

Dialogue for tangible and achievable goals

Chat Log from Kick-off on 26 November 2020

Karen Rauschenbach, The Blue Suit: What legal form does STS 2030 take?

At the moment, the STS 2030 programme is a simple company with the three associations Swiss Fair Trade, Swiss Textiles and amfori Switzerland in the consortium and SECO and FOEN in the steering committee. ecos runs the office. This will remain the case for the time being, and in 2021 the corporate form and business model of STS 2030 will be further developed.

Sarra Ganouchi, www.reform.design: Is STS 2030 part of Swiss Triple Impact?

STS 2030 is not part of Swiss Triple Impact but is in close contact with the initiative. We pursue the same goals to achieve the SDGs, but STS 2030 focuses on textiles. A coordinated approach to avoid duplication is essential.

Anna Pehrsson, TEXAID: Can we hear what a target might look like?

SMART targets are envisaged: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. Although the focus is on Switzerland, the goals should be aligned with international initiatives. For example, a target in the area of SDG 13 could be a greenhouse gas reduction of x%.

David Hachfeld, Public Eye: Could you say something about the planned governance structure and decision-making processes? How will the setting of targets take place?

STS 2030 is a private sector driven programme. The goals are defined in close exchange with different stakeholders. The aim is to get as many stakeholders on board as possible. As a next step four open meetings will be organised in January 2021 to concretize SDG 8, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 15. There key stakeholders will provide their inputs. In parallel, expert discussions are held. The central point is that STS 2030 should not be an isolated Swiss solution, but that the goals should be aligned with international initiatives. Everyone is welcome to contribute their ideas by sending an email to info@sts2030.ch.

David Hachfeld, Public Eye: A crucial stakeholder group is missing: the workers and the trade unions.

We see civil society, in this case Brot für alle, as representing both the environment and the workers. We are open to involving a wide range of stakeholders. Workers and trade unions are of course an important group.

Andrea Bubb: Regarding stakeholders: What about investors?

Investments can have a great leverage effect. The information and procedures necessary of investors to make more sustainable investment decisions should therefore be included in the STS 2030 process.

David Hachfeld, Public Eye: Question to Anne de Chambrier (SECO): Wouldn't it be even more important to strengthen binding sustainability standards and targets for all actors, then just supporting another voluntary initiative? Is there any binding legislation to increase the sustainability of the sector and human rights in the pipeline?

Anne de Chambrier: "This is also something we may discuss inside STS 2030. Do we have to impose standards, or do we have to convince people for voluntary standards? So, at the moment we are more in the second way but of course there are the OECD Due Diligence guidelines that we see as our basis and we also consider the ILO standards as very important and these should be respected. So, I think this is one of the questions that we should discuss together".

Serena Rickenbacher, Forma Futura Asset Management: CO2 targets are important, but what about a holistic environmental sustainability view (in addition to social), for example, is there also a focus on biodiversity?

Life on Land is also one of the focus SDGs and in this area biodiversity is very important. This is particularly essential because, according to the latest UN reports, we are still a long way from achieving the biodiversity goals globally and the textile industry has a proven influence in this area.

Carla Rickenbacher: Although many end customers would like to buy in a socially and ecologically correct way, it is not so easy to find one's way around the topic of sustainability. What possibilities do you see to create clarity and for the end customer? Certificates? Information campaigns?

The idea is to create transparency and to see international standards, labels and initiatives as partners. An information campaign is planned for both trade/production and consumers, but additional funding is needed.

Sven Kannler, University of St. Gallen: There are various initiatives, associations of SMEs and knowledgeable organisations in the field. What does the funding for innovative start-ups look like? What efforts are made to empower the next generation of social entrepreneurs?

Social entrepreneurs are an important lever, start-ups as well as established companies. Frontrunners and followers. Innovative, sustainable business models should be encouraged and allowed to form within STS 2030. The associations are open. Funds for promotion are not directly available in the STS 2030 programme.

C. Margot Ex. Coll. International Labor Organisation: Is there a study on the participation of Swiss Textile members in existing initiatives (e.g. amfori, Fairwear Foundation, ILO Better Work, ILO Score)?

No, there is no corresponding study.

Claudia Som, Empa: Another hurdle is the lack of a scientific basis for what is really ecologically sustainable.

Measurability is important, both in ecological and social aspects. We therefore want to cooperate with international initiatives and use existing knowledge and, where necessary and possible, create additional knowledge.

Olga Yurkina, Le Temps Lausanne: What sustainable materials do you rely on for the future?

A smart mix is needed. Almost every fibre has its justification and also its challenges. There needs to be more sustainability in existing materials and also the development of new

materials and also design and thinking along the entire value chain towards a circular economy.

Barbara Köhler: Of course, every company wants to implement sustainable measures voluntarily, without mandatory requirements. But how can this ensure that sustainability stays on the company agenda systematically and in the long term?

It is important that sustainability information is available and that measures can be reviewed. Decision-making processes must be supported by an optimal level of information. In the STS 2030 programme, we are in the process of evaluating how consumers and bulk buyers can be optimally informed so that they are increasingly empowered to make more sustainable decisions.

Matthias Knappe, ITC: The governance structure of the global apparel (or T&C) value chain has seen some challenges during COVID 19. Building a more inclusive structure needs guidance and leadership. Can STS 2030 provide such leadership?

We are happy to take on leadership in Switzerland and also support the global value chains on their way to more sustainability and hopefully also resilience. We want to align ourselves internationally and will also place an important focus on governance.

Aline Ochoa, BIODESIGN HUB: Is there any initiative/action to support and foster innovations that enable textile value chains to become more resource efficient, circular, and reduce their carbon, greenhouse gas and water footprint, in line with climate, energy and sustainable development goals, such as bio based (renewable) materials instead of investing on cotton production and other oil based textiles as today is well known that cotton is just not sustainable.

We want to be this programme, or rather contribute to the SDGs, of which Aline Ochoa mentions important ones. Above all, we want to bring actors together, develop a common roadmap and act directly in a goal- and impact-oriented way with as many partners as possible.