

“Future supply chain relations: Production countries’ perspectives and expectations”

Panel discussion in the course of the Annual Meeting of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles – November 25th, 2020, 11:00 – 13:00

Context

COVID-19 has destabilized the garment industry at an unforeseen scale and has brought to light vulnerabilities across all players in the supply chain. Beyond navigating the immediate impacts of the pandemic, the industry faces tough decisions on how to shape future supply chain relations. A strong collaboration from all stakeholders is imperative if the industry wishes to use the current crisis as a catalyst for change to become more resilient and to transform itself towards a more digital and sustainable future. In this panel discussion we want to provide a platform for different actors from production countries to voice their perspectives and expectations on what a “new normal” can and should look like.

Format

During the panel we will firstly aim to give a broad overview of the current situation within the industry. The German political perspective on current challenges for the garment’s industry will be conveyed by Minister Gerd Müller (tbc) **(1)**. An input by Ms. Hedrich from McKinsey will provide the plenum with an overview of research results on how brands and retailers’ are currently managing the crisis. She will also highlight recommended strategies and approaches beyond immediate crisis management **(2)**.

Afterwards, the invited panelists will be able to provide the plenum with their perspectives and expectations regarding future supply chain relations. Strategies and suggestions from producers’ and workers’ perspectives to tackle topics such as responsible purchasing practices, digital capabilities to recover from the crisis, supply chain transparency and improvement of social and environmental standards should be pivotal in the discussion **(3)**. A Q&A session will offer participants the possibility to directly address questions to the panelists.

Lastly, a response from BMZ by PSt Dr. Maria Flachsbarth will summarize the government’s take on key aspects of the panel discussion **(4)**. Her reflections on discussed themes serves as a transition for the plenum to break away into the annual meetings’ respective workshops.

Draft Agenda

1. **Welcome** by Partnership for Sustainable Textiles Office Head Dr. Jürgen Janssen
2. **Setting the scene: an impulse from McKinsey** by Ms. Saskia Hedrich “Time for change: How to use the crisis to make fashion sourcing more agile and sustainable”
3. **Panel Discussion (intended panelists)**
 - Trade Associations representatives
 - **Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA)** – President Ms. Rubana Huq
 - **International Apparel Federation (IAF)** – Secretary General Mathijs Crietee
 - Producer
 - **Dakota Garment Group** – Head of Operations Mr. Herman Leung
 - Union & NGO Representatives
 - **Awaj Foundation** – Founder and Executive Director Ms. Nazma Akter
 - **IndustriALL** – Director, Textile and Garment Industry Ms. Christina Hajagos-Clausen
4. **A reply: reactions to the discussion** from BMZ by Dr. Maria Flachsbarth