

# COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

## Global Fashion Agenda

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:  
1 January 2022 – 31 December 2023

### *Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive*

8 April 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Global Fashion Agenda reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organisation like ours.

Ms. Federica Marchionni  
Chief Executive Officer  
Global Fashion Agenda

### *Part II. Descriptions of Actions*

Actions that Global Fashion Agenda has taken in support of the Global Compact:

#### **Forums**

- Organised the annual [Global Fashion Summit](#) which convened the fashion industry, multilateral organisations, industry associations, political decision-makers and more to find common solutions to implement social and environmental sustainability and take action.
- The 2022 Summit was centred on the theme 'Alliances for a New Era', where we explored the cross-industrial collaborations which will act as inspiration for the fashion industry to scale sustainable solutions inspired by other industries.
- In November 2022, GFA hosted its first international Summit in Singapore which facilitated even more conversations with manufacturer and supply chain voices to discuss crucial challenges and opportunities around working collaboratively with brands on equal terms. Global Fashion Summit: Singapore Edition assembled over 300 stakeholders representing manufacturers, garment workers, retailers, brands, suppliers, NGOs, policy, and innovators in Singapore and online to spur industry impact.
- The 2023 Summits, hosted in Copenhagen in June and Boston in September, convened more than 1300 attendees across both locations for over 60 hours of live dialogue under the theme 'Ambition to Action', tailored towards forging a net positive fashion sector.
- GFA continued to showcase innovators and solution providers throughout its events in the [Innovation Forum](#). During the Forum, GFA facilitated partnerships between innovators and world-leading fashion brands and retailers in a matchmaking programme. Across the two years, over 800 business connections between fashion companies and sustainable solution providers were arranged at the Summits.

## Policy

- GFA proactively advocates for policy changes and supportive measures that reinforce sustainability targets and incentivise necessary change. GFA's policy goal is to convene and connect relevant policymakers with fashion industry decision-makers in a collaborative effort to effectively accelerate the fashion industry's sustainability performance.
- Between 2022-2023, GFA has facilitated multiple policy roundtables addressing issues such as eco-design, consumer empowerment, and corporate sustainability, among others.
- GFA launched the Global Textile Policy Forum in 2023 which seeks to address the need for global policy coordination outlined by various actors including UNEP's report, [Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain – A global roadmap](#), by providing a platform for governments and textile industry associations from around the world to 1) meet, discuss and agree on an ambitious sustainability pathway for the industry and the global policy framework(s) needed to support this; 2) raise and amplify supply chain voices and increase capacity building towards the agreed pathway and 3) spread the experiences and likely impact of the EU Textiles Strategy outside of the EU.
- GFA facilitated [insightful discussions](#) with influential figures as Global Fashion Summits, such as Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries and Dr. Anna Kelles, Member of Assembly, New York State Assembly.
- Furthermore, GFA published Policy Matrixes for the [EU](#) and the [Americas](#), with our commitment to knowledge-sharing underscored by the policy content in the [Fashion CEO Agenda](#) and [The GFA Monitor](#).
- Together with the [Policy Hub-Circularity for Apparel and Footwear](#), GFA contributed to the development of regulations like [Eco-design for Sustainable Products](#), [Green Claims](#), [Empowering Consumers](#), [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence](#), [Waste Framework](#), and the upcoming [Textile Labelling Regulation](#) revision, among others.

## Impact

- Circular Systems:
  - GFA continued the [Circular Fashion Partnership \(CFP\)](#) - a cross-sectorial project to support the development of the textile recycling industry in Bangladesh by capturing and directing post-production fashion waste back into the production of new fashion products.
  - In 2023 over 10.6 million kilograms of waste was collected and segregated as part of the CFP in Bangladesh. 2023 also saw the registration of more than 170 manufacturing facilities and continued collaboration with seven supporting partner brands: H&M, C&A, BESTSELLER, Primark, OVS, Benetton, Teddy.
  - GFA also launched the Global Circular Fashion Forum (GCFF). The GCFF responds to global brands and retailers' ambitions to significantly increase use of recycled content in new textiles, and national apparel manufacturers' ambitions to turn waste into value and deliver circular services to their customers. The GCFF advocates for a global, full value chain perspective to transitioning the fashion industry to a circular one, and to ensure that manufacturers and manufacturing countries are actively part of designing a new system that they can reap benefit from. Convening stakeholders across various circularity programmes and regions, sharing knowledge, and building upon best practices.
- Renewable Energy:

- At COP28 in Dubai, GFA, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and international fashion companies BESTSELLER and H&M Group announced their intention to develop the first offshore wind project in Bangladesh, a project with the potential to significantly increase the availability of renewable energy in one of the fashion industry's most important manufacturing countries.

### Thought Leadership:

- [Fashion CEO Agenda](#): GFA continued to publish the Fashion CEO Agenda'22 and '23 – presenting a concise report to support the establishment and implementation of leadership strategies to achieve a net positive fashion sector. It presents five socio-environmental sustainability priorities the industry should focus on to secure prosperity for people and communities while working within planetary boundaries: Respectful and Secure Work Environments, Better Wage Systems, Resource Stewardship, Smart Material Choices, and Circular Systems.
- [Scaling Circularity Report](#): In 2021, Global Fashion Agenda and McKinsey & Company presented the scaling circularity report which shared lessons learned from the Circular Fashion Partnership for building pre-competitive collaborations to scale upstream circular fashion systems.
- [GFA Monitor](#): GFA published The GFA Monitor in '22 and '23, which is intended as a converged resource for guiding the fashion industry towards a net positive fashion industry. The GFA Monitor presents industry progress across five holistic sustainability priorities while also providing a clear overview of actions, credible tools, solutions, and proven best practices.
- [Fashion Industry Target Consultation](#): In 2023, GFA conducted a [Fashion Industry Target Consultation](#) (FITC) co-led with the United Environment Programme (UNEP). Between November 2022 and February 2023, over 900 industry stakeholders representing 90 countries shared their insights on identified performance indicators and milestones through an online survey and through several regional workshops. Insights captured through the consultation were presented in both the [Fashion CEO Agenda 2023](#) and [The GFA Monitor 2023](#).

### Education:

- 2023 saw the official launch of the [GFA Academy](#), under which aims to provide information, guidance, and inspiration to the fashion industry and its consumers. Building on Global Fashion Agenda's foundation of sustainability knowledge we aim to bring our insights to a wider audience.
- GFA, supported by Fashion Values, revealed the eight members of the inaugural [Next Gen Assembly](#), who together contributed to Global Fashion Summit and a storytelling Masterclass, formulated a Next Gen Assembly Manifesto, and made invaluable contributions to GFA throughout the year.
- GFA Academy hosted nine educational [Masterclasses](#) – five on The GFA Monitor, one on storytelling with the Next Gen Assembly, and three consumer Masterclasses.

- Three brands and sustainable solution providers participated in the GFA Designer Challenge. Namely, Heliot Emil and Upcycle Labs, Puma and Nicole McLaughlin, and Colina Strada and Renewcell.

### *Part III. Measurement of Outcomes*

GFA Actions	UN Global Compact Principles	Measurement
Global Fashion Summit	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1300+ fashion stakeholders from 70+ countries and 500+ organisations convened at Summits</li> <li>• 400+ meetings facilitates between companies and solution providers</li> <li>• 20+ roundtable meetings to foster collaboration and commit to changes</li> </ul>
Policy	4, 6, 7, 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70+ policy stakeholders convened at the EU and global level</li> <li>• 1.1K+ downloads of Policy Matrix publications created for EU and Americas which are regularly updated</li> <li>• 10 policy roundtable meetings hosted by GFA in 2022 + 2023</li> <li>• 7 legislative files configured with the Policy Hub</li> </ul>
Impact	7,8,9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100M USD pledged by brands to invest in offshore wind project in Bangladesh which is expected to contribute to substantial job creation, stabilise energy supply, and reduce emissions by approximately 725,000 tonnes annually.</li> <li>• As of November 2023, the GCFF and its National Circular Fashion Partnerships have recycled 10685 tonnes of textile waste (equivalent to approximately 60 million t-shirts)<sup>[4]</sup>, by establishing a cooperative community of some 179 manufactures, 15 waste handlers, and 22 recyclers.</li> </ul>
Thought Leadership	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5K+ downloads of thought leadership publications including the Fashion CEO Agenda and GFA Monitor which support the UN Global Compact Principles</li> </ul>
Education	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2K+ attendees from 500+ organisations tuned in to online masterclasses in '23, from 60+ countries</li> </ul>