies to organizations irrespective of size, sector, location and maturity level. The traceability and transparency based on an internationally recognized system becomes a core area for the purpose of granting the ethical label. The UN-UNECE standard is explicitly mentioned in the GIF Framework as a recommended standard and evidence of implementation of this standard will increase the score assigned to this specific area.

### **Value chain scope**

An ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development shall respect the principles set out in the document as reliability, transparency, relevance, involvement of the interested parties, fairness. It shall especially be truthful, not only in relation to the scope of the claim, but also to the relevant aspects of the life cycle and the value chain considered, including using stakeholder involvement in order to identify the potential increase of an impact in one area and, in the process, of decreasing impact in another. The GIF Ethical Label (designed according to ISO 17033), aims to provide customers and consumers with the possibility to consume responsibly. The overall purpose of this output is to allow customers and consumers to make conscious choices by controlling the product label at the point of sale (by means of a QR/RFID Code) and taking a purchasing decision on the basis of the following verified information: - Number of product life cycle phases covered by the GIF Due Diligence - List of manufacturers of finished

goods, parts and components, raw materials, etc. concurring to the realization of a specific batch of product, completing the GIF Due Diligence. According to ISO 17029 and UNI/PdR 102:2021, consumers shall be allowed to access to further information regarding each suppliers and the results of the Due Diligence. The ethical label according to ISO 17033 granted within the GIF ESG Rating scheme will enable an organization to provide customers and consumers with verified information at the point of sale regarding how many organizations and how many phases along the product life cycle have achieved the GIF Responsible Organization validated claim. This is the fundamental tool to provide the market with information regarding responsible supply chains (according to the OECD Guidances).

### **Timeframe and/or milestones for the action**

The “Prassi di Riferimento” UNI/PdR 102:2021 was published on 26 January 2021.

For the validation and verification of an ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development, the validation/verification body shall consider at least the requirements contained in UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029, UNI ISO/TS 17033, UNI/PdR 102:2021 and the specific programme (ref. point 8 and Appendix A of UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17029).

The programme of GIF ESG Rating scheme aiming to grant the “GIF Responsible Organization” ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development according to ISO/TS 17033, ISO 17029 and UNI/PdR 102:2021 has been positively evaluated as “suitable for accreditation purposes” by Italian accreditation body.

A validated claim, in conformity with “GIF Responsible Organization” programme, shall be based on a reasonable quantitative evaluation (scoring) of the exposure level to risks of actual or potential events that can result into future adverse impacts on the organization and its Stakeholders, related to the following non-financial (or ESG) issues:

- Governance and Social Responsibility management system
- Social (Human Rights and Labour Practices)
- Health and Safety (Safety risks and welfare)
- Environment (Pollution, Resource Consumption, GHG emissions, protection of the environment)
- Business Ethics (Fair operating practices, Consumer issues)

The GIF Programme has already mentioned the reference to the UN-UNECE standard for traceability and transparency in the GIF Framework area “Traceability and transparency”.

A third party certification with the scope of attesting the compliance of the organization’s traceability system with the UN-UNECE standard provides assessor with evidence that such organization is implementing the standard and allows to increase the score of the “Traceability and transparency” area within the criterion “Governance and management system”.

Therefore the UN-UNECE standard is adopted as reference supporting document to issue the ethical claim extended to the supply chain.

In the near future, ACCREDIA will receive by verification/validation bodies the applications to start the accreditation process.

Moreover, ACCREDIA will spread the importance of the programmes based on UNI ISO/TS 17033, UNI/PdR 102:2021 to raise the awareness and knowledge of the interested parties especially when these refer to value chain traceability and include the UNECE recommendation No. 46: Enhancing Traceability and Transparency of Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear and related standards.

### **Reference instruments and sources used**

ISO/IEC 17029 – “Conformity assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies”

ISO/TS 17033 - “Ethical claims and supporting information – Principles and requirements”

UNI/PdR 102:2021 “Ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development”

### Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Thanks to validation/verification process, the trust that a statement is not only true and unambiguous, but it also covers all the elements relating to sustainability (i.e. social, environmental and economic aspects) that are most relevant to the reference context, is enhanced. The GIF ESG Rating scheme allows every organization to disclose information regarding the exposure level to risks related to non-financial aspects (Governance, Social, Safety, Environment, Business Ethics). The GIF Ethical Label, supported by the UN-UNECE standard shall allow to link organizations assessed against the GIF Framework (criteria and metric) and to develop a supply chain ethical label. The scheme is designed to allow consumers to practice responsible consumptions and makes purchasing decisions based on verified information regarding the ethical characteristics of organizations realizing products (from raw material to finished goods) in the supply chain verifiable at the point of sale.

### Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Investors/shareholders

Scientific and technological community

Workers and trade unions

Standardisation/accreditation body

### Key performance indicators for the action

Accredia

- Number of accredited validation programmes using the UN-UNECE standard for traceability and transparency
- Number of validation bodies accredited to validate ethical claims within an accredited program according to UNI/Pdr 102:2021.

- Number of organizations completing the GIF Due Diligence (per year)
- Number of organizations positively assessed for using the UN-UNECE standard (per year)
- Number of Ethical Labels issued to responsible supply chains (per year) based on the UN-UNECE standard

### Good practices

If applicable, please indicate how the action has been implemented and provide a relevant website link(s)

At the moment, Italian accreditation body Application accepted an application for accreditation of a specific validation scheme aiming to grant the “GIF Responsible Organization” ethical claim of responsibility for sustainable development according to ISO/TS 17033, ISO 17029 and UNI/Pdr 102:2021.

The Get It Fair Validation claim is based on a reasonable quantitative evaluation (scoring) of the exposure level to risks of actual or potential events that can result into future adverse impacts on the organization and its Stakeholders, related to the following non-financial (or ESG) issues:

- Governance and Social Responsibility management system
- Social (Human Rights and Labour Practices)
- Health and Safety (Safety risks and welfare)
- Environment (Pollution, Resource Consumption, GHG emissions, protection of the environment)
- Business Ethics (Fair operating practices, Consumer issues)

### How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

The “Prassi di Riferimento” UNI/PdR 102:2021 allows organizations to use standards and best practices, such as that of the specific call to action, in compliance with the process of defining the claim. Therefore, the UNI and the UNECE framework can be of mutual support for the diffusion of models of responsibility for sustainable development. As far as concerns Get It Fair, the Call to Action is expected to support future awareness initiative on the issue of Responsible Supply chains and the emerging need of ethical labels extended to supply chains to support responsible consumption.

### Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

