

São Paulo, December 23, 2023

António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Nova York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Through this, Abit – the Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association – wishes to reaffirm its commitment to comply with and disseminate the Ten Principles of the Global Compact.

The private sector plays a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (such as poverty eradication, social equality, combating corruption, and addressing negative environmental impacts), and Abit, recognizing this relevance, strives to align the Brazilian textile and apparel sector with global agendas, not only in achieving the SDGs but also in compliance with the Principles of the Global Compact.

As the representative of an industry sector that has more than 22,500 companies and employs around 1.3 million people directly, Abit has been advocating for a fairer and more competitive industry that ensures decent jobs and sustained growth through best practices.

A recent example of our institution's engagement with global sustainability agendas was its active participation in the SCORE Project in Brazil. The SCORE methodology (Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises) was developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and implemented in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Its aim is to increase productivity and improve working conditions for small and medium-sized companies through practical training and individual consultancy.

In Brazil, the initiative seeks to strengthen garment companies in the metropolitan region of São Paulo through training for increase productivity, competitiveness, and collaboration in the workplace. The ILO's project, in partnership with Abit and ABVTEX (Brazilian Textile Retail Association), worked with SENAI (National Service for Industrial Learning) to adapt and apply the SCORE methodology in eight selected companies during the period from 2022 to 2023. Preliminary results, from November 2023, showed an average increase of 15% in productivity and a 12% reduction in rework in small and medium-sized companies. In large companies, there was a 19% increase in productivity and a 21% reduction in rework. The project is scheduled to end in November 2024.

Another noteworthy initiative is the Alliance for the Brazilian Fashion's Decarbonization, where Abit, together with the Chemical and Textile Industry Technology Center - SENAI Cetiqt and ABVTEX, mobilized to disseminate methodologies for measuring greenhouse gas emissions and to promote transparency in the Brazilian fashion value chain. The project culminated in the launch, in November 2023, of a guide to measuring and inventorying greenhouse gas emissions aimed at companies in the fashion industry. The guide was developed based on the professional training of thirty textile manufacturers and retailers, consisting of six modules covering key concepts, instruments, and protocols related to the subject.

The two initiatives mentioned are just examples of the recent involvement of the organization. All other initiatives can be verified in the detailed report available on Abit's Global Compact Engagement Communication page.

Consistency and persistence in addressing the challenges of the global sustainability agenda have been Abit's approach for over 60 years, representing the Brazilian textile and apparel sector. Aware that this journey is destined to progress steadily and that cooperation enables significant advances, we express our gratitude by once again reaffirming our commitment to the Global Compact.

Sincerely,



Fernando Valente Pimentel  
President Emeritus | CEO