

## SUSTAINABILITY

technology does not require the use of salt, which otherwise is crucial to driving the dye into the fabric. This technology can be applied for dyeing cotton garments at low temperatures and also to wool in a more ecological process. Eco foot-Indigo, a hybrid pigment used in dyeing denim, avoids using toxic reducing agents that are traditionally used in converting indigo pigment to a water-soluble form. Common reducing agents are considered environmentally unfavorable, as the sulfite and sulfate generated in the dye bath can cause various problems when discharged into the wastewater. Eco foot also developed auxiliaries to prevent hydrolysis of the dye in the dyeing process, which typically requires harsh washing-off procedures to remove the hydrolyzed dye. Together with hybrid pigments and auxiliaries, more than 50 percent of water in the intermediate and final rinses can be saved in the

total process of preparation and dyeing.

### Conclusion

The next biggest global challenge is forecasted to be the Greywater Footprint, which is the hazard caused by textile dyed wastewater that is polluting the river bodies. Huntsman Dyes launched the water and energy-efficient technology for reactive dyeing of natural fiber. In 2010, Levi Strauss & Co., launched its denim made without water, polyester, and synthetics using air dyeing technique. This has a lot of options to create diversified designs in different prints and colors on opposite sides of the fabric. Many such technologies are being developed to create sustainable alternatives to cease pollution. Water conservation, energy alternatives should be the themes to be discussed for living in cohesion with nature.

## IAF and ITMF, in Collaboration with The ITC, Unveil SCI at OECD Forum



### An initiative to accelerate reduction of audit and standard fatigue

During a side session organized by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) and the International Apparel Federation (IAF) at the OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector held online from February 1st to February 5th, the two organizations unveiled their joint initiative, the SCI or Standards Convergence Initiative. The SCI will serve as a global industry wide platform to discuss and develop a strategy as well as the tools to accelerate the reduction of audit and standard fatigue in the clothing and textile industries. The auditing conduct of standard holders, along with brands, retailers and other buyers' decisions determines if we are moving firmly in the direction of less unnecessary overlap of audits and standards. Therefore, one of the first steps of the SCI, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), is to create transparency in the conduct of the main standard holders, brands and retailers and 3rd party standard holders, measuring to what extent they are contributing to the reduction of audit and standard fatigue.

For this purpose, the SCI has identified four criteria to use as a yardstick to judge standard holders' commitment to reduce audit and standard fatigue. The four criteria are:

1. Willingness to harmonize standards,
2. Compliance with OECD and ILO guidelines,
3. The use of existing platform to avoid audit duplication and
4. Global certification of auditors.

The four criteria will provide a foundation for a structural monitoring of standard holders' efforts to reduce audit and standard fatigue that will be carried out by ITC. During the session at the OECD Forum, the ITC explained how its unique Standards Map Database will be used to measure and monitor standard convergence in the industry. First results of the monitoring are expected in the third quarter of 2021.

In addition to this monitoring exercise, from its global, industry wide vantage point, the SCI will actively foster collaboration between different actors that are each working on a partial solution. And, because large brands and retailers sticking to their own standards block the reduction of standard fatigue, the SCI will continuously call on these brands and retailers to either drop their proprietary standards in favour of 3rd party standards or to collaborate in other ways that observably reduce audit and standard fatigue.

More information about the SCI is available at [www.standard-convergence-initiative.org](http://www.standard-convergence-initiative.org)