

Textiles Industry Sector

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025

Time: 15:00 - 18:15

Modality: Hybrid

Convened by: UNEP, Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC), Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK), and Ambition Loop

Context and Background

Textiles are woven into the everyday fabric of life. However, the waste and toxins associated with both natural and synthetic fibers has reached global proportions, affecting ecosystem and human health in profound ways. Engaging the textiles industry across the entire value chain will be critical in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals.

Many chemicals used in textile and leather production are known to have adverse health and environmental impacts, and it is estimated that producing 1 kilogram of textiles requires more than half a kilogram of chemicals, with over 15 000 chemicals estimated to be used across the manufacturing processes. Multiple initiatives and programmes have been established to address the health and pollution impacts of chemicals used across the textiles value chain. Those include initiatives to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals in production, accelerate finance towards safer alternatives and increase traceability and access to data across the value chain.

This event will focus on safe and sustainable management of chemicals in the textiles sector and explore how this could be achieved through an implementation programmes for industry engagement.

Session Objectives

The sessions aim to raise awareness of the existing measures to address the use of chemicals in the textiles sector and discuss how to align existing initiatives with the targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) through an industry engagement Implementation Programme (IP). During session 1 (hybrid panel), participants will hear from leading industry experts about measures needed to reduce the health and pollution impacts of chemicals across the textile value chain. This will be followed by the in-person session 2, where participants will be invited to join interactive discussions on specific areas that the IP should cover in order to achieve the targets of the GFC.



Agenda Session 1: 15:00-16:30 (hybrid)

The session aims to increase awareness about textiles specific issues and initiatives relevant for GFC. The speakers will represent different stakeholder groups (industry, NGO, government etc.) and share a perspective that is in line with the thematic topics discussed later in session 2.

Time	Flow and speakers
15:00 – 15:10 (10 min)	Moderator: Ms Yiliqi, Scientist & Senior Manager, Environmental Health, NRDC (in person) Welcome and setting the scene Ms Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP (in person)
15:10 – 16:00 (50 min)	Moderated panel: addressing textiles specific aspects under the Global Framework on Chemicals Panel 1: Why Implementation Programme (15 min) - Mr Jago Wadley, International Advocacy Manager, PAN UK: development of an industry engagement implementation programme for textiles (in person) - Mr Marcelo Lobo, Country Manager – Brazil, ZDHC (in person) Panel 2: Textiles and GFC (35 min) - Dr Tadesse Amara, Executive Director, PAN Ethiopia: Highly Hazardous Pesticides and safer alternatives in cotton production (in person) - Mr Debaaj Abidi, National Project Coordinator – Pakistan, ILO: occupational and community safety and health (online) - Mr Mariano Piñeyrua, co-founder and CEO, TraceSurfer: data and traceability tools in emerging markets (in person) - Ms Tanya Cox, Manager - Biodiversity & Nature, Chronos Sustainability: finance (in person) - Ms. Keima Gardener, Waste Management Specialist, Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs & Development, Trinidad and Tobago (in-person)
16:00 – 16:20 (20 min)	Audience Q&A

16:20 – 16:30 (10 min)	Closing of session The role of multilateralism in addressing chemicals use in the textiles industry Mr Agustin Harte, Programme Management Officer Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, UNEP
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Break: 15 minutes Session 2: 16:45-18:15 (in person only)

Session 2 will be organized as an interactive workshop in breakout groups convened by key stakeholders involved in the development of the textiles sector. It will discuss themes of importance for the textiles industry when it comes to chemicals management, with a view to confirming priority areas of the IP and input to its development. TBC: Some discussions can be organized fully online for stakeholders who are not present in Uruguay.

Time	Content Introduction to session 2
16:45 – 16:55	Moderator, Mr Jago Wadley, International Advocacy Manager, PAN UK
16:55 – 17:45	Breakout Discussions Purpose: Focused discussions on addressing textiles specific areas in order to further develop an Implementation Programme for textiles industry engagement. Each group will cover specific guiding questions as well as cross-cutting topics such as standards and financing. Group A: Transparency, data and traceability Moderator: Ms Paula Guerra, Co-Founder, Plastics Lead, Ambition Loop Group B: Chemicals of Concern and their replacement Moderator: Mr Jago Wadley, International Advocacy Manager, PAN UK Group C: Occupational and Community Health and Safety Moderator: tbc
17:45 – 18:15	Summary and next steps Each group will summarize discussions from their groups. Moderator will outline the next steps and invite expression of interest.