



No. 84 – February 2023

Textile manufacturers are used to change in our ever-evolving industry. The nature of the current change is crystallising around the evolution of regulatory frameworks that force production to converge toward sustainability standards. This fundamental transformation will eventually impact every producer around the world, even if driven by western consumer markets.

Gathering information throughout the entire value chain is a key success contributor that allows textile manufacturers to organise and comply to the new requirements. Follow the **ITMF Webinar Series** on circularity and digital workflow to be informed (see table of contents).



**Dr. Olivier Zieschank**  
director, ITMF

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## COMMENTARY

# Devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria

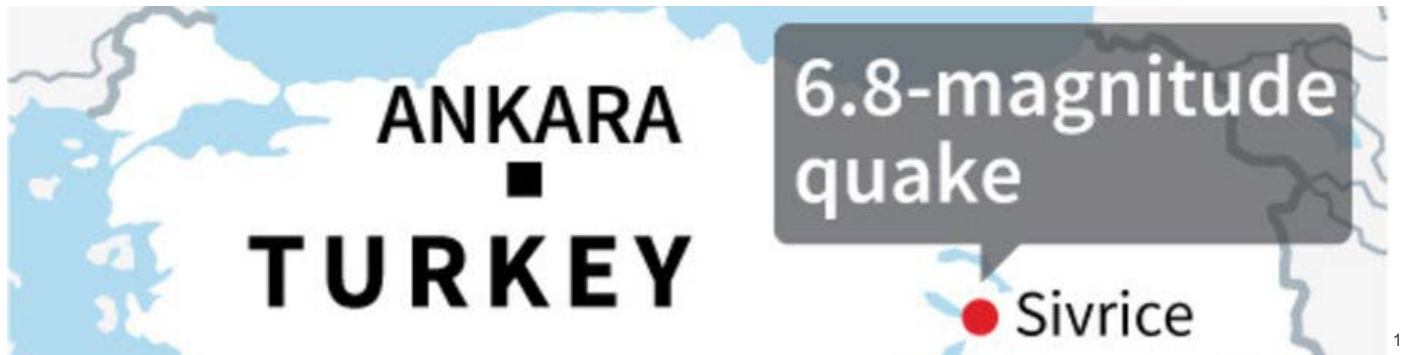
by Dr. Christian Schindler, Director General, ITMF

The terrible earthquakes of 7.8 and 7.6 on the Richter-scale that have hit Türkiye and Syria on February 6th, 2023, have caused the death of more than 44'000 persons in Türkiye and more than 6'000 persons in Syria. Many more people were injured and traumatised and have lost their homes. The destruction of the earthquakes was beyond imagination. ITMF President, Mr. Ruizhe Sun, and Director General, Mr. Christian Schindler, had written a letter of condolence to our friends and colleagues from the Turkish Textile Employers' Association (TTEA):

*"... . On behalf of the entire ITMF-family we would like to express our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to our friends and colleagues of TTEA and to the Turkish people at large. Our thoughts are with all the people that mourn the deaths of their loved ones, that are injured and that*

*have lost their homes. With admiration we are following the enormous and tireless efforts of the Turkish government, the help organisations from Türkiye and from abroad as well as the people in the region and across the entire country to recover the deaths, to rescue survivors and to help everyone on the ground to cope with this terrible situation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people that have lost their lives and that have suffered so much sorrow. We are certain that the people of Türkiye will overcome this tragedy by standing together and working together to rebuild the region for a better future. ... ."*

Since the earthquakes had struck, TTEA and its member companies have undertaken enormous efforts to coordinate and provide all sorts of assistance and support



[continued] to the people in the impacted regions which are also home of many fibre, textiles, and apparel companies. In their reply to ITMF, Mr. Ahmet Topbas, TTEA President, and Mr. Basar Ay, TTEA Secretary General, expressed their appreciation:

*"In this time of grief, we thank you for your kind letter which is a true expression of your sincere sentiments. Our sorrow for our people there is indescribable. The region hit by the earthquakes was not only home to a sizeable economic activity, but also to many ancient civilizations and world cultural heritage. Therefore, our loss is multifold.*

*We find consolation by the incredible work and solidarity of our government, national and international relief organizations, business people and civilians for helping the affected region to recover from the losses as soon as possible and ensure sustainable solutions for settlement and reconstruction.*

*Almost all the businesses in the region, including textile factories, have allowed their safe facilities with undamaged water and energy supplies for humanitarian use (as shelter and kitchen) of their employees and other locals. Once the safety and security of the people are provided, the representatives of our industry, including our members, will definitely reinvest in the region and the people of the region. Therefore, we believe, the industry there will resume very soon and continue to contribute to the value chain in the region.*

*Once again, on behalf of TTEA and our members, we thank You and the whole ITMF Family very much for the support you offered and condolences you shared."*

Together with our friends in Türkiye, the ITMF-Family mourns the deaths. At the same time, we are convinced that the will and determination of the people and companies in Türkiye to rebuild the cities, villages and factories is strong and that a bright future will emerge.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

### hpo-forecasting's view on the economy 2023



According to hpo-forecasting, the global economy will remain robust in 2023. After overconsumption in 2021, the Russia's war in Ukraine in 2022 accelerated the slow-down and normalization of the global economy by causing inflation to rise.

[> read more \(for members only\)](#)

## JOB VACANCIES

### Executive Director at ICAC



**INTERNATIONAL  
COTTON  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

The ICAC is searching for a new Executive Director to lead the organisation forward, provide leadership and encourage innovation and excellence from all members of the Secretariat. If you have experience working in the agricultural commodity industry, have executive managerial experience, are comfortable with international travel and are a citizen of an ICAC Member at the time of appointment (see Member list [here](#)), please click [here](#) to see the full job description. Fluency in English and a willingness to relocate to the Washington, DC area are required.

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## ITMF NEWS

# ITMF Webinar Series: “Circular Textile Economy”



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In cooperation with the Institute for Textile Technology (ITA) at the University of Aachen, Germany, ITMF is conducting a series of webinars on the topic of “Circular Textile Economy”. Until the end of May experts from the academia and the textile industry will share their expertise in 6 webinars of 75 minutes each. The first two webinars will take place in March.

### 1. Introduction

(March 14, 2023, from 11:00-12:15 CET)

- Circular Economy – Potential and Limits**  
Thomas Gries, ITA Aachen
- Ecological Ratings**  
Henning Wilts, Wuppertal Institute
- Tools for Circular Textile Economy**  
Stefan Schlichter, ITA Augsburg

To register for the first webinar “Introduction” on March 14, 2023 click [HERE](#)

### 2. Political Background

(March 28, 2023, from 11:00-12:15 CET)

- EU’s Green Deal & Textile Strategy**  
Mauro Scalia, Euratex
- China’s Circularity Strategy**  
Yan Yan, CNTAC
- Economic Potential & Implications**  
Lutz Walter, European Technology Platform (ETP)
- Legal Requirements & Consequences**  
Wolfgang Rommer, bifa

## ITMF Webinar Series: “Digital Workflow” – Part 1: ColorDigital

### MASTER DATA EXCHANGE



### DIGITAL TWIN FOR ALL PRODUCTS



### AND MUCH MORE:

COLOR TECHNOLOGY | AUTOMATED QUALITY CONTROL | STUDIO AVATAR | ECO IMPACT ASSESMENT

The recording of the webinar and the presentation is available for ITMF members on the ITMF Members’ Area under [“Virtual Forum”](#).

ITMF held the first webinar in the webinar series “**Digital Workflows**” on February 8<sup>th</sup> with [ColorDigital](#), one of the winners of the [ITMF Start-up Awards 2023](#).

During this webinar about connecting suppliers and brands in an efficient and sustainable way, Mr. Gerd Willschütz, CEO of ColorDigital, presented the DMix platform, “an interactive digital platform to connect suppliers and brands in an efficient and sustainable way”.

He showed how textile manufacturers can digitize products and product development workflows to maximise scalability and effectivity (saving time and resources) and digitally exchange dyed and finished fabrics between brands and supply chain partners.

The DMix platform is built around an eco-system that included everything from designing and creating digital prototypes to managing data and connecting with clients. Some of the key features of the platform are:

- a unique approach to manage color and appearance, creating a standard view that closely resembles reality;
- a library of customizable human characters in various poses and standard sizes to illustrate your products;
- a real-time meta data platform offering full product detail transparency from supplier to market;
- the foundation for further developments such as the digital product passport and overall reporting for brands.

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## ITMF Webinar Series: “Digital Workflow” – Part 2: Frontier.Cool



Frontier is a first of its kind digital fabric platform, utilizing AI to build the world's most powerful textile and fabric image exchange for the apparel and fashion industries.

To register for the webinar with Frontier.Cool on March 15, 2023 click [HERE](#)

[Frontier.Cool](#) is a start-up that presented at the ITMF Annual Conference 2022 in Davos, Switzerland and will be our second guest in the ITMF's webinar-series “**Digital Workflow**”. Frontier.Cool will share “*How to digitize the textile business to become more efficient*” in an interactive webinar that will take place on **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 11:00-12:00 CET**. Some key topics:

**Technical basics:** Macro trends driving digitalization and innovation in the fashion industry | The textile sector can leverage and capitalize on digital technologies | The opportunities for sustainability management, workflow efficiency, and operational optimization through Frontier's innovative platform.

**Navigation:** Effortless management and collaborative sharing of textile data | Automated 3D material creation | Environmental impact data visualization

## ITMF's newest members

ITMF has welcomed 2 new Corporate Members in the last few weeks. This illustrates how important our unique platform is for companies from different regions in the world from all segments of the textile value chain.



Gatsby aims at accelerating inclusive and resilient economic growth in East Africa and is active in a mix of sectors across agriculture, manufacturing, agro-processing, and services. In textiles, Gatsby supports East Africa to realise the window of opportunity of jobs moving from Asia – through triggering early deals and investments that begin to position East Africa as a responsible destination for apparel production.

[> read more](#)



**BAC GIANG  
GARMENT  
CORPORATION LGG**

Bac Giang LGG Garment Corp is a large-scale, modern and prestigious international textile and garment corporation in the global textile supply chain. LGG aims to become the leading factory in Vietnam for manufacturing jackets with high productivity, good quality, and on-time delivery. The company has many branches such as LGG Bac Giang, LGG International, LGG Tuyen Quang, LGG Central, LGG Hanoi, LGG Korea.

[> read more](#)

## PARTNER NEWS

### Virtual SCI-Side Session at the OECD Forum 2023



Standard Convergence Initiative

1. a set of [measurable ITC Standards Map criteria](#) that best represent the SCI principles has been selected for each preparedness principle
2. Any standard can be assessed against the SCI criteria to determine the level of preparedness
3. If a standard body addresses most selected criteria, then the standard shows a [propensity for convergence](#).

The Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI) – a joint initiative by ITMF and IAF – aims to reduce standard fatigue in the textile value chain.

IAF and ITMF collaborate with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to promote transparency and convergence of standards. For that purpose, the SCI has developed four principles for assessing a standard level of preparedness for convergence across social requirements. It is encouraging to see that the score for standards assessments shows an improvement between February 2022 and February 2023, which means that standard holders have a higher propensity for convergence. Whether this translates to more convergence in the industry is the crucial question. Furthermore, the two 3<sup>rd</sup> party standard holders OEKO-TEX and WRAP have presented their cooperation for harmonisation and alignment. The two partners develop a combined audit approach for the pilot.

The recording of the session and presentations can be accessed [here](#).

## Fashion Charter for Climate Action met in Bonn



**Signatories** to the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action are predominately brands and retailers but also textile companies. They are committed to support the implementation of the principles contained in the charter, both by pursuing the principles within their own organizations and by working collectively with other Signatories.

ITMF is one of more than 40 Supporting Organisations. They are in a position to substantially contribute to the realization of the Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action and function as catalysts and multipliers.

On February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 [signatories and supporting organisations](#) of the [Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action \(FICCA\)](#) met for the first in-person annual meeting since 2019.

At the meeting in Bonn the participants discussed the **high-level climate action pathway** for the sector and opportunities in the UNFCCC process in the years up to 2050. Built on this, it was discussed to identify concrete opportunities for collective climate action within and outside the fashion industry, as well as within and beyond the fashion value chain.

It was also discussed how **incentives** can play a bigger role in the fashion supply chain and how collaboration can be encouraged.

Finally, the participants were exploring **more effective engagement** with supporting organisations. With other words, how can they help more effectively to share best practices, to seize opportunities to scale, to support alignment of climate targets and to strengthen transparency.

More information about the next steps and activities of FICCA will be shared once they are made available.

[> FICCA's publications and more](#) (This information pack is designed to inform any professional entity of the Fashion sector interested in joining the Fashion Industry Charter)

## OECD Forum on due diligence in the garment sector 2023



On February 16/17, 2023 the **OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector 2023** took place at the OECD-headquarters in Paris, France. For two days experts discussed various topics like for example

"Closing the living wage gaps in garment supply chains" | "Due diligence of circular value chains – addressing the risks" | "Greenwashing your clothes?" | "Implementing impactful due diligence: a practical perspective from Vietnam".

The whole programme and the recordings are available [here](#).

## World Department Store Summit held in the Middle East for the first time in October 2023



IGDS  
World Department  
Store Summit

In the aftermath of the pandemic, retailers and department stores are facing a wide set of issues marked by political and economic tensions, polarised societies and complex consumer behaviour.

In this demanding environment, the World Department Store Summit (WDSS) 2023 titled '**Investing for the Future**' will focus on the opportunities to seize by accelerating forward-thinking strategies and processes. The event will be hosted by Al Tayer Insignia and Intercontinental Group of Department Stores (IGDS) on **October 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Dubai**.

[> read more](#)

# RAP Webinar Series: Sourcing renewable heat for your operations 'as-a-service'



United Nations  
Climate Change

The webinar will take place on  
**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023,**  
**from 14:00-15:00 (UTC+1).**

Microsoft Teams meeting  
**Join on your computer, mobile app  
or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

You are invited to join the next webinar of the RAP Webinar Series called **"Sourcing renewable heat for your operations 'as-a-service'"** by World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

The growing climate emergency and corporate net-zero goals demand further urgent action from business. Companies have made good progress decarbonizing their electricity use, driven by the vastly improving economics of renewable electricity solutions and rising awareness of corporate low carbon purchasing options, but the decarbonization of heat has been lacking. During the webinar we will introduce Heat as a Service (HaaS): a solution of sourcing renewable heat that enables companies to introduce sustainable heat through a long-term contract between stakeholders allowing for decoupling a company's capital expenditure from decarbonization processes.

We will talk about the issues related to decarbonizing heat, existing barriers, explain the idea behind the Heat as a Service, key considerations and approaches, the benefits of the solution and demonstrate the procurement process to develop Heat as a Service.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

### [New York Home Fashions Market Week](#)

March 13-16, 2023  
New York, USA

### [ITMF – ITA "Circular Textile Economy" - Introduction](#)

March 14, 2023 (11:00 CET)  
Online webinar

### [ITMF – ITA "Digital Workflow" – Frontier.Cool](#)

March 15, 2023 (11:00 CET)  
Online webinar

### [ITMF – ITA "Circular Textile Economy" - Political Background](#)

March 28, 2023 (11:00 CET)  
Online webinar

### [Hometex 2023](#)

May 16-20, 2023  
Istanbul, Turkey

### [Intertex Portugal](#)

May 31- June 2, 2023  
Guimaraes, Portugal

### [ITMA 2023](#)

June 8-14, 2023  
Milan, Italy

### [11th Intex South Asia – Bangladesh](#)

June 22-24, 2023  
ICCB, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### [12th Intex South Asia – Sri Lanka](#)

August 9-11, 2023  
BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka

### [New York Home Fashions Market Week](#)

September 11-14, 2023  
New York, USA

### [Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress 2023](#)

September 13-15, 2023  
Dornbirn, Austria

### [ICA Trade Event 2023](#)

October 11-12, 2023  
Singapore

### [Intertex Tunisia 2023](#)

October 19-21, 2023  
Sousse, Tunisia

### [IAF World Fashion Convention](#)

October 22-25, 2023  
Philadelphia, USA

### [ITMF Annual Conference 2023](#)

November 4-6, 2023  
Keqiao, Shaoxing, China

### [ITMA Asia + CITME 2023](#)

November 19-23, 2023  
Shanghai, China

### [13th Intex South Asia – India](#)

December 7, 2023  
IECC, New Delhi, India