Summary of the Round Table Summit of Dec 9th, 2020

2020 Summit focus: Climate+, Circularity, rMMCF

More than 300 industry professionals registered for our virtual Summit. Speakers included:

Dr. Krishna Manda, Senior Manager Sustainability Integration, Lenzing AG
Diana Rosenberg, Product Sustainability Manager, Gap Inc.
Mukul Agrawal, Chief Sustainability Officer, Birla Cellulose
Umar Faruk Chowdhury, Senior Manager, Sustainability & Downstream Development, Sateri
Claudia de Witte, Sustainability Leader Textiles, Eastman Chemicals
Una Murphey, Director of Design Innovation, Levis
Claire Bergkamp, COO, Textile Exchange
Siena Shepard, Strategic Advisor, Textile Exchange
Prerna Pandey, Materials Program Coordinator
Simone Seisl, Consultant Fibers and Materials, Textile Exchange
Part 1: We gained a better understanding of the context of GHG emissions and the MMCF value chain and heard a sector specific update on Textile Exchanges’ new Climate+ strategy. Lenzing presented their commitments to the SBTI and their unique Carbon Zero TENCEL™ fibers, a set of fibers with lower climate impacts and ambitious reduction actions. Also, the leading approach and material evaluation and strategy by the Gap Inc was introduced, followed by a Q&A. In a live survey the group voted on the most critical barriers of the MMCF sector to address climate targets. The key barriers were discussed in Mini Breakouts and specific opportunities and possible solutions where the MMCF Round Table should get active were presented.

Part 2: In a panel discussion we heard from leading fiber suppliers about their investments in, scaling solutions of and needs for a thriving rMMCF market: We had a conversation around the following: What are the barriers to scale “recycled” content? Pre consumer versus post-consumer, and if it matters in terms of technology or environmental benefits to use higher or lower content? What should be the goal when we talk about Circularity? Are there positive climate impacts producing rMMCFs? How are leading suppliers managing the “reverse logistics” for feedstock for rMMCF? And what are the challenges upstream, with the yarn and fabric industry, but also for product applications and specifications when using rMMCF? What is the status and what are the challenges in using other types of waste like agricultural waste or food waste? Levis inspired us with their latest MMCF project, collaborating with innovators in textile-to-textile recycling, launching products containing pulp from post-consumer denim.

In our MMCF Round Table, we aim to:

- Catalyse collective action to building a strategy, an implementation plan and tangible actions to achieve our goal of reducing emissions.
- Address the barriers to growth of pMMCF production and consumption.
- Connect stakeholders and identify future needs and expectations of pMMCF.
- Improve the transparency of the MMCF industry.
- Seize full potential of rMMCF.

For the next year that means:

- Mobilising Hub community to get engaged on concrete topics.
- Establish Working Groups and Task Teams with dedicated remit and objectives.
- Launch tools, services and learning opportunities for the MMCF sector; incentivise e.g. with a call to a fiber commitment.