Annex I

Description of Action

Enhancing transparency and traceability of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear industry

1. BACKGROUND

Clothing is one of the largest industries in the world economy, generating annual revenues of around USD 3 trillion, producing 80 billion garment pieces, and employing 60 to 75 million people with direct jobs worldwide, of which two thirds are women. The industry is a global one, with value chains spreading across all countries, driven mostly by big retailers and traders that determine where to produce, what to produce, and at which prices to sell.

The negative social and environmental impacts of the fashion industry have been well documented over the past few decades, demonstrating that these impacts mostly occur within the upstream portion of the value chain. In order to increase the industry's ability to manage its value chain more sustainably, both consumers and businesses must be aware of the nature and magnitude of the issues. Improving traceability has therefore become a priority in order to determine how and where parts and components in production processes have been sourced, what are the environmental, social and health risks at the various stages of the value chain, and which tools can be used to improve its sustainability.

Indeed, both governments and companies can play a crucial role. As to the role of governments, they can for instance support the reinforcement of responsible production and consumption practices though regulatory approaches, fiscal measures and information campaigns. While for companies, the existence of economic gains arising from the implementation of cleaner and healthier production practices, coupled with consumers' positive reactions to being informed about such practices, supports the view that enhancing value chain transparency can be a win-win situation. Against these general considerations, however, development-related concerns should not be left behind, and due assistance should be provided to suppliers who lack the financial and human means to better communicate information on their sustainability performance.

Whereas at the firm level, the use of industry guidelines and self-regulatory procedures can have significant impacts, at the government level policy formulation should be consistent and oriented towards a preventive cleaner production approach, and also consider incorporating the monitoring and reporting requirements as part of such a policy framework. A harmonized and internationally consistent approach to public regulations in this sector, would thus be highly desirable, as it could foster innovation, improvements, and price reductions in the IT tools used for value chain mapping, traceability, and sustainable sourcing.

Building on key initiatives in the sector, such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** (UNECE), in consultation with experts from governments, private sector, academia, NGOs and international organizations has produced studies on approaches to enhance traceability for sustainable value chainsin the garment and footwear industry, in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders[1]. Engaged experts, from the public and private sector, NGOs and academia recommend the creation of an international framework initiative to enhance visibility of the value chain for sustainability patterns in the sector, in support of Sustainable Development Goal 12 on responsible production and consumption, and other relevant Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNECE, with its United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business (UN/CEFACT – an intergoverment body of the UNECE with global membership that develops global UN policies and standards) has already developed a framework to design traceability for sustainable trade, along with traceability standards and guidelines for the animal, plant and fish value chains. For example, the

---

[1] UNECE, "Transparency in textile value chains in relation to the environmental, social and human health impacts of parts, components and production processes": https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47782

UN/CEFACT FLUX for tracking and tracing fishery value chains, for instance, has been adopted by the EU and is in use in all EU Member States and beyond.

The **International Trade Centre** (ITC) is an agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization that fully dedicated to the development of a broad offer of tools and solutions to strengthen the competitiveness of SME exporters, build vibrant and sustainable export sectors and provide economic opportunities to all. ITC contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by supporting SME international competitiveness for inclusive and sustainable growth through value addition, trade, investment and global partnerships.

In this framework, the ***Trade for Sustainable Development programme*** of ITC (T4SD) has been enhancing transparency and understanding of voluntary sustainability satandards, codes of conduct and audit protocols (VSS) since 2009. As part of ITC's market analysis and research work, T4SD has developed a unique database of over 240 VSS, with information and knowledge provided via web-based platforms – global public goods – to a large range of beneficiaries including SMEs, brands and retailers, trade promotion organizations, policy-makers, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. This work springs from the premise that mitigating the risk of exclusion of exporters from global value chains is predicated on reversing the value chain status quo, where suppliers of large brands and manufacturers currently mostly bear the burden of costs of VSS compliance. This also includes costs of access to market information.

The T4SD database of VSS and its associated online and offline tools together form a basis of the many partnerships with industry platforms, NGOs, individual companies and other private or public partners. Such projects are aimed at driving harmonization and convergence of sustainability standards and bring small enterprises into global value chains. Most recently, T4SD has moved from the focus on mapping the VSS to providing well-rounded solutions for managing and communicating sustainability commitments within global value chains (via Sustainability Map – www.sustainabilitymap.org). ITC can customize its platform and tools for companies active in the textile and apparel sector.

With this proposal, the UNECE Trade Facilitation programme and the ITC Trade for Sustainable Development Programme (T4SD) respond directly to the ongoing effort by the EC to engage governments, businesses, consumers and other stakeholders in the textile and apparel value chain in moving towards responsible corporate conduct, improving transparency and traceability. Conceptualized as leveraging on the existing UNECE UN/CEFACT policy recommendations, standards and guidelines, as well as the ITC tools in support of traceability of sustainable value chains, the outcomes of this Action will be part of the larger EC effort to facilitate the dissemination of good practices, and provide incentives for the uptake of the various modalities of sustainability and responsible sourcing.

The Action will involve all actors active in textile and apparel value chains (government, international brands, the manufacturers and the factories, trade unions, standards setting bodies, as well as civil society organizations, NGOs, local authorities).

2. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION

The overall objective of the Action is to establish an enabling environment for all actors of textile and apparel industry to develop, share, learn, and improve practices related to transparency and traceability in value chains. Namely, the Action aims to improve the access to information on best practices and to enable policy makers to advance the necessary policy and regulatory frameworks, while supporting brands, manufacturers and factories in their efforts to implement improvement plans. This includes support to self-assess these private sector actors against recognized international initiatives, standards, codes of conduct and audit protocols, hence facilitating the connection between

the demand (consumers, brands, retailers) and supply side (factories, producers). Targeting both the policy maker and firm level is necessary to achieve the desired objective of the Action.

The Action is based on the following interconnected Outputs:

- **Output 1 (UNECE):** A **"**Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue Platform" on transparency and traceability for sustainable textile and leather value chains to inform the development of a set of "Principles and Policy Recommendations" along with a "Call for Action" to key stakeholders for sustainable textile and leather value chains;
- **Output 2 (UNECE):** A "Transparency and Traceability Standard" for sustainable textile and leather value chains along with implementation "Guidelines", involving the identification of Business Requirements and the Business Process Analysis of textile and leather value chains, in close cooperation with the private sector;
- **Output 3 (ITC):** A "Transparency and Traceability Tool" that leverages the ITC Sustainability Map platform and offers customized, open self-assessment and data sharing solutions for textile and apparel value chain stakeholders per ITC's Global Public Goods policies;
- **Output 4 (ITC):** A "Training and Continuous Improvement" programme based on the Transparency and Traceability Tool and applied in collaboration with private sector partners, implemented in a subset of textile and apparel EU-export oriented countries (3-5) in order to obtain a proof of concept and move to scale for wider implementation;
- **Output 5 (UNECE):** A "Training and Awareness Raising" programme based on the Policy Recommendation and Standard Scheme developed by UN/CEFACT, targeting all stakeholders in the textile and leather value chains to enable implementation, sharing of experience and lessons learned, and to bring in continuous improvement in the transparency and traceability framework.

The Action will be implemented by the ITC T4SD Programme and UNECE Trade Facilitation Section, through its UN/CEFACT, and in close cooperation other partners such as UN Global Compact, ILO, OECD, and UNEP.

The Action will work with government institutions and the private sector (business associations and private companies) on a voluntary basis, as well as with other relevant stakeholders. The primary and most direct beneficiaries will be countries and companies participating in global textile value chains. Women and other possibly disadvantaged groups, including local level stakeholders, often affected by unfair practices in this sector, will be engaged and receive additional attention in the delivery process.

Beneficiary countries and companies will be selected based on specific criteria including level of risks, demand and interest shown, involvement of other partners and the level of capacity to enhance transparency and traceability of the textile value chain, prior experience and other factors.

The Action will complement the efforts of other partners and agencies that focus on enhancing responsible production and consumption patterns in the textile sector.

3. ACTION MODALITIES AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

The **Overall Objective** of the Action is aimed at enhancing sustainable consumption and production patterns in the textile and apparel industry, through the development and implementation of an international framework initiative on transparency and traceability of value chains in the sector.

The Specific Objective of the contribution by ITC and UNECE, as described in this Annex, reflects the "Specific Objective 2" of the encompassing Action Document, which is "Transparency and traceability along garment and value chains is enhanced, as part of improving the due diligence process by private sector actors." This contribution will be accomplished through the development and implementation of an international Framework Initiative (UNECE) and a Transparency and Traceability Tool (ITC) for sustainable textile and apparel value chains. The outputs will help both government and industry partners to take risk-informed decisions and operate along a set of internationally agreed practices, thus increasing transparency vis a vis the final consumers.

The Action is based on five interconnected Outputs. The Outputs and corresponding Indicators described in this Annex reflect the deliverables described in the encompassing Action Document. As such, Outputs 1, 2, and 5 in this Annex reflect "Output 5 (OP 5)" from the encompassing Action Document. Outputs 3 and 4 in this Annex reflect "Output 6 (OP6)" from the encompassing Action Document.

Output 1 (UNECE): A "Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue Platform" on transparency and traceability for sustainable textile and leather value chains to inform the development of a set of "Principles and Policy Recommendations" along with a "Call for Action" to key stakeholders for sustainable textile and leather value chains.

Building on key initiatives in the sector (such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) along with previous meetings and deliberations, the UN/CEFACT group of experts on traceability is forming a partnership regrouping all key stakeholders committing to engage for sustainable textile and leather value chains, through the production of raw material, production of garment and distribution channels globally. Stakeholders include representatives from governments (e.g. from the EU Group of Experts on sustainable Garment Value Chains – Italy, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, UK), the private sector (e.g. industrial associations and chambers of fashion such as EURATEX, COTANCE and the Italian Chamber of Fashion), International and Multilateral Organizations (e.g. UNEP, ILO, OECD, ITC, UNCTAD, ACP Group of States, UN Global Compact, the European Commission), Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g. Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Made-By, Textile Exchange, Cittadellarte FASHION B.E.S.T), Standard setting and certification agencies (e.g. GS1), Academia (e.g. Bocconi University) and experts on traceability and sustainability in value chains, already part of UN/CEFACT group of experts on traceability, that have agreed to work under this Action.

A series of policy dialogues will be performed through the multi-stakeholders platform to inform the development of a set of principles and policy recommendations, which will go through the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process [2] and will finally be adopted by the UN/CEFACT Working Party.

Through the platform, a Call for Action to key stakeholders for sustainable textile and leather value chains will be launched, appealing stakeholders to commit, on a voluntary basis, to specific

---

[2] The UN/CEFACT Open Development Process (ODP) is the formal process for the elaboration of UN/CEFACT policies and standards in the field of trade facilitation and e-business. For more about the ODP see:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/2016_plenary/CF_2016_017E_ODP.pdf

projects and initiatives in support of transparency and traceability. This includes the establishment of a repository of commitments and a reporting mechanism to monitor progress and facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned across relevant stakeholders, in the context of UN/CEFACT Forums and Plenaries and other relevant Fora (e.g. OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector).

The **Indicators of achievement** for Output 1 are:

I1.1 Adoption of the principles and policy recommendation for a traceability framework in support of sustainable textile and leather value chains, by the UN/CEFACT Working Party.

I1.2 Number of government officials, suppliers and stakeholders (at least 100 by 2022) participating in the multi-stakeholder policy platform and committing to the collective action to increase transparency and traceability for sustainable textile and leather value chains.

Main **Activities** include:

A1.1: Enhance the multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform on transparency and traceability for sustainable textile and leather value chains by widening stakeholder participation and engagement in the platform (UNECE through the UN/CEFACT group of experts on traceability).

A1.2: Develop a set of principles and policy recommendations for transparency in sustainable textile and leather value chains, for adoption by the UNECE UN/CEFACT Working Party.

A1.3: Launch a Call for Action to key stakeholders for sustainable textile and leather value chains, for transparency in sustainable textile and leather value chains (UNECE through the UN/CEFACT working group on traceability), and establish a repository of commitments along with a reporting mechanism to monitor progress and facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned across relevant stakeholders.

A.1.4: Organize a regional multi-stakeholder policy dialogue meetings (2 per year) to promote transparency for sustainable textile and leather value chains, including to inform the development of the policy framework and the overall implementation of the transparency and traceability project, ideally back-to-back with the UN/CEFACT regular Fora.

Output 2 (UNECE): A "Transparency and Traceability Standard" for sustainable textile and leather value chains along with implementation "Guidelines", involving the identification of Business Requirements and the Business Process Analysis of textile and leather value chains, in close cooperation with the private sector.

UNECE will undertake the mapping of traceability requirements and the analysis of business processes (BPA) for sustainable textile and leather value chains (cotton, wool and other animal fibers, synthetic fibers, cellulosic fibers). The usage of code lists and product identifiers - such as EPCIS, RFID, and NFC - as part of a message schema implementation, will help with data validation and visibility. Furthermore, the establishment of a trade agreement between partners, organizations and communities, under a message exchange environment, may also incorporate the application of blockchain technology in addition to push and pull exchanges, and data repositories.

As part of this Action component, and based on the outcome of the BPA, UNECE will also develop a set of standards for tracking and tracing sustainable production and retailing in the textile and leather sector. The standards will identify responsible parties, commodities and products locations, processing steps and transport requirements. The standards will also address the origin of commodities and products and the conditions in which they have been produced, along with environmental, health and social impacts (based on the requirements of the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises). The use of those standards will

facilitate registration, exchange and access of data, and will create efficiency through interoperability. A generic UN/CEFACT standard for tracking and tracing of products from animal or plant origin has been developed and will be further detailed for the specific needs of the textile and leather industry. The standards will also build on existing harmonized UN/CEFACT standards such as FLUX for fisheries, eCert, eQuality Certificates and the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF) for the agriculture and agri-food sector).

In addition, UNECE will develop guidelines to facilitate the implementation of traceability in the textile and leather industry. The guidelines will describe and guide users in the standardization of business processes and business transactions with respect to the operationalization of traceability. The business process is the detailed description of how partners intend to play their respective role, establish business relationship and share responsibilities to interact efficiently with the support of their respective information system. The guidelines related to the business transactions, explain the technical aspects of the information entities, such as the technical description, the use of code lists and technical modalities with respect to the implementation of traceability data exchange. It is also proposed that at least one country (e.g. an EU Member State) and 4 companies (e.g. from business associations in the garment and footwear sector), as well as a selected group of consumers in targeted countries, apply the Framework Initiative (new set of policy principles, standards and guidelines).

The **Indicators** for Output 2 are:

I2.1 Adoption of the set of standards for tracking and tracing textile and leather value chains by the UNECE - UN/CEFACT Working Party.

I2.2 Adoption of the guidelines on traceability in the textile and leather industry by the UNECE - UN/CEFACT Working party.

I2.3 Number of countries and suppliers (At least 1 pilot country in 2022; 4 pilot companies by 2022) implementing the traceability framework for sustainable textile and leather value chains.

Main **Activities** include:

A2.1 Conduct the mapping of traceability requirements and the analysis of the business requirements and existing gaps for sustainable textile (cotton, wool and other animal fibers, synthetic fibers, cellulosic fibers) and leather value chains.

A2.2 Design a set of standards to track and trace sustainable textile and leather value chains, for adoption by the UN/CEFACT Working Party.

A2.3 Develop guidelines for the application of the standard, for members within the textile and leather industry, for adoption by the UN/CEFACT Working Party.

A2.4 Pilot the use of the transparency and traceability framework, standard and guidelines with 1 country and 4 companies, covering the entire value chain, from raw material production to retail.

Output 3 (ITC): A "Transparency and Traceability Tool" that leverages the ITC Sustainability Map platform and offers customized, open self-assessment and data sharing solutions for textile and apparel value chain stakeholders is developed

The fundamental proposition lies in the development and dissemination of a "Transparency and Traceability Tool" with web-based and offline applications to address issues related to compliance to sustainability requirements in textile and apparel value chains. This tool will be an open platform for industry and other stakeholders to connect and collaborate on transparency

and sustainability. In particular, the tool may enable a variety of functions as a data gateway and as a customized self-assessment and data-collection platform for diagnostics of brands, factories and suppliers participating in textile and apparel value chain.

The brands, factories and suppliers targeted in this Action are those companies associated with ITC's industry partners such as the Social and Labour Convergence Project (SLCP) that have agreed to work with ITC and DG DEVCO under thisAction, allowing outreach and access to their members' supply base (see 'Letters of Intent' in annexes).

The online and offline applications of the tool will allow factories and textile and apparel producers/mills to self-assess themselves against a variety of questionnaires (customizable by ITC and potentially in line with the environmental and social requirements reflected in the UNECE traceability standard for sustainable garment value chains) that can be administered in multiple languages (Chinese, Khmer, etc.).

Supplier profiles are based on the assessment of social and labour practices and organization vis-à-vis the development of a customized assessment, which comprises two parts: (i) the company profile and (ii) the phased questionnaire, which enables suppliers to assess their compliance to specific requirements. For the purposes of this Action, the assessment will be customized to a selected initiative such as The Social and Labor Convergence Program (SLCP), Initiative Clause Sociale (ICS), SEDEX.

Ultimately, the generated diagnostics and company profiles feed into ITC's web-based platform: the pre-competitive Sustainability Map. ITC developed Sustainability Map as an open-data *global* public good, to be used by upstream suppliers at no cost.

The build, adjustment and customization of the offline application are major components of this Action. The offline app will contain features that enable the collection of supplier information and sustainability assessment. The tool will support offline data capture via mobile devices (e.g. smart phones, tablets) that can send and receive data based on available Wi-Fi connections. The tool will enable sending the data to a cloud, subsequently facilitating the aggregation of data for user dashboard creation.

The hosting and server support services will be provided by the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) in Geneva as well as the cloud-based services for data upload and download (and APIs). User data will reside as well in the UNICC environment where it will be held in accordance with United Nations privileges and immunities and data protection policies of the United Nations.

The tool and IT platform will be able to store self-assessment results and share this data with authorized users and Action partners, therefore enabling an open, non-silo system that can interface with all organizations interested in going to scale and converging around core social and labour criteria.

Much of the content of the transparency and traceability tool will be determined during the scoping phase of the Action through *stakeholder sessions/workshops (Technical Working Group)*. Special emphasis will be given to determination of the process, criteria and indicators, and the tools/features of the tool itself. ITC will convene workshops to decide and finalize the design of the governance of the platform, its content and features, with stakeholders coming from a wide variety of backgrounds (which includes e.g. trade unions, civil society organizations, industry platforms such as the SLCP, ICS, SEDEX, WRAP, among others).

The **Indicators of achievement** for Output 3 are:

I3.1 Customized questionnaires developed for all participating brands, manufacturers and factories (exact number depending on number of partners).

I3.2 1 online and offline database developed, updated, and usable as a global public good.

I3.3 Web services and network functionalities established for all partners to enable connection via the Transparency and Traceability Tool to increase transparency and traceability between value chain actors and suppliers.

I3.4 Transparency and Traceability Tool utilized by at least 10,000 factories and suppliers across the 3-5 target countries.

Main **Activities** include:

A3.1: Develop customized questionnaires for participating brands, manufacturers and factories, in collaboration with most prominent existing initiatives (e.g. SLCP, ICS, SEDEX, WRAP).

A3.2: Develop online and offline tools to enable all actors of textile and apparel value chains to self-assess and generate sustainability diagnostics against selected initiatives.

A3.3: Setting-up customized web-services and network functionalities to enable traceability and transparency between value chain actors, private and public stakeholders.

A3.4 Pilot the Transparency and Traceability Tool and disseminate in the 3-5 target countries.

Output 4 (ITC): "Training and Continuous Improvement" programme, building off uptake of the Transparency and Traceability Tool and in collaboration with private sector partners, implemented in a subset of textile and apparel EU-export oriented countries (3-5) in order to: 1) improve uptake of sustainability in value chains and; 2) to obtain a proof of concept and move to scale for wider implementation in multiple producing and export countries.

The aim of the training and continuous improvement programme is to provide consolidated information, resources and decision-making tools to all actors in the textile and apparel value chains, through on-site activities, online learning and dissemination of customized applications (web-based and offline).

Considering the potential limitations of capacity building activities in such highly complex textile and apparel value chain, this component proposes to combine "training" on the Transparency and Traceability Tool together with "continuous improvement" activities to support factories and manufacturers in addressing sustainability gaps and take the necessary mitigation actions. Trainings should serve to support uptake of sustainability practices including improved compliance with mandatory and voluntary social/labour practices, environmental impact mitigation, and economic efficiency protocols. Trainings will draw from previously developed ITC training resources and tools, such as Sustainability Map, which are meant to increase transparency and uptake of sustainability along value chains.

The **Indicators** for Output 4 are:

I4.1 Number of e-learnings or training curriculums developed.

I4.2 Number of countries in which VSS training curriculum is implemented.

I4.3 Number of companies reporting implementation of VSS or other sustainability methods as a result of the action.

Main **Activities** include:

A4.1: Develop the training curriculum on the Transparency and Traceability Tool and the content of the Continuous Improvement activities, and identify an initial set of performance indicators against which the trainings can be organized at scale, together with an initial implementation methodology (subjects, resources, sessions' sequencing and follow-up activities).

A4.2: Train local partners and consultants in training factory workshop implementation of the Tool, including sustainability self-assessment and data upload.

A4.3: Implement a pilot in three to five countries in order to test the approach and potential for scaling up. These pilot activities will take place in highly relevant countries (such as Bangladesh and/or India, Pakistan).

A4.4: Analytical reports on the impact of the Transparency and Traceability Tool and Trainings Programme, including an assessment of the ability to scale-up interventions in all textile and apparel producing and exporting countries (building national and regional networks of multipliers and partners who will be capacitated to deliver the trainings on the Transparency and Traceability Tool and coordinate the Continuous Improvement activities).

Outcome 5 (UNECE): A "Training and Awareness Raising" programme based on the Policy Recommendation and Standard Scheme developed by UN/CEFACT, targeting all stakeholders in the textile and leather value chains to enable implementation, sharing of experience and lessons learned, and to bring in continuous improvement in the transparency and traceability framework.

The direct beneficiaries or stakeholders include government representatives and key players in the textile and leather sector, like designers, manufacturers and retailers, along the entire value chain. During the development stage, the action initiative, including the policy recommendations, the standard and the guidelines, will be piloted with selected volunteer Member States and companies covering the entire garment value chain (for textiles and leather), to test their applicability.

All parties to the UN/CEFACT will have the opportunity to disseminate the outcomes of the Action in their respective countries (please add how many countries / reps from PPP). Action beneficiaries will be trained on traceability approaches. The Action will also cooperate with Academia and Training Institutions to seek the inclusion of the Framework outcomes in dedicated training curricula of universities on sustainable textile and leather chains.

The framework initiative will be promoted also through the ITC sustainability map, an electronic platform, which helps businesses, at various stages in the value chain, chart their path to more sustainable trade by better understanding the sustainability initiatives landscape and to connect with business partners (http://sustainabilitymap.org/home).

The **Indicators** for **Output 5** are:

 I5.1 Number of parties in the garment industry trained on traceability approaches, standards & guidelines for sustainable value chains.

Main **Activities include**:

A5.1 Training/coaching sessions will be designed on the application of the policy recommendations, standards and guidelines on transparency and traceability developed by the Action, in close cooperation with Academia and relevant Training Institutions (e.g. Bocconi University and Politecnico di Milano – Sustainable Fashion Institute and Cittadellarte Fashion B.E.S.T, Danish Fashion Institute).

A5.2 Training/coaching sessions will be conducted in selected beneficiary countries/companies (6 training/coaching sessions in total).

A5.3 A visibility and communication plan will be designed and implemented for awareness raising worldwide about responsible production and consumption in the textile and leather industry. This includes the development of promotional material, e.g. web content, brochures/leaflets, videos on the pilots.

A5.4 A concluding Action conference will be organized for peer learning and sharing of lessons learned on the implementation of Action outputs (1 conference).

3.1 Assumptions, Risks and Risk Management

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Lack of willingness of businesses and other Action stakeholders to engage in the Action in view of improving transparency and traceability of value chains.	Medium	The Action will create an incentive system to give visibility to businesses that progress on sustainability issues. It will also reinforce buyer-backed standards and expectations, and give suppliers the possibility to track and trace and measure their sustainability performance against other suppliers. Information will be exchanged along the value chain according to a UN tracking and tracing standard, and system and the data disclosed by suppliers will be protected within UN data protection system.
Lack of willingness of brands/buyers to engage in discussions sustainability performance an on transparency and traceability processes.	Medium	The Action will selectively work with brands showing a genuine openness and willingness to consider their own role in driving change. The action will rely on these partners for access to a critical mass of suppliers for programme implementation. The action will also rely on the experience and ability of the implementing partners to engage with successful companies to improve their transparency and sustainability practices.
Assumptions		
- Private sector and other stakeholders are willing to collaborate to increase effectiveness and coordination of public, private, and multi-stakeholder relevant initiatives. - Buyers believe there is a business case for participating in the Action to improve traceability, transparency, and sustainability and will use their leverage to request commitment at the supplier level. - Buyers have and keep leverage over factories they source from and are willing to further develop models of shared responsibility in a more transparent and efficient way.		

> - There will be continued sourcing from major buyers in the countries where the Action takes place.

4. Action Governance

To implement this Action, ITC and UNECE will work with representatives of governments and private companies from both developed and developing countries, to plan, coordinate, implement and support the various outlined activities. This approach creates ownership of the process. The Action will also engage other stakeholders, NGOs, international organizations and academia that play major roles in promoting and advancing responsible production and consumption patterns in the textile industry.

The Action itself will be delivered and implemented via the T4SD Programme at ITC and the UNECE UN/CEFACT framework. ITC and UNECE share responsibility as the main Action managers. Specifically, ITC will act as the main implementer of the Transparency and Traceability Tool and accompanying Training Programme, bringing into the Action its consolidated expertise in the areas of VSS, including its network of strategic partners and contacts (e.g. SLCP, ICS, SEDEX, WRAP). UNECE will manage the UN/CEFACT framework and its contributions, including the development of a transparency and traceability standard for the textile and apparel value chain and accompanying pilot.

The Action will also be implemented in cooperation with industry associations, e.g. Chambers of Fashion, EURATEX, SEDEX among others. It will build on strict cooperation with partners such as ILO, OECD, UNFCCC and UNEP, currently engaged with UN/CEFACT group of experts on traceability, and additional NGOs, technical and academic institutions may be drawn upon such as Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Bocconi University, Danish Fashion Institute, Cittadellarte FASHION B.E.S.T. The Action will also work closely with civil society stakeholders throughout the activities to leverage their experiences and expertise as well as to gain their buy-in for the implementation of the call for action and Action outputs. The EU Delegations will be fully involved to ensure appropriate sharing of experience and expertise as well as visibility. The mention of any potential partner in this Annex does not prevent ITC from following its own internal rules related to procurements and grants.

The Action Steering Committee will review progress, gaps and challenges against the expected outputs of the Action to cement the partnership approach and ensure transparency and accountability in delivery. The Action Steering Committee will meet annually in Brussels, except in the first year where it will meet after the first six months of the action following the submission of a joint inception report by UNECE and ITC. The Action Steering Committee will comprise UNECE, ITC and the European Commission.

Transparency and Traceability for Sustainable Textile (TTST) Advisory Board will provide strategic guidance to the Action. The TTST Advisory Board is comprised of about 10 members representing national governments, international agencies, private sector, donors, regional networks, academic institutions and technical organizations (e.g. UN Global Compact, OECD, SAC, EURATEX, COTANCE, Italian Chamber of Fashion, GS1, ILO). UNECE will chair this Committee with a representative of the private business, such as a private sector association in the textile and leather industries.

Information Technology (IT) Working Group for the specific tasks, activities and deliverables related to the development of the Transparency and Traceability Tool and accompanying trainings. Building off recommendations from the TTST, this group will enable stakeholder engagement, consultation, and collaboration. ITC will organize and maintain this working group, which will contain representatives from private sector partners (e.g. SLCP, ICS, SEDEX, WRAP) as well as public sector partners and international organizations.

The key Action deliverables for UNECE, consisting of the policy recommendations, standards and implementation guidelines, will be discussed by the multi-stakeholders policy dialogue platform set-up by theAction, and will be approved by the UN/CEFACT Working Party, based on the Open Development Process (ODP)[3] procedure, which will ensure they will formally have the status of UN tools. The key Action deliverables for ITC, consisting of technical and scoping recommendations for the implementation of the Tool as well as the Training and Continuous Improvement Programme, will be approved by the IT Committee.

Figure 1: Governance Structure of the Action
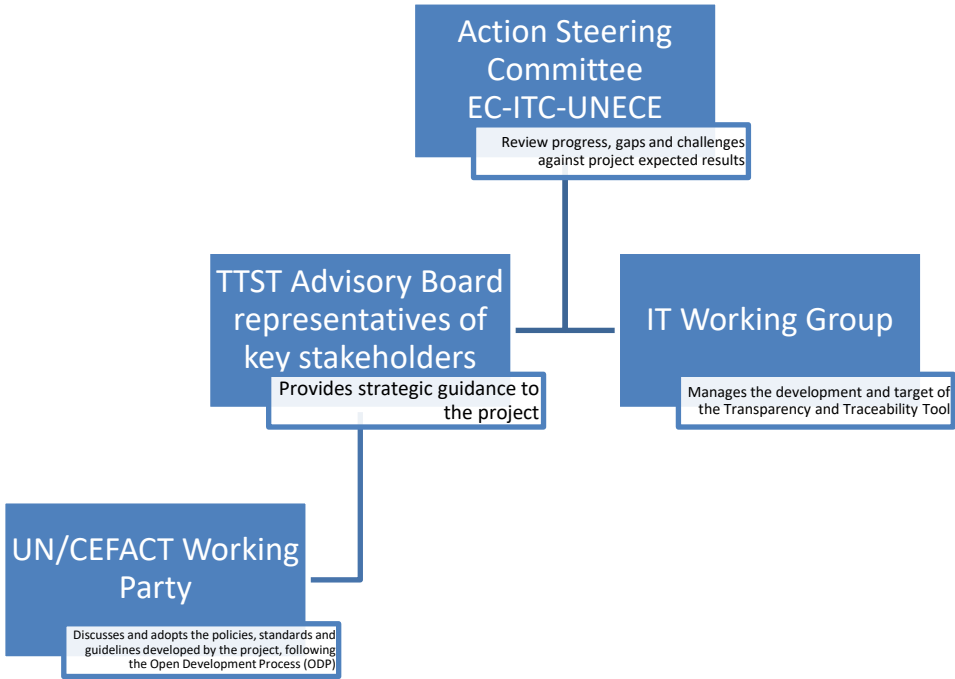
4.1 Intervention logic

The Transparency and Traceability Tool will serve as an open platform for industry and other stakeholders to collaborate and connect through sustainability. The Tool will allow for data-collection and diagnostics of brands, factories and suppliers participating in textile and apparel value chain. The Tool may also allow factories and textile and apparel producers/mills to self-assess themselves against a variety of sustainability standards and connect through the virtual platform along sustainable value chains.

The Training and Continuous Improvement Programme will further enable factories and suppliers to increase uptake of sustainable practices through dissemination of information on voluntary sustainability standards, codes of conduct, audit protocols, and other assurance/certification systems (VSS). The Trainings will draw from previously developed ITC resources and platforms. ITCs private sector partners in the textile and garment supply chains will enable the connections for factory-level training and support. Both the Tool and the Trainings will utilize ITC's Sustainability Map platform, which already connects thousands of actors along international value chains through traceability in sustainability standards.

By providing traceability and transparency for the textile and apparel sector, the Tool and Trainings will allow: 1) incentive, trainings, and connectivity for producers to implement

---

[3] UN/CEFACT Open Development Process for process type of work and deliverables: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/2016_plenary/CF_2016_017E_ODP.pdf

sustainable practices; 2) easier means for suppliers to source sustainably; and 3) visibility and assurance for consumers to see the impact of choosing sustainable products.

Moreover, the group of partners recommends the establishment of an international framework on transparency and traceability for sustainability patterns in the clothing sector. Building on previous meetings and deliberations, the UN/CEFACT group of experts on traceability is forming a platform regrouping all key stakeholders committing to engage for sustainable textile value chains, through the production of raw material, production of garment and distribution channels globally.

Outputs of this action will consist of the development and adoption of Policy Recommendations, Standards and Guidelines on transparency and traceability, addressing the origin of commodities and products and the conditions in which they have been produced, along with environmental and social impacts, identify responsible parties, commodities and products locations, processing steps and transport requirements. The Standards will facilitate registration, exchange and access of data, and will create efficiency through interoperability. Guidelines for their implementation will also be made available to Action beneficiaries.

Collaboration between ITC and UNECE is essential to achieve maximum impact in the Action scope. Both ITC and UNECE bring relevant technical expertise and deliverables for achieving the Action outputs. ITC will focus more on technical inputs with the Transparency and Traceability Tool and Trainings while UNECE will lead the multi-stakeholder dialogue and policy framework. These transparency and traceability efforts are naturally complementary and collaboration between the Action implementers will improve each of the Outputs through sharing of lessons learned and relevant private and public sector contacts.

The Action will foster post-project sustainability by building capacity of key stakeholders and a common framework with the private sector in addressing the transparency and traceability needs in the textile value chains. The Action actively contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 12 for Sustainable Production and Consumption, as well as Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth and Goal 17 on Partnership for the SDGs.

Figure 2: Intervention Logic
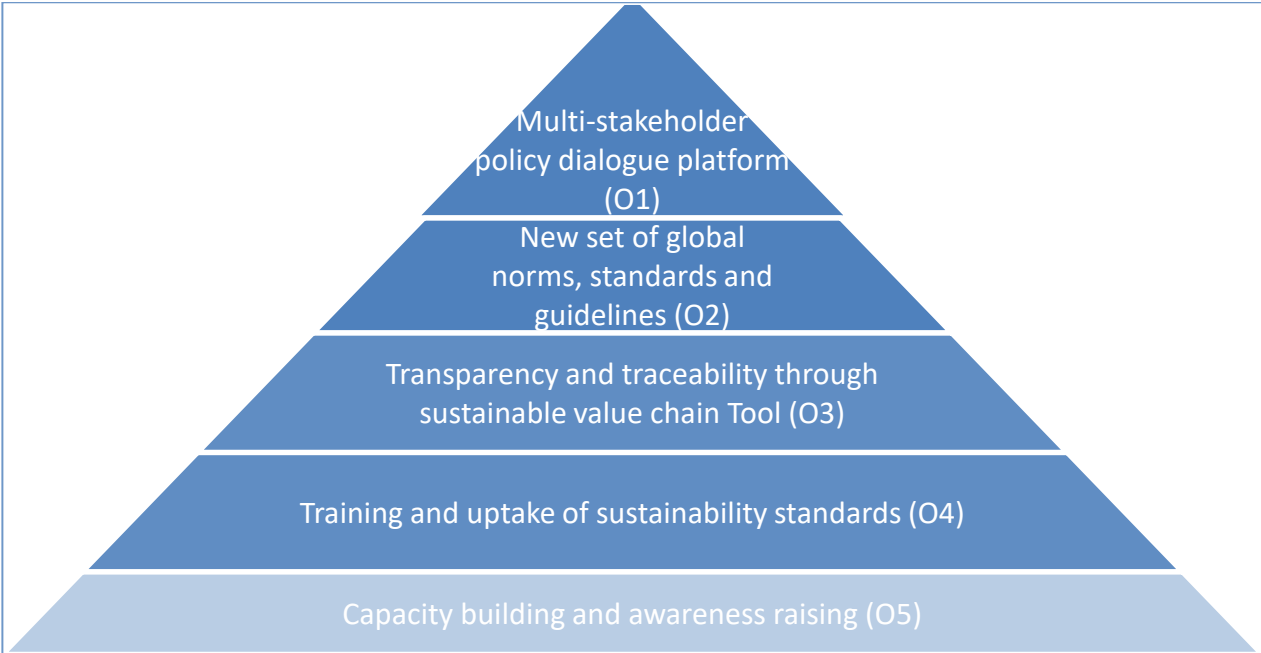
5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 1.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 36 months[4] from the date of adoption by the European Commission of the Action Document. The attached work-plan Action activities over an indicative period of time comprised between April 2019 and April 2022.

5.3 Implementation Modalities

The action is a common program, but will have two separate contracts. One indirect management contract with UNECE and one indirect management contract with ITC. This Description of Action, Annex 1, to the contract, clearly highlights the separate responsibilities for the two partners.

5.4 Organizational Set-up and Responsibilities

To implement this Action UNECE and ITC will work in close collaboration with Action stakeholders (governments, the private sector, NGOs, Academia, Think Tanks, etc.) and other international organizations (OECD, ITC, UN Global Compact, UNEP, ILO), to plan, coordinate, implement and support the various outlined activities. This approach will ensure ownership of the process. It is expected that the principal partners will be governments of countries (or the highest authority) responsible for trade and business issues, public investments and decision making. The Action will also engage other institutions and private sector that play major roles in the sustainability of textile value chains (e.g. business associations, chambers of fashion).

The implementing partners for the Action will comprise actors currently part of ITC's network of sustainability partners as well as the UN/CEFACT group of experts in traceability. The Action will be developed in cooperation with industry platforms such as the SLCP and ICS (which have already signed MOUs to work with ITC) along with SEDEX and WRAP, among others. Additional technical and academic institutions may be drawn upon such as Sustainable Apparel Coalition, Bocconi University, Danish Fashion Institute, Cittadellarte FASHION B.E.S.T. The Action will also work closely with civil society stakeholders throughout the activities to leverage their experiences and expertise as well as to gain their buy-in for the implementation of the Action outputs. When relevant, the EU Delegations will be involved to ensure appropriate sharing of experience and expertise.

A Steering Committee of the action will be comprised of representatives from the Commission, UNECE and ITC. The Steering Committee will review progress, gaps and challenges against the expected outputs of the programme to cement the partnership approach and assure transparency and accountability in delivery. Each implementing partner will be requested to present achievements in each session to ensure that the implementation is well anchored and to discuss the beneficiary countries. Specific and regular bi-annual meetings will be held to present and discuss the achievements resulting from the implementation of the programme.

In the context of this Action, activities will be jointly coordinated by the ITC T4SD and the UNECE Trade Facilitation Section, according to Action tasks as outlined in the Action logical framework. Regular monitoring activities will be undertaken during implementation by Programme Officers responsible for delivery of specific outputs and activities. The UNECE Trade Facilitation Section and the ITC T4SD will supervise the planning of respective Action activities and ensure the optimal use of resources.

---

[4] The period of implementation by UN-HABITAT and UNISDR will be 36 months.

For the UNECE Action component, the monitoring, reporting and evaluation activities are set within the context of the UNECE monitoring and evaluation framework, which ensures appropriate scrutiny, oversight and review of programme implementation status. The roll-out of the monitoring and evaluation framework is overseen by the UNECE Executive Office. For the ITC Action component, the monitoring, reporting and evaluation activities are set within the context of the ITC Strategic Planning, Performance and Governance (SPPG) monitoring and evaluation system. This system, overseen and approved by the ITC Senior Management Committee (SMC), ensures the quality of the monitoring and evaluation framework.

5.5   Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner will establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual reports that are presented and discussed at the annual Action Steering Committee meeting) and final reports.

Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log-frame matrix (for Action modality) or the list of output indicators (for budget support). The report will be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action.

A first inception report will be submitted to the Commission by the end of the first 6 months of implementation, this will include the final list of selected pilot countries and partners agreed by the contracting partners of theAction. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the Action implementation.

5.6 Evaluation

The Action will be jointly undertaken by ITC and UNECE evaluation staff with expertise in evaluating programs and who are not involved in the implementation of the Action. For example, ITC maintains an Independent Evaluation Unit that would handle the ITC output areas. ITC and UNECE anticipate evaluating the Action at mid-term and final stage, as indicated in the provisional budget.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to ensuring the impact of the Action and to assess the need for a second phase to expand the scope of the action to additional government and value chain actors. The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). The evaluation reports shall be shared with partners and other key stakeholders. The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyze the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the Action.

5.7 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU. The Joint Visibility Guidelines for EC-UN actions in the field shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations. To ensure the EU visibility, and when appropriate to ensure the representation of the Commission (Headquarters or EU Delegations), UNECE, ITC, and partners shall inform in advance EC and

the EU delegations of various activities and events generated by theAction. The Actionwill develop a communication and visibility plan to raise awareness and disseminate information about Action results and outputs.

5.8 Human Resources

ITC
Within ITC, a Senior Project Manager will oversee the delivery of Outputs 3 and 4 through planning and implementation of activities as well as the external outreach and coordination with all stakeholders. The Senior Project Manager will ensure timely delivery of the Action indicators and high quality intervention in the field. The Senior Project Manager will have a key function in briefing the Steering Committee at Regular intervals and incorporating their suggestions in the Action. The Senior Project Manager will also maintain the Technical Working Group in cooperation with Action partners.

ITC will involve several key Action resources, including an IT Manager, Project Analyst, IT Assistant, and Project Assistant to service the demanding IT and technical requirements of the Action. ITC consultants, as well as consultants at the regional and country level, will be involved in ensure uptake of the Transparency and Traceability Tool and effective Training regarding transparency and traceability in sustainable textile and apparel value chains. These focal points will be selected based on specific expertise and will serve to directly support the completion of the Activities under Outputs 3 and 4 as indicated in the logframe (Annex 1b).

The ITC Sustainable and Inclusive Value Chains section will support the Project Manager and T4SD; with a focus on: (inter alia); meeting the legal and financial obligations of the Action; as final Approving Officers ; and, representatives in the Action Steering Committee and Inter-agency implementation team. Those Officials will also communicate as needed with the EC and liaise regularly with various units administering this Action.

ITC Division of Program Support (for the respective Action components under the responsibility of each implementing organisations) will provide support, review and clearance of project Action related matters ensuring compliance with the United Nations financial and staff regulations and rules. Financial Services will also support T4SD to prepare interim and final financial reports on Action outcomes.

ITC Project Manager will provide strategic guidance on the implementation and delivery of the communications and visibility plan of the Action by developing global communications materials and inputs on publication materials developed by the project coordinator, programme officers as well as network partners. ITC Project Manager will also provide support by monitoring the smooth implementation of the Action activities, reporting on the outputs and outcomes of the Action, communicating regularly with the EC and liaising regularly with the various stakeholders involved in the framework initiative, among other functions directly contributing to the delivery of this Action. The Project Manager will exchange on a regular basis to enable coherence regarding the delivery of Outputs 3 and 4 of the Action.

UNECE

This Action will be managed in UNECE by a Senior Project Coordinator who will oversee the delivery of Outputs 1, 2 and 5 of the Action, by including the planning and implementation of activities as well as the external outreach and coordination with all stakeholders. The Project coordinator will ensure highest quality standards towards the achievement of indicators and monitoring risks associated with the Action. The Project Coordinator will have a key function of briefing the Steering Committee at regular intervals and incorporating their suggestions into the

Action. The Project Coordinator will service the TST Steering Committee in cooperation with Action partners. The Project coordinators in UNECE will remain abreast of new developments in sustainability in the clothing and textile sector and coordinates regularly with a broad base of partners.

Focal points involved in the implementation of the Action activities will report to the Project Coordinator in UNECE, including consultants working at the regional and country level, particularly to ensure smooth implementation in pilot governments and private companies. Those focal points will work directly with a variety of national, local and international stakeholders in their corresponding cities to deliver the targets outlined in the logframe (Annex 1b). These focal points will be selected with specific technical expertise, with a view to tailor the activities to the beneficiaries as deemed appropriate.

Other technical experts will be recruited as necessary to provide additional support in delivery of Outputs 1, 2 and 5. These experts will have solid experience in the following areas: traceability and sustainability in international trade, specifically for the clothing and textile industry, and agriculture/agri-food industry sector. Those who have experience in planning and logistics, value chain management, product and life cycle analyses, as well as environmental, social, and human health impacts of parts, components, and production processes of global value chains are eligible to be members of the UN/CEFACT group of experts or the development of the action initiative.

The UNECE Trade Facilitation Chief of Section will support the Project Coordinator and his/her team; with a focus on: (inter alia); meeting the legal and financial obligations of the Action; as final Approving Officers ; and, representatives in the Action Steering Committee and Inter-agency implementation team. Those Officials will also communicate as needed with the European Commission and liaise regularly with various units administering thisAction.

UNECE Financial Officers (for the respective Action components under the responsibility of each implementing organisations) will provide support, clearance and accountability to the Action in ensuring compliance with the United Nations Administrative Rules and regulations. They will also prepare interim and final financial reports on Actionoutcomes.

UNECE Project Coordinator will provide strategic guidance on the implementation and delivery of the communications and visibility plan of the Action by developing global communications materials and inputs on publication materials developed by the project coordinator, programme officers as well as network partners. UNECE Project Coordinators will also provide support by monitoring the smooth implementation of the Action activities, reporting on the outputs and outcomes of theAction, communicating regularly with the European Commission and liaising regularly with the various stakeholders involved in the framework initiative, among other functions directly contributing to the delivery of this Action. The Project Coordinator will exchange on a regular basis to enable coherence regarding the delivery of Outputs 1, 2 and 5 of theAction.

5.9 Financial Support to Third Parties

UNECE will provide financial support to third parties for activities associated with Outputs 1 and 2. The third party institutions will be selected in consultation with the members of the TST Steering Committee, with the objective to improve the support provided to governments and private companies through implementing policies, standards and guidelines for transparency and traceability of sustainable garment value chains in the respective contexts.

At initial stage, UNECE may consider providing financial support to the following third parties institutions: non-governmental organizations, not-for-profit and academic institutions. These institutions will be selected in full compliance with the United Nations Financial Regulations

and Rules, policies, directives and procedures governing grants. ITC does not envision the provision of financial support to third parties for activities associated with Outputs 3, and 4.

Annex 1A

INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR ACTION MODALITY)

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of Outputs as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Improvement of the sustainable consumption & production patterns in the textile and apparel industry, through the development and implementation of an international framework initiative on traceability in the textile value chains. (contributes to SDG Goal 12).	Number of countries and companies with sustainable consumption and production policies or action plans applying the international framework initiative (contributes to SDG Target 12.1, .6, .8).	Clothing generates USD3 trillion annual revenues and produces 80 billion garment pieces. There is no global framework and there is no Sustainability Tool for transparency & traceability in the textile industry.	(UNECE) A global framework for traceability in textile and leather value chains is adopted in 2021 and implemented by at least 1 country and 4 companies by 2022. (ITC) A global public good, in the form of a Transparency and Traceability Tool, is implemented and operational in at least 3 countries and with 25,000 factories /suppliers by 2022.	(UNECE) Number of countries and companies with sustainable consumption and production policies action plans applying the international framework initiative (ITC) Number of countries and factories/supplier showing uptake of sustainable consumption and production policies applying the Transparency and Traceability Tool.	Producing and consuming countries and retailing companies agree to adopt an international framework initiative for transparency and traceability in the textile value chains. Commitment of stakeholders and required experts

Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	Improved understanding of and capacity to enhance transparency and traceability along the value chain	(UNECE) Number of countries, companies and other key stakeholders engaging in the multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform	30 members in 2019	At least 100 members in 2022	Comprehensive reports from the project call for action & national action plans for sustainable consumption and production in the textile and leather industries.	Countries and companies will participate in UN/CEFACT working group meetings, and in the multi-stakeholder policy dialogue platform and will provide information and share good practices in the context of the new framework initiative.
		(UNECE) Increased number of countries and companies trained in applying the new set of policies, standards and guidelines	No pilot countries in 2019 No pilot companies in 2019	1 pilot country in 2022 4 pilot companies in 2022 (Covering the entire value chain, from raw material production to retail)	Reports from partner countries and companies	Partner countries and companies in all regions will voluntarily adopt, apply and report on the implementation of the new framework initiative.
		(ITC) Number of producers, suppliers, consumers, and other key stakeholders connected through sustainable value chains via the Transparency and Traceability Tool	No pilot countries in 2019 No pilot factories/suppliers utilizing the tool in 2019	3-5 pilot countries in 2022 10,000 pilot factories/suppliers utilizing the Tool in 2022	Internal tracking data from Tool and reports from partner countries and companies	Commitment of private sector partners in implementing transparency and traceability too
		(ITC) Increased number of countries and companies trained in applying VSS, codes of conduct, audit protocols, and other sustainability methods	No pilot countries in 2019 No trainings in 2019	3-5 pilot countries in 2022 160 trainings by 2022	Surveys and reports from partner countries and companies	Commitment of private sector partners and countries to VSS and sustainability trainings

Results/Outputs	**Output 1 (UNECE):** A "Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue Platform" on transparency and traceability for sustainable textile and leather value chains to inform the development of a set of "Principles and Policy Recommendations" along with a "Call for Action" to key stakeholders for sustainable textile and leather value chains.	Number of government officials, suppliers and stakeholders participating in the multi-stakeholder policy platform and committing to the collective action to increase transparency and traceability for sustainable textile and leather value chains.	30 members in 2019	At least 100 by 2022	Multi-stakeholder working group convenes twice a year (reports from sessions) Principles and policy recommendations are adopted and disseminated Reports from the global policy dialogue meetings and outcome recommendations available.	Government and suppliers will participate in the multi-stakeholder dialogues and meetings in the context of UN/CEFACT.
	Output 2 (UNECE): A "Transparency and Traceability Standard" for sustainable textile and leather value chains along with implementation "Guidelines", involving the identification of Business Requirements and the Business Process Analysis of textile and leather value chains, in close cooperation with the private sector.	Number of suppliers in the garment sector implementing traceability systems in textile and leather value chains, including for health, social and environmental impacts.	No mapping available. No global standards exist. No implementing guidelines exist.	Mapping of traceability requirements developed (4 BPAs) A set of new standards is developed Guidelines developed	Mapping of traceability requirements available A set of new standards is available to countries and companies Guidelines available to the stakeholders in the garment industry	A large panel of suppliers in the textile and leather industries will participate in the Action and apply the new standards

Output 3 (ITC): A "Transparency and Traceability Tool" that leverages the ITC Sustainability Map platform and offers customized, open self-assessment and data sharing solutions and tools for textile and apparel value chain stakeholders per ITC's Global Public Goods policies	Number of customized questionnaires developed	No customized questionnaires	TBD: Based on number of partners involved	Analytics/reports from the Technical Working Group on the implementation of the Tool	Private sector partners and governments remain committed to uptake of sustainability requirements and the Transparency and Traceability Tool
	Number of online and offline databases developed	No database developed	1 database developed (2019)	Analytical data from the Tool	
	Number of countries implementing the Tool	No countries implementing Tool	3-5 countries implementing Tool (2022)	Reports from Action partners	
	Number of factories/suppliers implementing the Tool	No factories/supplier implementing Tool	10,000 factories/suppliers implementing tool (2022)		
Output 4 (ITC): "Training and Continuous Improvement" programme. Building off uptake of the Tool and in collaboration with private sector partners, implemented in a subset of textile and apparel EU-export oriented countries (3-5) in order to; 1) improve uptake of sustainability in value chains and; 2) to obtain a proof of concept and move to scale for wider implementation in multiple producing and export countries.	Number of e-learnings or training curriculums developed	No training curriculum or PIs developed	1 training curriculum and set of PIs developed	Post-training surveys from implementing partners	Private sector and country partners remain committed to sustainability and VSS-related training
	Number of countries in which VSS training curriculum is implemented	No countries	4 countries (2022)		Relevant stakeholders will attend workshops
	Number of companies reporting implementation of VSS or other sustainability methods as a result of the action	No companies	20 companies (2022)		

	Output 5 (UNECE): A "Training and Awareness Raising" programme based on the Policy Recommendation and Standard Scheme developed by UN/CEFACT, targeting all stakeholders in the textile and leather value chains to enable implementation, sharing of experience and lessons learned, and to bring in continuous improvement in the transparency and traceability framework.	Number of parties in the garment industry trained on traceability approaches, standards & guidelines for sustainable value chains for textiles and leather.	Not applicable Not applicable Not applicable	6 training/coaching sessions in total on the use of the tool and application of the standards A visibility and communication plan is developed Concluding conference for peer learning is organized at the end of the Action	Reports from the sessions, reflecting on outcomes and commitments by partners The plan is developed and implemented – Report on progress every 6 months Reports from the annual sessions	Relevant stakeholders will attend the training/coaching sessions and become trainers / experts in the application of the new standards
	Gender Marker (Cross cutting)	Meetings, Standards and the online tool systematically incorporate gender consideration	None	1 pilot country and 4 companies consider gender aspects in their respective initiatives while applying the new standards	Detailed reports by partners will reflect initiatives to ensure gender-balanced approaches.	As the sector employs 80% of women, the average rate of women involved in the Action activities will be high.