



**UN ALLIANCE
FOR SUSTAINABLE
FASHION**

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FASHION

CHEMICALS, IMPACT & SOLUTIONS

September 26th, 11AM- 1PM, at 10 Corso Como Milan

ROUNDTABLE CONTEXT

This roundtable is organized with Milano Fashion Institute under the patronage of Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana (CNMI) as part of the Ethical Fashion Initiative's exhibition "The Cotton Road – A Journey from Seed to Garment", taking place at 10 Corso Como, from September 25th to the 28th.

BACKGROUND

Chemicals are an integral part of the fashion industry, present throughout the entire life cycle of garments. From the cultivation of natural fibres – where pesticides and fertilizers are commonly used – to textile production and processing, which involves a wide array of dyes, solvents, and finishing agents, chemicals play a central role in modern clothing manufacture. During the use phase, synthetic materials such as polyester can release micro-fibres, and certain dyes and treatments may have direct effects on the skin. At the end-of-life stage, discarded clothing contributes to environmental pollution through microplastics in water systems and the leaching of hazardous substances in landfills and incineration.

ABOUT THE EVENT

This event will offer a platform for open discussion on the impact of chemicals in fashion and the transition towards more sustainable practices. It will feature a keynote address by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, who will outline the global risks associated with chemicals in textiles. The BRS Conventions are international agreements that aim to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes through sound management and international cooperation.

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Camera Nazionale
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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

THE PROGRAMME

Opening Session – (11:00 – 11:20)

- Paola Deda, Chair of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion
- Simone Cipriani, Dean Milano Fashion Institute
- Keynote: Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Speaker Presentations – (11:20 – 12:00)

- UNECE: Lialiana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief, Forests and the Bioeconomy Section
- FAO: Piedad Martin, Deputy Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment
- WIPO: Dalila Hamou, Director of External Relation
- BRS: Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
- UNEP: Bettina Heller, Coordinator of the UNEP Textile Initiative

Moderated discussion & exchanges in between the speakers - (12:00 – 12:30)

Q&A with Audience – (12:30 – 12:50)

Closing Remarks - (12:50 - 13:00)

Audience

The event is intended for stakeholders attending **Milan Fashion Week in September**, including designers, brands, manufacturers, buyers, sustainability experts, media, and influencers. These participants represent key voices in shaping the future of fashion and will be invited to engage in a constructive dialogue on the environmental and health impacts of chemical use across the industry.

ABOUT

UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

This event is produced with the financial support of the European Union (EU) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and the Pacific States (OACPS) under the ACP – Business Friendly Programme.



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