

# RESPONSIBLE CASHMERE ROUND TABLE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

(June 12, 2020)

---

## About the Responsible Cashmere Round Table

### Responsible Cashmere Round Table Background Information

The Responsible Cashmere Round Table evolved from Textile Exchange's vision for a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment, reduces the climate impact of our industry and enhances lives. Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices *and reduce climate impact* in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts of the global textile industry and maximizing its positive effects.

### Responsible Cashmere Round Table Summary

The Responsible Cashmere Round Table is a neutral space for stakeholders with a close interest in the sustainability progress of the cashmere industry to learn, discuss and understand, and to provide aligned input into the solutions being developed.

The Responsible Cashmere Round Table aims to leverage industry expertise by bringing balanced participation from business, civil society, government, and development partners to discuss specific sustainability themes in the textile industry, through facilitated dialogue while working together to articulate a broad industry strategy and action plan.

The Market Sector Advisory group (MSA) also sits under the RCRT as a closed working group:

#### **What is the Market Sector Advisory group?**

MSA is a small group of committed companies buying cashmere from Mongolia who support the objectives of the Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform (MSCP), who can represent the wider group of cashmere buyers. It will give input and feedback to the work of the MSCP.

*Final TOR, timelines, scope etc for the group will be defined collaboratively and agreed between the founding members of MSA, and will evolve as the MSCP develops its Collective Action Plan.*

#### **What do members have to do?**

Members will meet regularly (mostly virtually) during 2020 and 2021 to receive briefings and input to the Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform (MSCP). We're looking for buyer insights into helping to craft a definition for 'sustainable cashmere', the design of tools and terms of reference for studies and identifying new incentives and finance mechanisms for herders. Textile Exchange leads the MSA and will coordinate and lead regular discussions, as well as represent the position of the MSA with the different groups that form the MSCP.

Members commit to working under the MSCP values, supporting its objectives, and to work towards the best interests of Mongolian cashmere. Specifically, we ask for members to be able

to have time to attend at least 75% of the MSA web based meetings, and be able to read and provide inputs to key materials when requested.

## Vision and Methods

- Vision
- Purpose
- Objectives
- Scope
- How we add value

### Vision

The vision for the Responsible Cashmere Round Table is a cashmere industry that is environmentally and socially responsible, and commercially viable.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Responsible Cashmere Round Table is to support Textile Exchange's sustainability vision with focus on advancement of a dialogue and collaboration of cashmere industry stakeholders towards sustainability progress and collective industry agenda. The Responsible Cashmere Round Table will achieve this through gathering industry members to identify barriers to growth and take collective actions that result in meaningful impacts.

### Objectives

The objectives of our work are to:

1. Develop a common understanding of the important social and environmental needs and gaps to be addressed in cashmere production.
2. Create a shared awareness and understanding of the different programs and initiatives currently addressing issues in cashmere production.
3. Encourage and support brands and retailers to make commitments to source more responsible cashmere.
4. Support of the development of a platform that will allow for clarity, alignment and support of the various initiatives that are active in Mongolia and around the globe.

### Scope

The scope of our work is defined as:

- Education and information sharing
- Represent the voice of international buyers in the work of the UNDP
- Lead the global industry towards alignment of goals and actions
- Support the development of solutions

### How We Add Value

- Strong relationships with brands and retailers – a broad and deep understanding of their needs and expectations
- Expertise and experience in convening multi-stakeholder collaboration to drive alignment and collective action
- Knowledge and experience in developing global tools to link brands to primary producers

## Responsible Cashmere Round Table Structure

Convener	Textile Exchange
Eligibility	Participation in the Responsible Cashmere Round Table is voluntary
Composition, Representation	Representatives from Textile Exchange and the global cashmere industry: Suppliers, Brands, NGO's, and other industry professionals
Member Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular attendance of and contribution to meetings</li> <li>• Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group</li> <li>• Support the Responsible Cashmere Round Table development and collectively create solutions to address sustainability and uptake challenges in the global cashmere industry.</li> </ul>
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization: The Responsible Cashmere Round Table Chair Person and a Textile Exchange team member will coordinate to facilitate the meetings and tasks within its resource capability.</li> <li>• Determination: The Responsible Cashmere Round Table will identify opportunities for the global cashmere industry to improve sustainability in their sector of the textile industry.</li> <li>• Action: The Responsible Cashmere Round Table is committed to the addressing and increasing positive impacts in the global cashmere industry.</li> </ul>
Meeting Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodical online meetings and annual in-person meetings. Additional meetings may be called as required.</li> </ul>