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UN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION  
BACKGROUND GUIDE  
TRITONMUN XXII (VIRTUAL) – MAY 1ST, 2021

MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

# BACKGROUND GUIDE TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Head Chair Letter..... 2

Vice Chair Letter..... 3

Position Paper Guidelines..... 4

Committee Background..... #

Topic: Moving from Fast Fashion to Sustainable Fashion ..... 5

    Key Terms..... 5

    Background..... 6

    UN Involvement..... 8

    Concluding Remarks..... 10

    Questions to Consider..... 11

    Suggested Sites..... 11



## HEAD CHAIR LETTER

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Dear delegates,

Hello! I'm Kylee, and it is my absolute honor to serve as your Head Chair alongside my Vice Chair, Fabi. I did MUN in high school, and this marks my 4th year participating in MUN. Being a part of MUN has led me to find some of my favorite people in college and in high school, and I have made a lot of my future goals because of my experience learning about global affairs.

Currently, I am getting my degree in international studies with a focus on political science at the university. One of my passions is learning about global politics and the history behind what we see unfolding between world leaders and governments today. I love helping people and believe that politics should be about making things better for everyone, and not about personal gain or biases. In graduate school, I hope to earn a degree in human rights and social justice. One day, I hope to work at the United Nations and bring compassion and love for all people.

I absolutely cannot wait to hear what you all have to say about this topic — with fast fashion's exponential growth the last few years, the sustainability of fashion is a topic that is not talked about enough. The fashion industry's impact on climate change is a detrimental one. Hopefully, this committee will allow you to take some time in your lives to implement some of the practices we will be discussing. I am going to be paying close attention to your diplomacy, willingness to participate, and creativity. If you have any questions or would like to introduce yourself, please don't hesitate to email me.

Sincerely,

Kylee Traylor

Head Chair – UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

[kyleet@ucsdmun.org](mailto:kyleet@ucsdmun.org)

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## VICE CHAIR LETTER

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Delegates of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion ,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all as your Vice Chair of this committee. My name is Fabi, and I am currently a Freshman at the university, majoring in General Biology. As an individual, I thoroughly enjoy drawing, watching movies and casual gaming, as cliché as it may sound (cliches exist for a reason, to be fair). Although I have to admit, I tend to watch movies for their costumes or sets, rather than for the plot itself, which would explain why some of my favorite films include the likes of La La Land, Bulbul, Canola (highly recommend Bulbul if you are interested in seeing the history of South Asian fashion). Regardless of being a pre-med student, MUN has been one of my interests since high school. This is my fourth year doing MUN, with the opportunity of being a delegate in conferences and a part of the executive committee. Speech and Debate is something I have been involved in for a long while now, however, more recently, I have started to get more interested in foreign politics. As an international student, it has fascinated me how the country I lived in has worked with other neighboring countries. I am particularly intent on seeing the arguments the delegates will present to this special committee. Fashion has always been a great interest of mine and advocating for reforms in the industry processes is something that I strongly believe in.

I look forward to meeting you all during this conference and wish you the best of luck with research and preparation.

Best,

Fabi S. Huda

Vice Chair – UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

[fhuda@ucsd.edu](mailto:fhuda@ucsd.edu)

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## POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

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### TRITONMUN POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
  - Requests for extensions must be sent by the advisor to TritonMUN by April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Position Papers can be submitted by one of two ways:
  1. The Google Form linked here, <https://forms.gle/AeBpcTpGjFXejbxd7>  
(Advisors will be emailed a Google Form link that can be used by advisors)
  2. Email to: [tritonpositionpapers@gmail.com](mailto:tritonpositionpapers@gmail.com)
    - Please Note: This email is strictly for submissions of position papers. You will not receive a reply from this email. For any concerns that require a response, please email [tritonmun.ucsd@gmail.com](mailto:tritonmun.ucsd@gmail.com).
- There should be two pages per topic with an additional page for citations, for a total of 3 pages.
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures.
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
  - Background
  - Past Actions by the Committee (if applicable)
  - Position of your Country/Person
  - Possible Solutions
- At the top of each paper, include your country/person, name, committee, and topic.

## UN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION

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### KEY TERMS

- **Textiles** -Textiles are created from fibers and threads from natural or artificial materials. Textile includes threads, cords, nets, and a lot more. Textile fibers are made into fabrics using different methods like weaving, knitting, and felting
  - **Fast Fashion** - Fast fashion is a term used to describe a highly profitable business model based on replicating catwalk trends and high-fashion designs, and mass-producing them at a low cost.
  - **Sustainable Fashion** - Sustainable fashion is a movement and process of fostering change to fashion products and the fashion system towards greater ecological integrity and social justice. Sustainable fashion concerns more than just addressing fashion textiles or products. It comprises addressing the whole system of fashion.
  - **Raw materials** - A raw material, also known as a feedstock, unprocessed material, or primary commodity, is a basic material that is used to produce goods, finished products, etc
  - **Climate change** - "Climate change" for our purposes directly refers to the change in climate patterns that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity.
  - **UN Sustainable Development Goal 9** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
  - **UN Sustainable Development Goal 12** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
  - **UN Sustainable Development Goal 17** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
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## BACKGROUND

Fashion and clothing have become a part of day to day lives, simply due to its undeniable impact in the making of one's identity. This relationship has resulted in an industry with multiple styles, each catering to a different audience. From fast fashion online stores, to high quality boutiques of luxury fashion, the scope is endless when



it comes to an individual developing their own sense of style. However, this massive industry results in some detrimental effects on the world, due to a strong demand from a growing population and the need of the industry to keep up with it.

The clothing and textile industry in particular massively impacts multiple sectors in our economy with a contribution of \$2.4 trillion to global manufacturing and employs around 86 million people worldwide (mostly women in less economically developed countries, or LEDCs). Expected to only grow as the years come, the industry alone employs approximately 60 million people worldwide and opens up prospects for jobs for many years to come. However, the industry comes at a cost, being a major contributor to the environment by adding 8-10% of the world's greenhouse house gas emissions. Around 20% of the world's industrial wastewater is generated by this industry, making it a big stake holder in the quest of sustainability and the environment. This role has brought into question the methods being used to produce these goods, as a notable value of \$500 billion of value is lost every year due to clothing underutilisation and lack of recycling. Given its extent of reach and size, unsustainable practices within the fashion sector have socio-environmental impacts which can make major alterations to our future lifestyles. Without swift, significant changes in the standard production processes and consumption patterns within the fashion sector, the negative effects will continue to build up and lead to irreversible damage to the environment.

This impact then raises the question of how society can preserve the integrity of fashion while making it both affordable and sustainable, which the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion hopes to address.

Such questions are reflected in other movements, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, made with the intent to create a sustainable and reliable future for the generations to come. For example, Sustainable Development Goals 9, 12, and 17 directly address how to create sustainable industrialization, consumption, and a stronger implementation of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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<https://unfashionalliance.org/>

<https://www.ideassonline.org/public/pdf/UNAllianceforSustainableFashion-ENG.pdf>

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/let-s-make-sustainability-a-fashion-statement.html>

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## UN INVOLVEMENT

The UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion is composed of several UN bodies, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Global Impact, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Climate Change, and UN Office for Partnerships, all of which work together to advocate for and create a change in the accepted practices within the fashion sector.

Furthermore, the alliance actively promotes its objectives, which lie at the core of its operations, which include the following:

1. **Promoting Active Collaboration:** The alliance encourages development through joint activities including outreach, research and new guidelines in favor of being well aware of SDG's
2. **Knowledge Sharing:** Fostering effective exchange of ideas through transparency regarding practices, data and activities through a knowledge platform
3. **Strengthening Synergies:** Working to improve harmonization and strengthening synergies between existing initiatives
4. **Outreach and Advocacy:** Works to achieve outreach and advocacy with a unified United Nations voice, targeting the private sector, governments, NGO's (non-governmental organizations) and other relevant stakeholders.

During the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the fashion industry was announced to be the second most polluting industry in the world. which prompted the involvement of other UN organizations. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), one of the 10 original members of the Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, further highlights the urgency of the situation and the reason for the creation of the organization in the first place. "The Global production of clothing and footwear generates 8% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions (...) the greenhouse gas emissions from the industry are expected to rise by almost 50% by 2030."

In addition, the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion is responsible for facilitating the exchange of ideas for the Sustainable Development Goals, both due to their affiliation with the United Nations and the purpose of the alliance. However, viewing the quest for sustainable fashion

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through a Sustainable Development Goal lens, the Alliance works to change the path of fashion in a way that reduces its negative impacts on the environment, which is seen in Sustainable Development Goals 9, 12, and 17.

Beyond their work with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Alliance created the Fashion Pact of 2019, which encompasses a total of 32 companies representing 150 brands. The pact states the commitment of these brands to more environmentally friendly sustainable practices, similar to the objectives above expressed by the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion. Other notable initiatives include the ReFashion Week NYC,

which promotes the use of sustainable fashion through second-hand reselling and recycling of clothing. Events during ReFashion week were dedicated to teaching attendees about extending the lifetime of their clothing pieces through proper care, in addition to how to redesign pieces in order to fit their new and changed tastes.



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Sustainability in fashion is something that is increasing in importance. As new businesses take advantage of the impulse purchases and the short lifespans of current fashion trends, the amount of textile waste and unethical business practices have grown tremendously. However, the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion works to address these very issues. By working together, delegates will be able to address, not only the errors of fast fashion, but also the creation and promotion of new textiles, less water usage in the textile industry, gender equality in business owning, and potential solutions to multiple SDG's in the movement away from fast fashion.

The current members of the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion have contributed to the creation of multiple movements to promote and expand the fashion industry's power and influence, proving its ability to lead in decarbonizing and pushing for a green planet. For example, Fashion4Climate has been able to engage consumers and encourage the



celebration of innovation and international creators. UN Climate Change is also a leader in promoting sustainable fashion through the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action, hoping to push the fashion industry towards zero-emissions by the year 2050. However, this work is not all that needs to be or can be done. Through new and innovative ideas, we, as a committee can start to reverse the damage done by fast fashion.

The goal of this committee is to bring forward a plan for moving away from fast fashion and towards sustainability. In order to push forward sustainable fashion, delegates should look to accomplish the following:

- Connecting marginalized communities to the international market and production system
- Push forward and create a system for ethical fashion standards
- Address the harmful nature of 'fast fashion' and present solutions for its effects on climate change
- Blur the lines between Ethical, Economical, and Ecological fashion

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can we encourage countries to implement fair and equal manufacturing practices?
2. What steps need to be taken to combat the fast fashion industry?
3. How can we connect sustainability in fashion to the other Sustainable Development Goals?
4. Why does fast fashion impact your delegation, and how can moving towards ethical business provide positive change?
5. Does social media and technology encourage stepping away from sustainability and towards cheaper and quicker alternatives?
6. What are the different ways we can aid small businesses and promote manufacturing with African artisans in particular?

## SUGGESTED SITES

- <https://www.yorkshirefabricshop.com/post/what-are-the-five-different-types-of-textiles>
- <https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/what-is-fast-fashion>
- <https://greendreamer.com/journal/what-is-sustainable-fashion>
- <https://www.itochu.co.jp/en/business/textile/field/01.html#:~:text=Such%20businesses%20include%20textile%20fabrics,is%20our%20environment%2Dfriendly%20product.>
- [https://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/background\\_publications\\_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf)
- <https://orbasics.com/blogs/stories/sustainable-fashion>
- <https://www.tencel.com/news-and-events/united-nations-debuts-alliance-for-sustainable-fashion-to-enhance-eco-fashion-initiatives>
- <https://ethicalfashioninitiative.org/>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ellevate/2019/10/07/why-sustainable-fashion-matters/?sh=7b5930aa71b8https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-alliance-sustainable-fashion-addresses-damage-fast-fashion>
- <https://www.greenstrategy.se/sustainable-fashion/what-is-sustainable-fashion/>
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

- <https://www.global-changemakers.net/post/sustainable-fashion-initiative>
  - [http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/99507/1/PDF\\_Proof%20of%20accepted%20JFMM%20article%209%20May%202016.PDF](http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/99507/1/PDF_Proof%20of%20accepted%20JFMM%20article%209%20May%202016.PDF)
  - <https://aaltodoc2.org.aalto.fi/bitstream/handle/123456789/13769/isbn9789526055732.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
  - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1035161>
  - <https://unfashionalliance.org/members/itc-efi/>
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