

ETSA Statement of Continued Support for the United Nations Global Compact

Dear Sanda Ojiambo and the team at the United Nations Global Compact,

As the newly elected President [of the European Textile Service Association \(ETSA\)](#), I, Dr Thomas Neyers am delighted to write to you on behalf of our esteemed organization to express our unyielding continued support for the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and its commendable initiatives. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to participate in this transformative journey, and we affirm our commitment to the principles of sustainability and responsible business conduct advocated by the UNGC.

ETSA, representing textile rental firms, suppliers, and national associations, has been steadfastly dedicated to promoting the interests of the textile service industry since its establishment in almost three decades ago. The textile service industry plays an essential role in global society, offering crucial industries such as healthcare, hospitality and human services the tools necessary to do their jobs and keep global infrastructure running, thereby safeguarding human life. Our members have continued to provide their services during the course of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the global energy crisis, ensuring citizens of the world have access to quality and hygienic textiles. By offering safe, sustainable and a circular business models, our members contribute not only to the continual function of the world's infrastructure but also are key players in the global fight to improve sustainability and compact climate change.

Recognizing the urgent need to address the pressing environmental challenges faced by our planet, ETSA is also a proud [European Commission Climate Pact Ambassador](#), a position it has held since 2021. This honour signifies our commitment to advance sustainable practices and embrace green innovation across ETSA Membership. We are acutely aware that transitioning towards a low-carbon and circular economy is essential for safeguarding our planet's future and the well-being of coming generations.

The UNGC's Ten Principles, encompassing human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, deeply resonate with the values and objectives of ETSA and its members. We firmly believe that responsible business conduct is crucial for achieving long-term success, fostering social progress, and preserving the Earth's natural resources. By aligning our efforts with the UNGC, we aim to enhance the well-being of our employees, minimize our environmental footprint, and promote ethical business practices within the textile service value chain.

In line with the UNGC's ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ETSA is committed to pursuing the following key initiatives:

- **Promoting Sustainable Supply Chains:** We will actively collaborate with our members, suppliers, and partners to develop and implement sustainable sourcing and procurement strategies, emphasizing responsible resource management and reducing waste generation.

- **Advancing Social Responsibility:** We will prioritize fair labour practices, gender equality, and diversity within the textile service industry.
- **Embracing Circular Economy Principles:** ETSA will continue to champion the transition towards a circular economy by advocating for the reuse, recycling, and repurposing of textile products. As a an inherently circular industry and a leader in the practice, ETSA will seek to encourage innovation in product design, manufacturing processes, and waste management, ensuring the efficient utilization of resources and the reduction of environmental impact.

As the new President of ETSA, I am fully committed to driving positive change within our industry and advocating for sustainability in all its dimensions. By actively participating in the UNGC, we seek to inspire others and contribute to the global movement for a more just, equitable, and environmentally conscious world.

ETSA President

Dr Thomas Neyers



ETSA-The European Textile Service Association

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