Dialogue and Impact
for Sustainable Textiles

Dialogue and Impact for Sustainable Textiles

A strong multi-stakeholder network for human rights and environmental protections in global textile supply chains

The Dialogue and Impact for Sustainable Textiles (DST) is committed worldwide to a **socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable textile and apparel industry** – an industry that respects human rights along the entire value chain while simultaneously protecting the climate and the environment. The network emerged from the former "Partnership for Sustainable Textiles" (2014–2025).

The focus of the DST is on **constructive exchange** and **networking** among a diverse range of committed stake-holders in the sector. Together, participants **learn from one another and develop needs-based initiatives independently** to improve environmental, living, and working conditions in producing countries.

To ensure sustainable impact and long-term anchoring of these measures, **local actors are actively involved in dialogue and implementation**.

The work of the DST is guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for promoting responsible supply chains in the garment and footwear industry.

Participants of the DST

The format brings together committed international, European, and local stakeholders from **business, trade unions, civil society, academia, sustainability initiatives/standards**, as well as the **German Federal Govern-ment (BMZ, BMAS, BMUKN)**. Participants aim for **continuous improvement in the implementation of their due diligence obligations** and actively advocate for a sustainable textile and apparel industry. They contribute actively to the dialogue, benefit from the pooled expertise and experience within the network, and can partici-pate in implementation projects.

Overview of the DST

Sounding Board
Advising and supporting emerging initiatives in their development and implementation

Requirement
- Application via CV regarding relevant experience
- Nomination of a diverse Sounding Board via BMZ

Core Offer
- Participation in the annual meeting
- Exchanges on the digital platform
- Development of and participation in joint initiatives (self-financed)

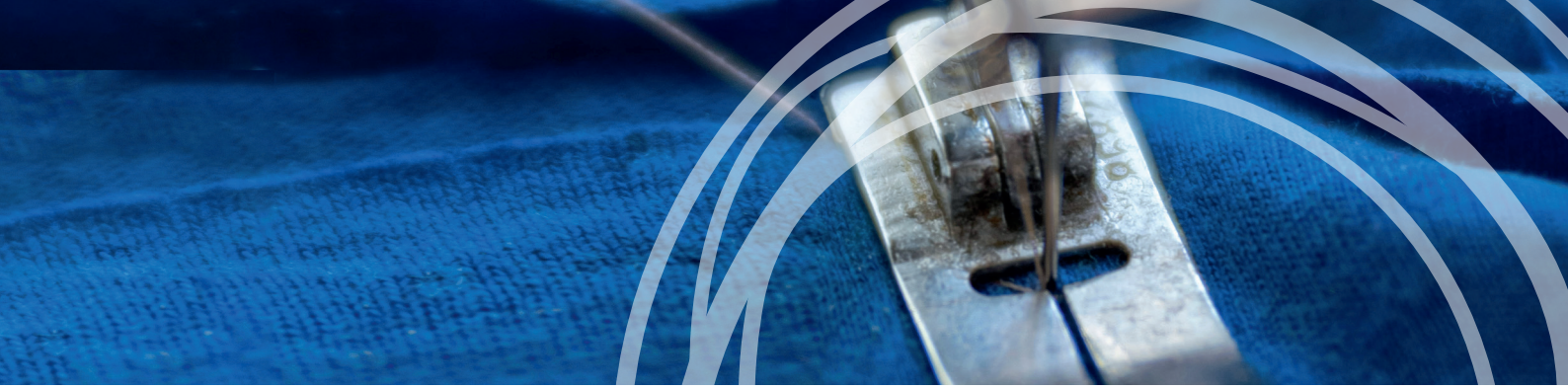
Requirement
- Acknowledgement of the Declaration of cooperation and responsibility & due diligence obligations
- Active participation in initiatives of the DST

ADDITIONAL DST OFFER – Partial funding of implementation projects through public funds:
Opportunity for collaboration in the context of partial funding for implementation initiatives using public funds (subject to availability and objectives)

Requirement
- Project proposals meet predefined criteria (regarding eligibility for funding and due diligence obligations)
- Technical feedback from the Sounding Board

PARTNER OFFERS
Networking with partners to provide (external) in-depth industry resources (training courses, webinars, tools, guidelines, etc.) For example:
- Access to exclusive Green Button peer-learning sessions
- Access to the FWF's HRDD Academy

Requirement
- Participants are companies/organisations with own supply chain
- Further conditions (e.g. fees, participant applications, etc.) are determined by the partner



The Sounding Board

The Sounding Board consists of experts from the DST circle of participants and covers a **wide range of expertise in the field of human rights and environmental due diligence** (HREDD). It advises and supports the initiatives emerging within the DST during their development and implementation and aims to involve, in particular, civil society and local stakeholders from the producing countries in a structured manner.

Actively Participate in the DST!

Help make **supply chains more resilient**, reduce the negative environmental impact of the textile industry, and improve living and working conditions, especially respect for human rights, in textile-producing countries!

Why Participation Matters

- Low-threshold opportunities for **networking and exchange in a multi-stakeholder context**
- **Exclusive access to knowledge and practical examples**, as well as contacts and local networks
- **Visibility and legitimacy** for one's own topics within the sector and the political environment
- **Effective use of resources**, e.g. through joint projects to address identified risks
- Support in the **implementation of due diligence obligations** through access to partner offerings
- **Policy Dialogue** in both directions

How Participation Works

- **Commitment to the declaration of responsibility & due diligence obligations**
  (Existing members of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles fulfill this requirement automatically)
- **Active participation in the DST:**
  - **Participation in the annual meeting**
  - **Use of the digital platform**, e.g. sharing knowledge, practical examples, and challenges; contributing contacts and networks from textile-producing countries
  - **Initiation and co-creation** of initiatives with contribution of one's own financial input

As of
April 2026

The DST is supported by the Coordination Team.
On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Coordination Team is hosted by the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

On behalf of
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