

Fashion industry stakeholders convened for Circular Textiles Roundtable hosted at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City by the Fashion Impact Fund and Lenzing Fibers.

New York City, New York - To mark the 3rd annual World Circular Textiles Day, which took place on 8th October, an action-oriented Roundtable with a select group of industry pioneers came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City to identify realistic and achievable priority milestones over the next three decades to create the foundation for a Roadmap to Full Textiles Circularity.

Representatives from the co-founding organisations of World Circular Textiles Day (WCTD), including Circle Economy (Netherlands), Centre for Circular Design (London) and Worn Again Technologies (UK), together with Lenzing Fibers (US) and in collaboration with the United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network hosted the Circular Textiles Roundtable with key stakeholders from across the circularity landscape, including textile collectors and sorters to brands/retailers, industry associations and policy makers.

The United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network, a joint initiative of the Fashion Impact Fund and United Nations (UN) Office for Partnerships, is a UN hosted online platform for industry stakeholders, media, Governments, and UN system entities to showcase collaborations that accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participants were brought together to vision and populate a textiles circularity roadmap to 2050, identifying key milestones for transitioning from the current linear model of ‘make, use and waste’ to one which is circular, where products and materials are kept in continual circulation, and replace the use of virgin materials use, and industry workers are supported in equitable, socially just and resilient societies.

The roundtable took a future systems thinking approach, across three core themes: Materials and Planetary boundaries, Products and Services, and People and Society and across three distinct development phases over the next 3 decades.

*Cyndi Rhoades, Founder Worn Again Technologies, Co-Founder WCTD shares: “The scale of change required to transition to a fully circular textiles industry is immense but can be broken down into bite sized and achievable phases and delivery plans. Designing and aligning on circular strategies for implementation and action across the industry **today** is crucial for achieving future goals and delivering beneficial outcomes for society, economics, and the environment in equal measures. Convening these committed industry leaders to evolve collective knowledge and strengthen relationships is a crucial step in fast-tracking necessary change.”*

Kerry Bannigan, Executive Director, Fashion Impact Fund, adds: “The United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network fosters transparent, inclusive, and transformative engagement of global stakeholders to drive urgent action for sustainability. The Circular Textiles roundtable aligned with our objective to mobilize expertise, innovation, technology, and resources towards a sustainable and inclusive COVID-19 recovery, with the Sustainable Development Goals as a guiding framework.”

Key insights generated by some of the industry's leading pioneers included:

- **Technology** – a clear, rationalised plan for scaling up between now and 2050 is needed, for all parts of the collecting, sorting, pre-processing and recycling stages
- **Scope 3** – education, training, new investment and business models are needed to transform the supply chain, including multi-stakeholder models for ownership and distribution
- **Data/Digitisation** – a data-driven approach embedded as soon as possible, to enable greater understanding and efficiencies for circular flows
- **Policy** – development of Government policies for micro, meso and macro actions, that includes alignment between global North and South actors

Overall, the group expressed a desire to see 'turbo stakeholder collaboration' and more partnerships established, at a greater pace. They also noted a lack of information and action around the social innovation potential for the circular textiles industry and requested more information on realistic and fair proposals for transformation.

Tori Piscatelli, Regional Marketing Manager, Lenzing Fibers, comments: "Witnessing leaders across the textile industry come together at the United Nations to engage in collaborative exercises and conversations on circularity, in itself, shows the urgency and need to work together to set up systems and guidelines to achieve this common goal. Most notably, I remember one participant saying 'We need to go faster. Let's get there now.'"

Karla Magruder, Accelerating Circularity, adds: "At Accelerating Circularity we call ourselves a "Do Tank" and ask everyone we work with to provide their expertise and energy to making the textile-to-textile circular transition. It's not enough. At WCTD 3 key systems, Product & Services, Materials and People have been put forth as essential. To enable circularity, we must align on all strategies to implement and accelerate this necessary revolution. "Action", "change", "fast" are descriptors we use for the textile industry. Let's show the world we can take the required ACTION to CHANGE FAST and create a textile industry worthy of the needs of our industry and world."

The roadmap template will be released in the coming months and will be used as a foundation for integrating existing industry circularity and decarbonisation commitments, as well as for setting a longer-term framework across a range of topics, including transparency, traceability, social metrics, legislation, design, circular materials and products & services. The aim of the Roadmap is to focus industry activities on aligned activities that will accelerate circularity momentum while support the industry in reaching its climate targets and delivering against multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

The Countdown to 2050

The textiles industry is still in the very early years of circularity. There is a long way to go before a functioning and balanced circular system is achieved, where products and materials are kept in continual circulation, virgin resources are replaced with circular and renewable materials and nothing goes to landfill. And all of this underpinned by dignity, equity and equality for the people involved in all parts of the circular value chain. WCTD set out a provocation at its launch in 2020: that it will be a three-decade journey to go from today's broken, linear industry through to a fully circular system.

Participants

22 x In-Person Roundtable Attendees:

Marisa Adler, Senior Consultant, Resource Recycling Systems
Chad Bolick, VP Brand Sales - Global Key Accounts, Unifi Manufacturing, Inc.
Steven Bethell, Founder, Bank & Vogue, BVH Services Beyond Retro
Carmen Gama Ramirez, Director of Circular Design, Eileen Fisher
Steven Usdan, Founder, Giotex US
Stephanie Warrick, Industry Engagement Director Apparel Impact Institute
Tricia Carey, Director of Business Development - Americas and Denim, Lenzing Fiber
Cyndi Rhoades, Founder, Worn Again Technologies
Rebecca Earley, Professor of Circular Design Futures, UAL
Caroline Rush, CEO, British Fashion Council
Caitlyn Holt, Director, Product and Business Innovation - Cone Denim, Elevate Textiles
Cynthia Power, VP of Brand Success, Recurate
Martin Bösch, CEO, Bei Texaid AG
Ann Runnel, Founder & CEO, Reverse Resources
Boris Mercier, VP Marketing, Recover
Peter Majeranowski, CEO & Co-Founder, Circ
Karla Magruder, Founder, Accelerating Circularity
Paola Laudazi, Senior Accounts Manager, Eon
Raymond Randall, Sr. Manager, Textiles - Sustainability Growth Solutions, WM
Kerry Bannigan, Executive Director, Fashion Impact Fund
Megan McAstocker, Head of Events and Programs, Fashion Impact Fund
Tori Piscatelli, Regional Marketing Manager, Lenzing Fibers

5 x Virtual Attendees:

Hilde Van Duijn, Capacity Development Programme Lead, Circle Economy
Arnoud Passenier, Strategic Advisor on Circular Economy, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure & water Management | Environment Directorate | International Affairs
Taylor Hill, Senior Manager Circular Solutions, Bleckmann
Ke Wang Program Director, PACE (on behalf of Stientje vanVeldhoven, Vice President/Regional Director Europe, WRI)

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About the Lenzing Group

The Lenzing Group stands for ecologically responsible production of specialty fibers made from the renewable raw material wood. As an innovation leader, Lenzing is a partner of global textile and nonwoven manufacturers and drives many new technological developments.

The Lenzing Group's high-quality fibers form the basis for a variety of textile applications ranging from elegant clothing to versatile denims and high-performance sports clothing. Due to their consistent high quality, their biodegradability and compostability Lenzing fibers are also highly suitable for hygiene products and agricultural applications.

The business model of the Lenzing Group goes far beyond that of a traditional fiber producer. Together with its customers and partners, Lenzing develops innovative products along the value chain, creating added value for consumers. The Lenzing Group strives for the efficient utilization and processing of all raw materials and offers solutions to help redirect the textile sector towards a closed-loop economy. In order to reduce the speed of global warming and to accomplish the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement and the "Green Deal" of the EU Commission, Lenzing has a clear vision: namely to make a zero-carbon future come true.

Key Facts & Figures Lenzing Group 2021

Revenue: EUR 2.19 bn

Nominal capacity: 1,145,000 tonnes

Number of employees (headcount): 7,958

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About World Circular Textiles Day

World Circular Textiles Day was founded in 2020 to instil a sense of collaboration and positivity within the textile industry. It has set 2050 as a marker for achieving full textile circularity, focusing on Materials and Planetary boundaries, Products and Services, and People and Society with three distinct and evolutionary phases. The organisation was co-founded by [Circle Economy](#), UAL's [Centre for Circular Design](#), and [Worn Again Technologies](#). To date, over 160 signatories have joined the initiative, including global groups such as Kering, H&M, GAP, Eileen Fisher, and Veolia. WCTD provides a framework for circularity stakeholders to develop and deliver a collaborative, evolving roadmap and to chart's circularity progress on the [WCTD Knowledge Hub](#), the world's largest digital archive of circular textiles case studies.

<https://worldcirculartextilesday.com/>

About United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network

The United Nations Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network is an online platform for industry, media, Governments, and UN system entities to showcase inclusive and transformative collaborations by global stakeholders driving action within the fashion and lifestyle sectors using the Sustainable Development Goals as a guiding framework. The Network is a joint initiative of the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Fashion Impact Fund. To date, over 138 initiatives are registered from 60 countries.

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/conscious-fashion-and-lifestyle-network>