

About Trade Partners Sweden

Association of Trade Partners Sweden is a modern international business network that deals with trade in the most serious way. We support our members, agents, distributors, importers, and suppliers that operate in several industries such as fashion, interior & design, shoes, accessories, industry, and food & beverage. Trade Partners Sweden facilitates collaboration, knowledge sharing, networking, and cooperation within our sectors. The collegiate approach among us and our members has led us to always strive to empower a more sustainable trade.

About Stockholm Fashion District

Stockholm Fashion District is an innovative and unique community and business network and venue with digital and physical showrooms open 365 days a year, fashion weeks with a focus on trade that brings together Swedish and international brands and buyers, textile events, and forums for creativity and creation as well as the possibility for further development through seminars and workshops. The district is visited annually by designers, e-commerce, retail, international delegations, and stakeholders. The concentration of companies and organizations works more efficiently together and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience within the UN Global Compact.

Part I Statement of Continued support

António Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that we at Trade Partners Sweden and Stockholm Fashion District support the ten principles of the United Nations Global Goals on Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact in advancing these principles and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following ways:

- Support UN Global Compact business participants in implanting and reporting on their supporting sustainable efforts.
- Be a trusted business voice. Our association will raise awareness, spread knowledge, and engage companies in sustainable issues.
- We are well equipped to offer sector-specific advice and guidance on key sustainability issues.

On the Communication of Engagement, we describe our organization's actions to support the UN Global Compact and its principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,



Helena Waker
CEO

Part II Descriptions of actions

1. Newsletters and information

2. Seminars, workshops, and round table talks with experts in sustainability and the Global goals

3. Digital networking groups in different sectors working with sustainability and the Global goals

During Trade Partners Sweden's network meetings, we gather member companies to connect and discuss current topics, including sustainability. We also invite speakers and mentors who can help the companies in various areas. As an organization, we will continue to convey and update our members with new information to grow and achieve common goals in line with the industry development.

4. Joined and supported partnership in projects on corporate sustainability

5. Encouragement for Action

How can we, Stockholm Fashion District and Association of Trade Partners Sweden, contribute to a more sustainable fashion industry and help spread good examples? Asking ourselves this question led to the introduction of the award *Encouragement for Action*, which is created with the UN Global Goals as a base and inspiration.



Encouragement for Action was established in 2018 by Stockholm Fashion District and Association of Trade Partners Sweden as an encouragement award and an exhibition with the aim of encouraging sustainability and development in the fashion industry. Stockholm Fashion District and Association of Trade Partners Sweden always aim to work in an including manner and together with a renowned jury, important organizations, and stakeholders in our network, we award selected companies and brands through recognition for an achievement in form of a product, a project or equivalent. The award should be seen as an encouragement to continue the path and as an inspiration for others to continue to develop their sustainability journey. In this way, Stockholm Fashion District and Association of Trade Partners Sweden contributes to creating awareness of important ideas within sustainability in our industry.

The four categories: Closing the loop, Fashion Retail Talks Sustainability, Fashion Tech and Sustainable Identity.

- **Closing the loop**

The enabling of reuse and a circular economy where waste and the environmental impact have been minimized to the extent that a cycle exists or is perceived as an opportunity close in time. New business models are the solution to the problem of continued consumption in a more sustainable manner with respect for raw materials, the environment, and people.

Previous winners: Rekotex (2018), re:newcell (2019, Södra/OnceMore® (2020), Popswap (2021).

- **Fashion innovation**

Digital and innovative advances that have led to or soon will lead to a positive sustainable change. We encourage those who with a new perspective or through new technology have found solutions and linked fashion to development. Innovation stands for daring to be a visionary and pave the way for others.

Previous winners: We aRe SpinDye (2018), Atacac (2019), Guringo Design Studio (2020), Coloreel (2021).

- **Fashion retail talks sustainability**

The use of digital or physical meetings with the customer to encourage consumers to make more sustainable choices regarding how and what to consume at the time of purchase. Sales must involve caring for the customer and all actors must be part of the journey towards a more sustainable consumer society.

Previous winners: Filippa K (2018), Nudie Jeans (2019), Archive Stockholm (2020), Dedicated (2021).

- **Sustainable Identity**

A product or brand that with its sustainable identity has entered the market with a narrative. In the conversation about the product or brand, we become aware of sustainability as a starting point, which accompanies the product or brand in its encounter with the outside world.

Previous winners: Swedish Stockings (2018), Bite Studios (2019), Asket (2020), Rave Review (2021).

7. The Encouragement for Action Talks 2021

Last year we arranged talks during the Encouragement for Actions ceremony and turned it into a podcast.

Speakers & Subjects:

- **Fashion and existential sustainability**

Philip Warkander, Assistant professor in fashion studies, Lund University

“In order to make fashion more sustainable, it is necessary that we place it in a larger cultural context, in this way connecting specific fashion-related issues with how we live our lives, what we view as valuable and how we understand what is ‘meaningful’ in our existence.”

- **Sustainability and social injustice**

Moussa Mchangama, Co-founder of In Futurum

Moussa Mchangama based his talk on the following quotes:

“In conceiving of a sustainable human future, we need to do more than think about who we have been and who we are. We need rather urgently to focus on the question of ‘who are we hoping to become’ and how are we going to get there.” (Henrietta Moore 2017)

“I have a hard time accepting diversity as a synonym for justice. Diversity is a corporate strategy. It’s a strategy designed to ensure that the institution functions in the same way that it functioned

before, except that you now have some black faces and brown faces. It's a difference that doesn't make a difference." (Angela Davis 2015)

"Overcoming these disconnections, strengthening the threads tying together our various issues and movements, is, I would argue, the most pressing task of anyone concerned with social and economic justice. It is the only way to build a counterpower sufficiently robust to win against the forces protecting the highly profitable but increasingly untenable status quo." (Naomi Klein 2016)

- **No more time for bullshit**

Hanna Wittrock, Assistant professor in textile management at The Swedish School of Textiles, University of Borås

"We all know that the environmental situation regarding sustainability is severe. Many of us also know that the fashion industry is the world's second most polluting industry, responsible for 10 percent of global carbon emissions and 20 percent of all wastewaters. Several projects, both within and between the industry and academia, have been initiated – but the process is slow. It is too slow. What is hindering the process towards sustainability? Why are we still engaging in so much BS? In this presentation, I will share some of my thoughts on the reasons and possible solutions to the BS of sustainability work – without hopefully, contributing too much to the BS myself."

Listen to the podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/user-210649212/encouragement-for-action-2021-talks>

8. Swedish Shoe Environmental Initiative (SSEI)

Swedish Shoe Environmental Initiative (SSEI) is an initiative developed by major actors in the Swedish Shoe Industry and started with an idea and support from our organization, Trade Partners Sweden. SSEI is a network currently consisting of companies/organizations from the Swedish Shoe Industry and Trade Partners Sweden is supporting it with knowledge and administration.

The first objective of SSEI is to develop a tool/index that will help single companies to reduce the environmental and social impacts of production of shoes. The second objective is to increase the knowledge about the environmental impacts in a life-cycle perspective for footwear at the participating companies/organizations. The footwear index that will be developed by SSEI can be used for manufacturing, purchase, and in the longer term also for communication to the end consumers.

Part III Measurement of Outcome

1. All companies that have digital showrooms at www.stockholmfashiondistrict.se can report which global goals they are working with and are therefore connected to UN Global Compact by a link. That means new connections with around 500 companies that we encourage to both review their sustainability efforts as well as communicate them to their customers.
2. During our exhibitions, we have had talks and promoted UN Global Compact to all participants. We have had expert speakers and invited the Swedish Global compact as a member of the jury.
3. During our exhibitions, we have also connected companies with different goals to encourage them to work closer to UN Global Compact and use the tools.
4. Re:newcell participated and is now a member.