



# FIEIC :

## Fashion Industry Environmental Impact Council

Topic: Waste Reduction Strategies:  
Addressing ways to minimize waste in  
production processes, such as implementing  
zero-waste patterns, reducing fabric scraps,  
and promoting garment recycling.  
Written by: Sofia Ruiz and Fernanda  
Morales



FASHION  INDUSTRIES



# Letter to brands:

Dear brands,

We are honored to welcome you to SPISMUN 2025 and to FIEIC. In our simulation, you'll be discussing significant issues and solid solutions to eradicate these problems. I hope this simulation will leave you with knowledge, experience, and practice for forthcoming situations. We are pleased to be part of this experience that will help in your self-growth. Also, remember that this committee is fictional.

My name is Sofia Ruiz and I'll be your moderator in SPISMUN. I'm looking forward to seeing your debate skills and senses in this simulation. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me at any time. I'm hoping to give you the best experience possible. I'll try my best to focus on each of you. In case of any problem, refer to me and we'll try to solve it.

My name is Fernanda Morales and I will be your director in this simulation. I'm looking forward to giving you and other participants the best Model of United Nations Experience possible. I know, sometimes writing your position paper may be hard, but I want you to know I'm here to help you... Also, I'm here to solve any doubts during or after the debate.

In case of any doubt, these are our emails:

Sofia Ruiz

Fernanda Morales

Good luck, brands, your chair.

## Closing Statement:

Dear brands,

I hope that this background paper helped you understand the topic better for you to have a better development while debating. I wish you the best of luck while doing your position paper and while debating. We also hope you have the best experience possible during SPISMUN 2025. Remember to give the best of yourself during the debate and we hope you have the opportunity to win an award. We look forward to seeing you all in your best outfits. In case of any doubts, don't be afraid to come with us or to ask us via email.

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Good luck, brands, your chair.

# Committee overview:

The committee will concentrate on the production practices within the fashion industry, one of the most polluting industries worldwide. The production waste in the industry is majorly caused by the reagent production of fast fashion. Fast fashion is the constant provision of clothes at a very low price. Fast fashion is growing at a rapid rate. It started primarily in online shops, but as the new generation becomes more and more reliant on technology, fashion trends at a fast rate and rapidly going out of style, brands are starting to try to catch up. This results in fast fashion not only being online but also in real-shop shops.

Fast fashion affects the already damaged environment. Fast fashion and the way it impacts the environment, the net, is a well-known fact among brands, but their constant need to keep up with the demand for fashion overpowers the ethical standards of their production. It is the second biggest consumer of water in the world and around 10% of the global emission is caused by this. The manufacturing processes and excessive consumption have contributed to the generation of vast amounts of textile waste, much of which ends up in landfills, significantly harming the environment. Another aspect is the contamination of water. With the use of textiles dying, drinkable water has been affected. At the same time, the amount of water used to fabricate textiles is a major consumption.



# History of the Topic:

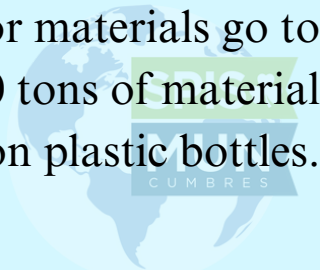
Textile waste started being a problem in 1990 since customers have bought new clothes more frequently, which means that textile waste arrives faster than in groundwater and soil. It is estimated that textile production is responsible for 20% of clean water pollution because of the dyeing and finishing of different products globally. In less than 20 years, the volume of clothing being thrown away has doubled and is expected to even triple in a few years.

The reason most textile waste has increased is because of fast fashion, which has been used more recently; because of this, brands such as Forever 21, Zara, H&M, etc. have been churning new clothes even 3 times a month because of the coming trends.

Textile waste has been impacting our environment, such as landfill overload, water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, methane gases, and toxic chemical usage, which end up in the groundwater and soil all around the world. In 2018, more than 11 million tons of textile waste were sent to landfills in countries such as the US. To produce textiles, take up to 2,700 liters of water per shirt, and also the growth of cotton to create other fibers. Production of textiles is considered to be the third largest source of water degradation and land.

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This problem affects a lot because it dries up water sources and pollutes rivers and streams, while 85% of all kinds of fabric or materials go to dumps each year. Even washing clothes releases 500,000 tons of material into the ocean each year, the equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles.



# Introduction of the Topic:

During the past century, the fashion industry has evolved drastically because trends get formed in a day, which pressures the brands to come up with new patterns and styles. The fashion industry is the second largest water consumer with the use of about 700 gallons to produce only one cotton shirt and 2000 gallons for a pair of jeans. Also, textile dyeing is the second most water-polluting cause all over the world, since all leftovers from the dyeing process are dumped into streams, ditches, and rivers.

Most brands use synthetic fibers such as polyester, acrylic, and nylon, which to degrade takes more than a hundred years. In 2017, a report made by the IUCN estimated that 35% of microplastics in the ocean come from the laundering of synthetic fiber. Also, its production is an energy-intensive process that requires huge amounts of petroleum. Fast fashion has many negative effects on the environment; it also has effects on society. In 2018, a US Department of Labor report found evidence of forced child labor in the fashion industry in Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Turkey, Vietnam, etc.

Slow fashion is a widespread reaction to fast fashion and the environmental impact that comes with it. World Resources Institute has cubes for companies to design, test, and invest in models that reuse clothes and maximize their use. Also, the UN has created the "Alliance for Sustainable Fashion" in or there to reduce the damages caused by fast fashion.





# Key players:

Some of the brands working to fight textile waste are:

H&M

H&M is a good example of a brand that helps and uses sustainable materials, which has reduced the impact on the environment in its products while promoting the circular economy.

adidas

Adidas is a prime example of how a big business can change and take responsibility for the plastic problem and pledge to use its influence to make a positive impact.

Levi's

Levi's new collection, Water<Less, uses up to 96% less water. For this cloth and all of its products, Levi's is committed to sustaining all products through the entire design and manufacturing process, including working towards 100% sustainably sourced cotton and recycling old jeans.

Ralph Lauren

This is another example of a well-known brand making a simple change, yet it can make a significant impact on the environment because of its capacity and quality. The Earth Polo (also available in men's and kid's variations) is made of recycled water bottles and uses dye products that don't require water in the application process.

Columbia

Columbia also looks at the full supply chain to improve its sustainability, but what makes it stand out from other brands is the ideas and innovation in the production process. Its Outdry Eco jackets are made from recycled water bottles; they use no dye to save over 13 gallons of water per jacket and have a water-repellent finish without harming PFCs. The brand also says that over half of its vendors are Bluesign certified, meaning they are more well organized with water, energy, and waste while following strict safety requirements.

Patagonia

In 2017, Patagonia introduced Worn Wear, which is an online platform where you can buy and trade second-hand products of the brand. In 2019 they opened a pop-up store for Worn Wear and more.

Urban Outfitters

Urban Outfitters has been focused on sustainability before it was front and center on the Internet. From upcycling and remaking clothing to having a fully recycled line of clothes, these vintage items are reaching to be a part of the circular economy.

# Current Status:

As of 2023, the fashion industry produced a surprising amount of 97 million tons of waste each year, of which 18 million were leftover fabric and materials, 2.5 million were chemical waste, and 3 million were from packaging materials. Textile production is estimated to be responsible for about 20% of global clean water pollution from dye and finishing products.

It takes a lot of water to produce textiles, plus land to grow cotton and other fibers.

According to estimates, [2,700 liters of fresh water are required](#) to make a single cotton t-shirt, enough to fulfill one person's drinking needs for 2.5 years. On average, Europeans use nearly 26 kilos of textiles and get rid of about 11 kilos of them every year. Used clothes can be transported outside the EU, but they are mostly (87%) cremated or dumped.

The increase of fast fashion has been critical in the increase in use, driven partly by social media and the industry, bringing fashion trends to more consumers at a faster rate than in the past.

The new strategies to address this issue include developing new business models for clothing rental, designing products in a way that would make reuse and recycling easier, convincing consumers to buy clothes of better quality that last longer, and generally steering consumer behavior towards more sustainable options.



# Guiding Questions:

How does your company contribute to the environmental impact of the fashion industry? How does it address it?

What are your company's policies on this topic?

¿What efforts has your company made to address this topic?

How do the fashion industries affect the world and further increase the existing environmental conflicts?

How does your company help in reducing textile waste?

How does textile waste affect the environment?

¿What negative effects does textile waste have?

What is fast fashion?

How does textile dying affect the environment?

How is slow fashion helping the environment?

¿What has the UN done to tackle the issue?





# Quorum:

The brands participating in this simulation are:

- Zara
- H&M
- Adidas
- Oysho
- Nike
- DIOR
- Bershka
- GAP
- Pull&Bear Pull&Bear
- American Eagle
- SHEIN
- Lululemon
- TEMU
- CELINE
- CHANEL
- Stradivarius
- Ralph Lauren
- Michael Kors
- Calvin Klein
- Abercrombie



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