



United Nations 2023 Water Conference

Side Event hosted by the

United Nations Office for Partnerships

Co Hosted by the Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network and the Fashion Impact Fund

Event	Fashion industry innovations leading transformative action for Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
Length	60 minutes
Location	Conference room 5, UNHQ
Date	22 March, 2 PM - 3 PM
Possible Speakers	Patrik Lundstorm , CEO, Renewcell - <i>confirmed</i> Aradhita Parasrampur , Material researcher Clemens Scheiber , Head, Swarovski Waterschool - <i>confirmed</i> Stephanie Benedetto , Co-Founder and CEO, Queen of Raw - <i>confirmed</i>
Moderator	Dominic-Madori Davis , TechCrunch - <i>confirmed</i>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

"We must shine a light on the fashion industry's impact on water. It takes more than 7,500 liters of water to produce a pair of jeans. That's equal to 10 years of drinking water for girl like Fatima who lives on the fast-receding shorelines of Lake Chad."- Deputy Secretary-General | CFDA Awards

The [2023 United Nations Water conference](#) will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 22-24 March 2023. The conference is co-hosted by Tajikistan and the

Netherlands. The vision for the conference is that everyone understands the value of water, how to manage water better, and how one can take action to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets.

The conference aims to enable dynamic conversations leading to impactful and scalable results and make 2023 the springboard for catalyzing action for water security for all via the [Water Action Agenda](#) that will consist of clear commitments, pledges and actions, across all our sectors, industries and interests, uniting nations, stakeholders and professionals. The emphasis of these commitments will focus on accelerating the implementation and improving impact towards achieving SDG 6 and other water-related goals and targets, looking at content, process and structure.



About SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation

Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to ensure the availability of sanitary drinking water for all, focusing on the sustainable management of water resources, wastewater, and water ecosystems. As well as acknowledging the importance of enabling the environment.

Increased attention has been brought to the range of negative environmental impacts that the fashion industry is responsible for. Fashion production makes up 10% of humanity's carbon emissions, creates water scarcity, and pollutes rivers and streams.

The UN Conscious Fashion and Lifestyle Network will hold a hybrid panel discussion at the United Nations Headquarters to showcase the innovative solutions of the Network Members that are creating transformative change on SDG6.

Key Data Points

- The fashion industry is responsible for about 20% of global waste water.
- It is estimated that approximately 35% of all microplastic pollution occurs due to the fashion industry. This makes the fashion industry the world's largest marine microplastic polluter.
- Every year 1.3 trillion gallons of water are used for fabric dyes, most of that water, which contains toxic chemicals, runs off into water streams.
- 715 Gallons of water are used to produce one single cotton T-shirt, that is the equivalent to three years worth of drinking water for one human.
- Further processes such as dying fabric leads to further water contamination. About 20% of all waste water comes from fabric dying

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Circularity
- Solutions for SDG 6 driven by the fashion industry
- Education on importance of water stewardship
- How fashion sector applies Innovation and technology for efficient water management

SPEAKER DETAILS



Patrik Lundstorm, CEO, Renewcell

Renewcell is a textile recycling company on a mission to make fashion circular. The company replaces virgin materials such as cotton and wood pulp with Renewcell's recycled material Circulose®. Clothes made with Circulose® can then be recycled over and over again – without losing any quality.

Patrik obtained a Masters Degree in Chemical engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and an executive MBA from Stockholm School of Economics. These combined studies have allowed him to take recycling to a new level, creating a niche which benefits everyone. Besides being the CEO of Renewcell, Lundström is a Board member in PEEL AB and deputy board member in Stargo Design AB.



Clemens Scheiber, Head, Swarovski Waterschool

The Swarovski Waterschool is an initiative of the Swarovski Foundation to achieve a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society. The Swarovski Waterschool strives to empower children and their communities around the world to become water ambassadors by providing tools and training to address their local water needs. The

project has developed into a global initiative that operates in Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, India, Thailand, Uganda, and the USA.

Clemens Scheiber is the current head of the Swarovski Waterschool, currently present in 8 different countries via 13 NGO partners. His main focus is on strategy development, impact measurement, and overseeing communication and CRM activities for the program. He was also an associate producer of the documentary film WATERSCHOOL, available on Netflix.



Aradhita Parasrampur

Aradhita Parasrampur is a sustainable materials developer and fashion designer originally from India, based in New York. Parasrampur combines synthetic biology with fashion to create climate-conscious, ethical, and economical textiles. As part of the Swarovski Foundation's Creatives For Our Future cohort, Parasrampur is developing eco-friendly algae and cellulose-based embellishments for more sustainable fashion systems.

Parasrampur received recognition on Indias Forbes 30 under 30 2023 list in the climate change category. Her work has been showcased in COP27, Vogue, L'officiel Brazil, CFDA, Dezeen, No-Kill Magazine, New York Design Week, Portland Textile Month, Mana Contemporary, Talking Textiles.



**Stephanie Benedetto, Co-Founder and
CEO, Queen of Raw**

Stephanie Benedetto is the Co-founder of the Queen of Raw. Queen of Raw was founded to create a solution to excess inventory. The company creates a marketplace to monetize waste in a circular fashion. Queen of Raw created an inventory management software called "Materia MX", which powers Fortune 500 enterprises so they can manage complex waste streams.

Drafted Questions

Question for the Speakers:

General Question:

1. What is the responsibility of the fashion industry in combating negative environmental impacts in issues such as water waste and water pollution?
2. What are your motivations in taking a more sustainable approach in your companies?
3. Given your expertise, what has to be done by the textile industry to reduce run off of toxins into fresh water bodies? How does your company battle this problem?
4. The fashion industry is the world's largest producer of micro plastic pollution. What measures do your companies implement to minimize micro plastic pollution?
5. How can we tackle the issue of greenwashing in the industry?

6. What will it take for the fashion industry to finally change its habits of water consumption, and how much responsibility should be given to other industry stakeholders (consumers, government..)?

Questions Patrik Lundstrom:

1. [Renewcell](#) created a fiber which is created out of 100% recycled fibers. Does this fiber contribute to water contamination, either through the recycling process or during laundry?
2. From your professional point of view, why are so many brands reluctant to use recycled materials in their garments?
3. [Ecosystems](#) have already been compromised due to water pollution. To what extent have the solutions emerging from your product been directed at restoring these?

Questions Emerging Designer:

1. [715 Gallons](#) of water are used to produce one single cotton T-shirt. That is the equivalent to three years worth of drinking water for one human. What methods can designers use to bring the consumers' attention to this problem?
2. Every year [1.3 trillion gallons](#) of water are used for fabric dyes, most of that water, which contains toxic chemicals, runs off into water streams. What measures have you implemented to your garments to minimize toxic fabric dying?
3. Given your professional opinion, in what lifestage of a garment, is it the most harmful to the planet and people? What initiatives do you believe will be introduced by the next generation of designers to reduce this harmful pollution?

Questions Clemens Scheiber:

1. To what extent do you believe educational content, such as the Netflix documentary WATERSCHOOL, has to be funded by governments to further spread global awareness of water challenges?
2. The Swarovski Waterschool is currently present in [8 countries](#). From your gathered knowledge, how do different governments implement solutions regarding water scarcity/ pollution?

3. What is your impression on childrens' interest regarding the problem of global water challenges? And why do you think school entities are still neglecting global water challenges in their education?

Questions Stephanie Benedetto:

1. Your company resells excess inventory that could have ended up in landfills. What are measures that companies can implement to prevent excess inventory?
2. Your company has already saved [1 billion gallons](#) of water with its initiative. From your professional opinion, what regulations have to be implemented by governments to reduce fabric waste?
3. Globally, people are facing rising costs and high levels of inflation due to situations like the war in Ukraine and COVID19 pandemic. Have you seen an increase in warehouse stock due to the current global economy? If so, what are the consequences regarding water pollution?

Question Aradhita Parasrampuria:

1. Regarding your expertise, why are companies reluctant to switching to biodegradable materials? Do you believe there is an unspoken bias towards eco-friendly clothing?
2. The Fashion Industry is incharge for [20%](#) of global waste water. In your opinion, what role do governments play in implementing biodegradable materials in the fashion industry?
3. What role does water play in the creation of your biodegradable materials? And what message would you give to younger generations regarding ethical fashion consumption?
4. Given your expertise, how can fashion brands influence the average consumers to purchase pollution free eco friendly alternatives?