

## **Weaving Circularity: Rethinking Pakistan's Textile Industry for a Sustainable Future**

### *Panel Discussion*

Pakistan's textile sector, a cornerstone of the economy, plays a significant role in employment, exports, and economic growth. The emergence of fast fashion, marked by quickly changing trends and a disposable culture, has heightened the strain on natural resources. As a global supplier, the nation's textile industry feeds into this cycle of overconsumption and waste accumulation in open dumps and landfills. Embracing circular economy approaches is crucial to steering this industry towards environmental sustainability.

The circular economy concept has gained significant momentum around the world as a practical approach to address environmental concerns while supporting economic growth. It emphasises the transition from the old linear 'take-make-dispose' model to one that encourages resource reduction, reuse, recycling, and regeneration. Furthermore, by minimising resource extraction and increasing recycling and reuse, the circular economy helps to preserve natural resources, reduce pollution, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Pakistan has enormous potential as a developing country to embrace circular economy principles in the textile industry to promote sustainability and resource efficiency.

In the above mentioned context, this panel discussion, being organised jointly by SDPI and GO4SDGs, will bring together industry experts, policy influencers, private sector and businesses to address the following questions:

1. How can regulations and standards be developed to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices in Pakistan's textile sector?
2. What economic opportunity does circularity provide in terms of job creation and market competitiveness in the textile industry?
3. What collaborative efforts are needed among various stakeholders within the textile supply chain to promote circular practices?
4. How can awareness and consumer behaviour in Pakistan be shifted towards more sustainable and circular fashion choices?
5. What are the key challenges and opportunities for Pakistan's fashion industry in embracing circular practices, especially in terms of garment design and manufacturing?
6. What responsibility do apparel brands, both local and international, bear in driving sustainability and circularity within Pakistan's textile supply chain?

### **Panel Organiser**

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