

Responsible Cashmere Round Table

Anne Gillespie • ResponsibleCashmere@textileexchange.org



Summary of the Round Table Summit

The RCRT summit meeting was held virtually on December 10, 2020. We received over 170 registrations and were pleased to see 110 attendees from 23 countries at the event. The objectives of the Round Table included industry updates from Mongolia and China, overview of the work of RCRT over the current year and plans for 2021, introduction of the new Textile Exchange Climate+ Strategy, as well as the biodiversity benchmark as part of this strategy, and most importantly, discussions about mobilizing cashmere stakeholders' collective efforts towards the goal of reducing carbon by 45% by 2030 in pre-spinning tier of the supply chain.

Una Jones/Sustainable Fibre Alliance, Tina Stridde/Aid by Trade Foundation, and Christina Archer/UNDP - Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform conveyed information about their work in Mongolia and China in 2020, plans and strategies for 2021, factors that affect implementation of cashmere standards, most recent impacts of climate change and Covid-19 on herders, processors, and brands, and activities to bring multiple stakeholders work towards shared goals in the coming years.



La Rhea Pepper, CEO of Textile Exchange, introduced an inspiring goal of reducing carbon by 45% by 2030 in the raw fiber and material production of the textile industry globally. Along the presentation, graphs and tables were presented to show why we need this goal today and what challenges we might face on our pathways going forward.

Anne Gillespie, Director of Impact Acceleration, and Hanna Denes, Senior Standards Manager, both from Textile Exchange, focused on the pivot that we are going through today and how the structure of Textile Exchange animal fiber and material round tables is evolving to match the Climate+ strategy. And Director of European and Materials Strategy Liesl Truscott introduced the new biodiversity benchmark by Textile Exchange, that will inspire and equip companies to act on improving biodiversity-friendly practices in raw material production or harvesting.

Leaning on the presented information and proposed work for the Animal Fibers Round Table, the summit participants discussed in 8 breakout groups the following questions in the context of both global and regional scopes:

- How useful and relevant are the Climate+ goals (carbon impact, soil, water, biodiversity) for cashmere?
- What are the challenges we will need to overcome?
- Are there specific opportunities?
- Besides the UNDP work with the Mongolian Sustainable Cashmere Platform and the Market Sector Advisory (MSA) group, is there work that should be done specifically on cashmere (separate from the work of the Animal Fibers Round Table)?

Key discussion themes and ideas were collected and shared with the RCRT stakeholders and summit participants and are available in the RCRT Hub Library.

We would like to thank every attendee for contributing their time, attention, and ideas to this round table, so important for shaping a new model of collaborative efforts that will be steered by the new Animal Fiber Round Table and adjacent steering committees and working groups.

A special thank you goes to our guest and Textile Exchange speakers:

Christina Archer, UNDP <http://sustainablecashmereplatform.com/>

Una Jones, Sustainable Fibre Alliance <https://sustainablefibre.org/>

Tina Stridde, Aid by Trade Foundation <https://thegoodcashmerestandard.org/>

La Rhea Pepper, Textile Exchange <https://textileexchange.org/2030-strategy-climate-plus/>

Anne Gillespie, Textile Exchange <https://impactincentives.org/>

Hanna Denes, Textile Exchange <https://textileexchange.org/standards/responsible-wool/>

Liesl Truscott, Textile Exchange <https://mci.textileexchange.org/biodiversity/>