



## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT DANISH FASHION INSTITUTE

PERIOD: 31 OCTOBER 2015 31 OCTOBER 2017

### STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

31 October 2017

*To our stakeholders,*

*It is a pleasure to confirm Danish Fashion Institute's continued support of the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.*

*In August 2016, the board of Danish Fashion Institute passed and immediately implemented Global Fashion Agenda as a new direction for the institute. As a not-for-profit initiative, Global Fashion Agenda will mobilise the global fashion system to change the way we produce, market and consume fashion becoming the leading global actor on development of the industry. Global Fashion Agenda will steer Danish Fashion Institute as an organisation and the general fashion industry in a sustainability-focused direction.*

*This Communication on Engagement (COE) focuses on the activities of Global Fashion Agenda, how these contribute to a more sustainable fashion industry and thereby support the Global Compact and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are committed to continuing our work and engaging in activities such as; joining and proposing partnership projects on corporate sustainability in the local and global fashion industry, engaging companies in issues related to the Global Compact as well as join and/or support special initiatives and work streams.*

*We support public accountability and transparency, which is why we report on progress according to the Global Compact COE policy.*

*Sincerely yours,*

Eva Kruse

CEO  
Danish Fashion Institute

Danish Fashion Institute A/S  
Frederiksholms Kanal 30-C  
DK-1220 København K  
[info@danishfashioninstitute.dk](mailto:info@danishfashioninstitute.dk)  
[www.danishfashioninstitute.dk](http://www.danishfashioninstitute.dk)  
[www.globalfashionagenda.com](http://www.globalfashionagenda.com)  
Phone: +45 70 20 30 68



## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS AND RELATED OUTCOMES

Danish Fashion Institute's Global Fashion Agenda is a not-for-profit initiative with the objective to become the leading global actor on the development of a comprehensive, sustainable fashion industry. The initiative functions as a leadership forum with a vision to mobilise the global fashion system to change the way we produce, market and consume fashion.

Since the launch of Global Fashion Agenda, Danish Fashion Institute has been taking action on the following topics; setting a common agenda, facilitating solution sharing, providing insights and inspiring action. Below is a description of each Global Fashion Agenda project encompassing these topics. These initiatives engage a broader audience and translate complex knowledge and tools into accessible resources for executives and creatives alike.

All activities support Global Compact's principles; labour, environment, human rights and anti-corruption while actively addressing and promoting solutions to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

### ***SETTING A COMMON AGENDA***

#### **A. COPENHAGEN FASHION SUMMIT**

The flagship event of Global Fashion Agenda is the annual Copenhagen Fashion Summit, which is the leading event within sustainability in fashion. In addition to the main event, the Summit includes a vast number of side-events (see: Facilitate Solution Sharing, section E, F and G), making it a global sustainability centre for an entire week. The Summit has become a meeting point for the most forward-thinking leaders and actors in the industry within sustainable fashion.

In 2017, the Summit evolved into a more interactive forum to inspire action and innovation. In the light of the newly released 2017 *Pulse of The Fashion Industry* report (see: Provide Insights, section J) four specific topics, uncovered by the report as opportunities for sustainability in fashion, was addressed at the Summit including circular design, supply chain transparency and sustainable consumption.

#### **B. AGENDA SETTING**

In collaboration with a selected group of strategic partners Global Fashion Agenda will lead a global sustainability conversation and create a platform to share and promote industry standards such as The Higg Index. Global Fashion Agenda will co-develop yearly recommendations with strategic partners that will be put forward to the entire industry and jointly support commitments within the industry for tangible action. Global Fashion Agenda also engages with government officials

*Danish Fashion Institute A/S  
Frederiksholms Kanal 30-C  
DK-1220 København K*

*[info@danishfashioninstitute.dk](mailto:info@danishfashioninstitute.dk)  
[www.danishfashioninstitute.dk](http://www.danishfashioninstitute.dk)  
[www.globalfashionagenda.com](http://www.globalfashionagenda.com)  
Phone: +45 70 20 30 68*



to advocate for positive regulatory changes to facilitate commitment and action by the fashion industry. In 2017, Global Fashion Agenda entered partnerships to consult and engage stakeholders within topics such as human rights and health and safety issues, reflecting the UN Global Compact principles on a higher scale.

## C. CALL TO ACTION

In 2017, Global Fashion Agenda called on fashion brands and retailers to sign a 2020 Circular Fashion System Commitment to accelerate the transition to a circular fashion system. The signatories commit to a number of action points and will report on their progress annually. Global Fashion Agenda supports the work through knowledge sharing, policy engagement and by facilitating industry alignment. Activities such as webinars and toolboxes are provided by Global Fashion Agenda to assist the signatories in understanding and implementing the chosen action points.

## D. ETHICAL CHARTER

In support of the Global Compact Principle on social and ethical issues, Global Fashion Agenda will develop an Ethical Charter for models in the fashion industry including guidelines for health checks and work-related discrimination. This will be based on the ground-breaking work Danish Fashion Institute has done with the Danish Fashion Ethical Charter under which the world's first health check for models was launched in January 2017.

## ***FACILITATING SOLUTION SHARING***

### ***LEARNING THROUGH ACADEMIA:***

*To ensure the level of knowledge throughout the fashion value chain, it has been key to ensure the academic voice in the sustainability discussion.*

## E. YOUTH FASHION SUMMIT

The Youth Fashion Summit's mission is to create an active link between the next generation of designers, business leaders and the established industry. Throughout 2016 and 2017 +100 students from +60 countries have developed a framework for the global fashion industry on how to reach the 2030 SDGs and have drafted a UNEP resolution on fashion. This work was presented by the students at the UNGC Leaders Summit in 2017.

*Danish Fashion Institute A/S  
Frederiksholms Kanal 30-C  
DK-1220 København K  
[info@danishfashioninstitute.dk](mailto:info@danishfashioninstitute.dk)  
[www.danishfashioninstitute.dk](http://www.danishfashioninstitute.dk)  
[www.globalfashionagenda.com](http://www.globalfashionagenda.com)  
Phone: +45 70 20 30 68*

## F. EDUCATORS SUMMIT

The Educators Summit is a platform for teachers to exchange ideas and experiences on how to effectively teach sustainability and to build a strong international network around it. The mission is to bring industry and academia together to unlock their interactive potential and help overcome the challenges facing the fashion industry.

The Educators Summit provided teachers of design, communication and business a convenient and effective opportunity to build and grow their networks, explore new collaborations and help each other navigate the broad, vaguely defined and quickly developing topic of sustainability.

## G. ACADEMIC LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Academic Leaders' Round Table sought to convene the most influential decision-makers from across fashion education, industry and non-governmental organisations for an intimate discussion informing the development of sustainability in global fashion.

The aim of Academic Leaders' Round Table was to explore visions of a transformed fashion education and business system through a sustainability lens and to look at ways to increase cooperation. The round table provided an opportunity to discover shared imperatives and ambitions as well as to identify what education and business need to conclusively make a distinctive, vital contribution to the transformation of the fashion industry.

## ***PROVIDING INSIGHTS***

### H. 2017 *PULSE OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY* REPORT

In the first *Pulse of the Fashion Industry* report (released May 2017), the Global Fashion Agenda, in collaboration with The Boston Consulting Group, have made an in-depth assessment of the fashion industry's environmental and social performance. Drawing on the Sustainable Apparel Coalition's Higg Index and a survey of more than 90 senior managers responsible for sustainability issues and a variety of other sources, it offers the first comprehensive common fact base on the health of the industry – with a "Pulse Score" by type of company, size, region and stage in the value chain. The "Pulse Score" covers all principles; human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

## I. ECAP: European Clothing Action Plan

European Clothing Action Plan (ECAP) is a project supported by EU Life Funding and C&A Foundation. Launched in September 2015, the project focuses on the clothing supply chain to reduce waste and bring about efficient waste recovery by adopting a circular approach across the European fashion industry.

Design for Longevity, an ECAP sub-project, is an online platform providing designers and product developers with sustainability knowledge through best practise examples and a variety of tools including editorial articles, videos and how-to guides. The purpose of Design for Longevity is to inspire creation of fashion while reducing the environmental footprint.

ECAP specifically supports the Principle 9: Environment by encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

## *INSPIRING ACTION*

### J. INDUSTRY SPEED-DATING

Global Fashion Agenda has continued to develop the highly successful format: Industry speed-dating. The concept is simple: participating fashion brands are carefully matched with relevant sustainable manufactures based on a pre-screening. This amounts to hundreds of business meetings between applicable suppliers, relevant companies in a highly suitable setting. Speed-dating helps (primarily) fashion SMEs take the first important steps towards implementing sustainability, using sustainable solutions.