

Charting the Course of Fashion: Harmonizing with Human Rights Standards via Environmental Sustainability Initiatives

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Abstract

Fashions are one of the parts of lifestyle and life status for human beings. This life status has been a costlier to us as it is deteriorating environment that directly affects to basic human rights. At the era of 20th century we have come to a notion with sustainable development and inclusive role of every stake holders who impacted on environment has be responsible for their actions. Our lifestyle has to be sustainable with environmental rights. Textile industry affects environment from its manufacturing process till its wastage in the water and on ground. There has to be laws and policies that defines what are the roles of fashion brands in every stage of their operation that impacts environmental human rights. Several nations have made laws or regulation on fashion brands to respect environment while doing their business. This complex situation to make them responsible for environment directly by statutory and voluntarily can be done though business and human rights standards. These guidelines will be pivotal to recognize their duties in their conducts to respect human rights wherever they are working. These guidelines will show direction to the governments to make rules for the companies concerning environmental rights and environmental sustainability.

Key words: Environment, Fashion law, human rights, environment sustainability, sustainable development goals

1. Introduction

Over the horizon of human history, fashion has been always a part of civilization everywhere it is, being both developed and changing in relation to the culture, society, and economy of a given society. In the world of glory, garments play not only the role of utilitarian things but also reflect the identity, status, and dreams. The opulent clothes of the ancient royals represent the similar positions, while the streetwear of the modern youth signals certain attributes. Nevertheless, as we are caught in the reality checks of the 21st century life, the fashion industry, not without a doubt, faces more criticism for the loss of biodiversity and for its human rights protection. Intersectionality in this case reflects both a challenge and a chance. The community in fashion needs to work out a good plan which aligns the design with sustainability and (social) responsibility principles.

Basically, fashion mirrors self-expression, in addition to its role as an art form. Undoubtedly, obtaining fashion brands and trends is in top of most people's priority list but underneath the tag of price there is also a price to pay unnoticed. The fashion industry is in big trouble because of the immense acceleration of fashion cycles together with consumerism and the urgency of fast fashion businesses. This, inevitably, causes overproduction, waste, and mistreatment of both natural resources and they are not exploited by humans. Wholesale of "green" solutions," has become an attractive business destination that overlooks the ethical restraints that are implicit within the production process. This often culminates in the socio-economic deficits as well as environmental turmoil that run across the supply chain.

Among all, the dilemma of sustainable ecological solution takes the central position. Fashion being the most damaging industry for the environment and being the one of the contributors to pollution is at the moment at the

very point of the critical crossroads. The climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion are not distant problems to be worried about but the major crises patriation requiring urgent actions. On the role of fashion, stakeholders must reassess their practices and perform a switch to the greener solutions in order to prevent the harm that threatens the ecosystem as a whole. Furthermore, maintaining the human rights of every individual being involved in the manufacturing process has to be one of the cornerstones of sustainable fashion.

To start with, the announcement for sustainability within the fashion industry should not be isolated from the human rights condition. The apparel industry surrounded by the label of 'cheap labor' and 'unsafe working conditions' since the last few decades has been exploiting the developing countries by engaging in unfair wages and disrespecting the workers' rights by ignoring the existing policies. The shadow of sweatshops and the tragedy of child labour form a dark veil covering the glittery curtain of the fashion industry and the inhuman price women and men are being paying for every fashion item.

Ethical practices of fashion are the focus of media and public debates in the present and the attention varies from humans and the environment. This cultural shift mirrors a deep-rooted cultural enlightenment to understand the complexity and the interconnection of global problems and the realization of sustainability and social justice as intrinsically linked. For instance, a fair trade, organic cotton, and cruelty-free fashion movements etc have earned popularity as it shows the change in buying habits and source awareness statement.

The cornerstone of sustainable fashion discourse is a convention of human rights protection. On December 10 in the year 1948, after United Nations vote Human Rights Declaration, by which the inherent dignity and equal rights of all human beings are guaranteed, was adopted. While the idea of human rights can be considered as a universal concept, in the world of fashion, particularly among the marginalized groups, these human rights are commonly overlooked or even worse, violated because they are the ones who constitute majority of the industry's exploitation.

Ecological sustainability, naturally, has to be fought on the same frontier with social justice. A holistic approach is needed, which makes an appraisal of the entire life cycle of a garment from fabric extraction to disposal, and it should lead to observance of ethical standards and human dignity throughout all the steps. It implies of ensuring fair wages of workers, safe working conditions in the fashion supply chain and gender equality. Moreover, it involves reduction in pollution through recycling, conservation of resources and minimizing of waste from production methods as well as circular economy.

The struggle for the fashion industry to become more sustainable is not only complicated but also involves everyone involved as it moves up the value chain. From the designers and manufacturers to retailers and customers, each party takes a place in the ongoing progress and remolding the world of fashion. Education and awareness form the driving forces for change that grants individuals the opportunity to take the right decisions and call brands accountable for their actions.

The pressing issue of environmental sustainability requires that a change of paradigm in the fashion industry is made to practices that are responsible and ethical that concern with the rights of humans. While leading the fashion industry, sustainability becomes the guideline by which we can lessen the ecological footprint of fashion and create a fairer and more united world. As we set forth on this cohesive quest to achieve a greener tomorrow, let us reflect upon how each piece we wear conveys a parable - a narrative of respect, good conduct, and kindness towards both people as well as our planet.

2. Fashion Law And Environment Sustainability

The dynamic realm of fashion law comprises one of the most forward-facing issues, among which environmental sustainability holds a position of great importance, connecting the regulatory framework, industry practices, and the efforts towards a greener world in the global process. This article discusses in details the complicated portion between environmental sustainability fashion law and the legal mechanisms, supervisory frameworks and industry initiatives pertaining to environmental sustainability in the fashion industry.

Fashion law as a kind of emerging field having a common denominator of law, fashion and business delineates a wide range of legal matters including but not limited to copyright, licensing, the rights of workers and consumers. Within this framework, environmental sustainability has become a critical area which call upon attention to the

environmental resources usage by the fashion market, that can result in the degradation of the environment and climate change.

In the context of the legal constraints for fashion and environmental preservation, the role of the fashion industry should be seen as one of the actors both concerning and being able to be the solution to the environmental issues. The fashion supply chain starts with the cultivation of raw materials, goes through manufacturing, and has many distribution channels. Each phase of the chain further enlarges the environmental problems, such as resource depletion and pollution, waste generation, and carbon emissions.

However, the heart of that problem is the requirement of powerful legal mechanisms and smart regulatory actions to regulate and direct the sustainable thinking within the fashion industry. Thus, the plan takes a holistic view, which considers the environmental challenges together with the established principles of human rights, justice, and equity for everyone involved in the supply chain. Global level governments, as the European Union Sustainable Circular Economy Action Plan or the UN Sustainable Development Goals, provides a guidance to the decision makers and stakeholders to develop policies aimed at eco-friendly behaviors and resource-sound usage. On the top of this, environmental laws, waste management acts, product stewardship and some other tangible tools are applied to this problem in a factual way and drive companies to the same lasting path. In doing thus, those instances display the effects of mandatory extended producer responsibility or ecological taxes imposed on textile waste, leading the producers to choose ecofriendly routes of production as well as reprocess the waste to make up for the recycling infrastructure.

Along with regulatory actions, legal institutions covering intellectual property law and corporate governance is also a factor that links environmental sustainability concepts and the fashion industry. Regulations that guarantee the protection of ideas and technologies of sustainable fashion, materials, and fashion design concepts are the means that promote innovations in green technologies and attract investment in these environmentally friendly techniques by providing incentives.

Additionally, attention to sustainability is reflected in the corporate governance mechanisms through sustainability reporting, supply chain due diligence, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives which are a great higher leadership tools translating into transparency and accountability of the fashion industry. The corporations can paramount their environmental issues into their corporate governance frameworks and so address the danger of biodiversity loss and climate change.

Through progress in this direction and consistent voluntary standards we can make a change in sustainability of the fashion. As instance, the certifications such as the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), the Better cotton Initiative (BCI), and the Fair Wear Foundation (FWF) are compliance tools for sustainable production practices and ethical labor standards that help consumers to make sustainable purchases when they benefit companies who regard the environment and labor.

The intersection of fashion law and environmental sustainability presents both challenges and opportunities for the fashion industry, legal practitioners, policymakers, and consumers alike. By harnessing the power of law, regulation, and industry collaboration, we can work towards a more sustainable future where fashion thrives in harmony with the environment and respects the rights and dignity of all individuals involved in the production process.

3. Challenges In Fashion Law For Environmental Sustainability

Sustainable fashion law is a new phenomenon resulting from the intersection of the legal, fashion, and business industries. These industries are still facing a number of issues which are important in the sustainable fashion sector of the fashion industry. Discourse will be devoted to the fashions of the sustainable practices law, which dissects the intricacies and the roadblocks which impede a transition to an avowing environmentally conscience fashion sector, considering the regulatory framework, loopholes, and industry norms that obstruct the goal of a greener fashion industry.

The next biggest obstacle in the fashion industry's move towards environmental sustainability is that the prevailing legal framework is insufficient in comprehending the assemblage of difficulties that fashion businesses face when it comes to comprehending the environmental impact. Although environmental provisions and waste management regulation have already been put in place in different jurisdictions, they still often lack the specificity and linkage

to the fabric and intricacy by which clothing production is done. Therefore, fashion industry would use regulatory restrictions or¹ pretentiousness and thus would not be truthful in environmental improvements.

The significance of the global fashion industry here is that it imposes a necessary degree of harmonization in environmental regulations and standards, not just domestically but across different jurisdictions as well. Scattered arrangements of regulatory bodies, differing levels of enforcement and compliance mechanisms add up to confusion for fashion brands which strive to strictly abide by environmental regulations but also operate in a globalized market. Thus, the regulatory onerousness not only increases compliance costs, but also interferes with the efforts to adopt processes that bring about a consistency and a proper effectiveness throughout the supply chain of fashion industry².

The third pressing issue strictly connected with the balance between copyright and environmental design is that within fashion industry. Despite the fact that a tool of intellectual property law is what promote innovation and creativity yet their adverse effects may stands in the way of the circulation of sustainable fashion technologies and practices. One of the patents of the green technology that limits the artists can enter the market and accede to sustainable solutions.³

Moreover, the fact which that the fashion industry imposes a quick pace increments the problem of the sustainability implementation in the long run. Generating constantly new fashion trends and collecting seasonal collections as the source of possible current earnings usually leave out the environmental issues on a long-term horizon. Among the reasons behind the over consumption and waste generation is the increasing popularity of disposable consumerism and planned obsolescence, which in turn create more environmental degradation and resource loss.⁴

Alongside all these challenges, the fashion industry has these problems, that is they supply chain complexities and uneven power relations, which make the goal of environmental sustainability very hard. The global nature of fashion supply chains, which emphasizes outsourcing and subcontracting mainly, is the reason for any complications in retracements and monitoring the environmental impact which occurs throughout the production process. Besides, the unequal power relationships between corporate brands and suppliers may be among the significant obstacles barring the achievement of transparency and accountability, hence, thwarting all the efforts aimed at addressing environmental challenges that include climate change.⁵

The response to the posed challenges falls on the policymakers, the industry practitioners, and the lawyers to invent the innovative solutions and create a culture of sustainability. The reforms in law and regulations, as well as regulatory interventions are urgently required to fill in loopholes in environmental regulations, to strengthen environmental protections and to reward the environmentally friendly practices. Apart from this business organizations initiatives and voluntary communities helps in transit of the fashion companies, suppliers and customers.⁶

However, the controversies put forth by fashion law for environmental sustainability are staggering, and they cannot be declared as impossible. By calling attention to the matrix and intricacies of the fashion's environmental effect and taking up the interdisciplinary cooperation and innovation, we could be able to clear the path for a more ecological and human-centered fashion in the coming days.

¹ R. Cavaliere, "Fashioning Sustainable Development: Rethinking the Regulation of Fashion Supply Chains," 21(2) Melbourne Journal of International Law 321 (2020).

² S. J. Kim, "The Challenges of Globalization and Harmonization in Fashion Law," 20(2) Fashion and Textiles 1 (2016).

³ E. K. Patel, "Intellectual Property Rights and Green Technology: A Critical Analysis," 35(3) Tulane Environmental Law Journal 601 (2021).

⁴ A. P. Anderson, "Fast Fashion and Environmental Sustainability: A Case for Slow Fashion," 11(1) Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation 123 (2018).

⁵ H. L. Williams, "Transparency and Accountability in Fashion Supply Chains: Addressing Power Imbalances," 25(4) Yale Journal of Law and Technology 187 (2023).

⁶ T. S. Lee, "Voluntary Standards and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Fashion Industry," 17(2) Journal of Sustainable Fashion 89 (2019).

Fashion law and environmental sustainability merging together results in a highly intricate and threatful setting that contains both the risks and the perks. The analysis below covers the intricate difficulties that prevent the core foundation of sustainable practices when fashion law is in use generating the knowledge by the law frameworks, from governing to regulations and the dynamics of the industry.

3.1 Legal Frameworks and Regulatory Gaps

As one of the main concerns that are highlighted in this analysis the poor fit of the existent regulation in the field of environment to the fashion industry is that they do not have a proper tool to understand and cover an industry influence on the environment. The legislations concerning environment and wastage management on one hand fail to control the fashion manufacturing supply chain; while on the other hand, there is the loopholes that is noticed in the existing laws. Therefore, this lack of defined rules and legal accountability threatened the attempt of transitioning the fashion industry towards environmentally responsible and sustainable pattern.

The problems of globalization and integration in Fashion law by labelling the fragmented regulatory in different countries. The fact that there are no single standards for harmonization and enforcement complicates the operation of fashion firms in international markets hence making them to lose their competitive edge in the market hence resulting in regulatory uncertainty and compliance cost to the fashion companies operating in international markets.

3.2 Intellectual Property Rights and Environmental Sustainability

In the discussion above, there appears to be another great challenge of harmonizing the IP rights and environmental sustainability. The green technology patronage and how patent protection can lead to the formation of barriers to innovation and technology: a sign that sustainable fashion is a difficult terrain to tread in. The complex crossroads of the intellectual property rights law and environment protection rights necessitate the development of dynamically judicial laws that leniently challenge innovation with the aspect of environmentally sustainable measures.

3.3 Industry Dynamics and Systemic Challenges

Such speedy development schedule of fashion industry is a source of the capillary system by itself. The fast fashion cycle and the obsolescence concept that are usually planned, reiterate the pattern of overconsumption and waste generation that in turn gravely aggravate environmental damage and resource depletion. In addition, the systemic problems in the fashion supply chain complexities, and power imbalance, together with among other challenges, the delays in transparency and accountability.

The topic of the research shall be Sustainable fashion law complexities comprising gaps in the legal and regulatory framework, industry dynamics, and the supply chain challenges within fashion exclusive of the process. To solve these problems, a comprehensive strategy that has legal amendments, industry initiatives, disciplines interaction, and regulations as guiding elements is very important. Overcomplicating these barriers expeditiously, all the stakeholders together can implement a kind of sustainable and ethical future for the fashion industry.

4. Business And Human Rights Due Diligence For Environment

UN has been concerned over the rampant development of companies at the cost of deforestation, chemical and plastic pollution, large scale extraction etc. UN and their committee experts were on the opinion to have a law to curb environmental and human rights violation by corporate sectors.⁷ Businesses should learn to do business with sustainability that doesn't abuse right of clean and healthy environment. Fashion industry is playing significant role in the economic development. It is one of the primary segments of the economy that plays greater role in any nations GDP. As per the report given by McKinsey in State of Fashion that the global fashion industry would be standing at the seventh post if we count as an any country's GDP.⁸ Textile industry has blurred the boundaries and fashion is reaching out from one corner to another corner of the world. As per the report of the year 2020

⁷ [https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/human-rights-and-environmental-due-diligence-laws-crucial-combat Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence laws crucial to combat irresponsible business activities-UN Expert July 2022 report](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/human-rights-and-environmental-due-diligence-laws-crucial-combat-Human-Rights-and-Environmental-Due-Diligence-laws-crucial-to-combat-irresponsible-business-activities-UN-Expert-July-2022-report)

⁸ <https://fashionunited.com/global-fashion-industry-statistics>, Global Fashion Industry Statistics

India was standing on a third position in exporters of textiles.⁹ There by India is also a big hub of textile industry and fashion brands.

In recent times after acceptance of United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) has change the spectrum of human rights. The scope has been widened that covers various human rights issues including environment and make responsible related stake holders. These guidelines have specified direct and concert role of business sector in respecting human rights that might have been affected due to conducts of companies.¹⁰ UNGPs have broaden the concept to look into the matters of human rights violations and freedoms. It does not only cover traditional human rights but ever-changing dimensions of human rights where companies can be involved in some or other way. For instance, on social media to have free speech could be cover under the guidelines as it affects human rights due to the conduct of a company.¹¹ The guideline has three pillars that resembles responsibility and actions of them. First pillar defines State role as to make policies, roles and regulations to respect and protect human rights. In this they have make rules where they can make other parties including private persons obligated to protect human rights or international standard of human rights. Second pillar put direct duty for the first time on businesses to respect human rights wherever they are working. The UNGPs are not concern with the size and nature of business but wherever any nature of business cannot indulge in to human rights violation. It also expects from companies that if in any country they are having business does not have any law with regard to human rights which might be affecting due their act it shall be responded by the companies itself.¹² So these UNGPs have wide angle to include various actions of businesses in their course of business. The last pillar discourse on remedial mechanisms for victims.

Businesses have given pivotal role in the guidelines through which human rights issues can be address transparently and corporate governance can be put easily. Corporate Due Diligence (CDD) is process where businesses can manage their affairs of business without affecting community or their employees. This process make them to be aware of their actions that may result into gross violation of rights.¹³ The process has been define in four stages and that are “Identify” potential human rights violation by their companies in their activities.¹⁴ That means if fashion company is discharging water in river or sea that affects environmental rights of that community should be identify by the company. This followed by “prevent” meaning there by integrating actions to address these issues by assessing it that might result due to their action which is in direct connection.¹⁵ In this the companies are expected to take active steps to prevent actions which are impacting on human rights. Next is “mitigation” that means to take appropriate actions to and address to the impacts. They may connect to affected person and take steps that are impacting them adversely. And the last in the process is “account” that resembles governance where companies put on the public how they have identify, prevent and mitigate human rights violation happened in their course of business.¹⁶

Though UNGPs are soft law but it can able to make state’s to draft policies and regulations which are of smart mixture of voluntary and mandatory nature. This is a blend of smart mix is having noteworthy role that where legislative actions are lacking then that gap can be filled by voluntary actions.¹⁷ But UN has stand for asked for Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence as this concept of the UNGPs is one of the core parts of it. Better

⁹ Id

¹⁰ <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/big-issues/un-guiding-principles-on-business-human-rights/> UN Guiding Principles

¹¹ Brenda Dvoskin, What the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (Don’t) say about content moderation. <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/what-united-nations-guiding-principles-business-and-human-rights-dont-say-about-content-moderation>

¹² https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinessshr_en.pdf Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights Principle 11

¹³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-business/corporate-human-rights-due-diligence-identifying-and-leveraging-emerging-practices>

¹⁴ <https://www.ethicaltrade.org/insights/issues/human-rights-due-diligence> Human Right Due Diligence

¹⁵ <https://globalnaps.org/issue/human-rights-due-diligence/> human rights due diligence

¹⁶ Principle 21 <https://globalnaps.org/issue/human-rights-due-diligence/>

¹⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-business/mandatory-human-rights-due-diligence-mhrdd> mandatory human rights due diligence

implementation of business responsibility can address various human rights issues which can't be covered even by special laws. For instance environmental rights could be widened by these UNGPs and due diligence by companies. Every action of company during their business activity can cover through these guidelines. Environment sustainability is also a key challenge in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals of SDGs can also be fulfilled by making inclusive role of corporate through corporate due diligence.¹⁸ The process of due diligence that we discussed can be followed for environmental due diligence. This can also be broadened by considering climate change issue in the National Action Plan (NAP) prepared by the nation to implement UNGPs. Climate change and human rights can be involved as climate change has resulted into huge adverse impact on human rights. And UNGPs discourse on the companies that if they involved in adversely human rights violation then they are responsible.¹⁹

Adhering to due diligence create value addition on companies which improve their reputation in the economy and thereby they may follow it to make their company clean by not impacting on human rights. Fashion industry especially should follow due diligence to see how they are impacting environment and then community and find solution by themselves.

5. Global Actions of BHR For Sustainable Environment

To implement UNGPs every member nation has to make National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. India has only drafted its zero NAP on BHR which is just a brief note on existing laws in India which may walk in consonance of UNGPs. But many nations globally have drafted their NAP and started executing it thoroughly. But United States have overlooked beyond the spectrum and has introduced a bill on "Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act".²⁰ This bill has shown to put obligation on fashion companies to discourse on their due diligence process. The disclosure include report on social and environment sustainability, their impact on environment, tracking due diligence and estimated timeline and benchmarks for improvements.²¹

The bill's asks a report on social and environment sustainability is in line of UNGPs. Following UNGPs the companies have been asked to put policies on responsible business on their website. Mention measures to taken that embedded in responsible business conduct. The company has to identify significant risk of their operations to the environment including supply chain. In furtherance identify risks, actions to prevent those risk and to take actions for mitigation them. And at the last remedial mechanism. The bill asks impact disclosure on prioritized area that adversely affects environment.²²

European Union is very stringent about policies when it come on human rights infringement. EU covers measures from finance to fashions. And for that EU has drafted several laws and policies. EU has proposed a directive "Eco design for Sustainable Products" known as ESPR. This directive covers areas of fashion garments that may impact on environment and its rights. This strives to improve transparency in durability, capability of recycle and amount of sustainability raw materials used in the garments.²³ ESPR is also asking of material which are unsold and how these items taken off from market. EU has proposed directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence in line of UNGPs. This has made mandatory due diligence on businesses for safeguards of human rights. These directives

¹⁸<https://www.imvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/legal-brief-human-rights-and-environmental-due-diligence-of.pdf> legal brief Human Rights and Environment Due Diligence

¹⁹ Id

²⁰ Lavanga Wijekoon, Kate Brensner, Michale Congiu, Stefan Marculewicz "The Fashion Industry Meets Human Rights Due Diligence: New York's Proposed Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act" <https://www.littler.com/publication-press/publication/fashion-industry-meets-human-rights-due-diligence-new-yorks-proposed>

²¹ Id

²² Supra note 18

²³ Stephanie Safdie, "Sustainability is Trendy: Fashion laws to know in 2024" <https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/ecology-news/sustainability-is-trendy-fashion-laws-to-know-in-2022>

make large companies responsible for their actual and potential human rights violation and environment impact. It makes them to respect their own conducts along with their subsidiaries and partners.²⁴

EU member states have endorsed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive on 15th March 2024. The directive is yet to be passed by European Parliament but from now this directive corporate will accountable for mandatory due diligence in Europe.²⁵ This has come on the line of UNGPs but as businesses failed to take responsibility mandatory laws on their due diligence was introduced by EU.²⁶ When the agreement was in discussion apparel sector shows their keen interest to join in CSDDD. This directive makes companies to be responsible for human rights violation and environmental violation. The EU directive on Corporate Due Diligence makes companies to plan their business model and strategy as per Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The directives cover large companies that have more than 500 employees and global turnover of over 150 million EURO. And for non-EU companies if they have generated 150 million EURO in three years from the entry into the force of directive.²⁷

Apart from this EU has proposed Unfair Commercial Practice Directives that aims to regulate greenwashing. Greenwashing is a bad technique to do marketing and communicate customers about brands ethical and environmentally friendly actions. This has been defined as an offence in France and for that punishment is of two years of imprisonment and fine of 300,000 euro. In France from 1st January 2023, carbon neutrality governed by law. And for that organization if involved in violation are subjected to fine of 100,000 euro.²⁸

6. Conclusion

Fashion industries have to find ways to do their business sustainability. Now the time has come where businesses are directly liable for their actions which affects environment and the community directly or indirectly. UNGPs have come with a new vision and hope to change the notion of addressing human rights and environmental rights. Following UNGPs EU and US has proposed very stringent laws on fashion industry to adhere by environmental rights and various human rights. The vast scope of UNGPs covers supply chain and all businesses irrespective of their size they have to do business responsibly. We have witnessed Rana Plaza massacre where big brands clothes were manufacturing but no all brands have to confront to give compensation and to take responsibility. So, it will be difficult to make them responsible for fashion wastage that impact environment and production of garments. UNGPs can be the way where states find a straight way to make them responsible for their conducts which adversely affect environment and environmental rights.

²⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/14/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-council-and-parliament-strike-deal-to-protect-environment-and-human-rights/#:~:text=The%20due%20diligence%20directive%20lays,the%20downstream%20activities%2C%20such%20as%20Corporate%20sustainability%20due%20diligence%20Council%20and%20Parliament%20strike%20deal%20to%20protect%20environment%20and%20human%20rights>

²⁵ <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/eu-csddd-political-agreement/> EU member states endorsed CSDD agreement reported on 18th March 2024 on Business and human rights resource centre

²⁶ <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/big-issues/mandatory-due-diligence/> Mandatory Due diligence business and human rights resource centre

²⁷ Id

²⁸ <https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/ecology-news/greenwashing-what-mistake-did-deutsche-bank-make> lessons learned from the Deutsche bank affair