SYLPROJECT
Sustainable Yak Leather

switchasia

Funded by the European Union

Capacity building to the Mongolian vegetable tanned yak leather cluster on bio-leather and bio-leather products

Action Plan for RLRT

Publicity Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

The global leather industry is undergoing a transformative period focused on sustainability and responsible production practices. This comprehensive analysis examines the opportunities, requirements, and strategic pathways for Mongolian tannery clusters to integrate with international sustainable leather initiatives, with particular emphasis on the Responsible Leather Round Table (RLRT) and related organizations. The report provides detailed insights into membership processes, benefits, challenges, and solutions, specifically tailored to the unique context of Mongolian tanneries.

1. Introduction to Global Leather Sustainability

The leather industry currently faces significant pressure to address environmental and social impacts while maintaining economic viability. Key challenges encompass water consumption and pollution, chemical usage and management, energy efficiency, and waste reduction. Additionally, the industry must address growing concerns about supply chain transparency, animal welfare, and labour conditions while managing increasing market competition.

Recent developments in sustainable leather production have seen the emergence of circular economy approaches and bio-based alternatives to traditional chemicals. Advanced water recycling technologies and energy-efficient processing methods are becoming increasingly prevalent, while blockchain-based traceability systems are enhancing supply chain transparency. Zero-waste initiatives are gaining traction across the industry, demonstrating a comprehensive commitment to sustainability.

Mongolia's leather industry presents a unique combination of traditional processing methods and abundant raw material access. The country's strategic geographic location offers significant potential for international market expansion, despite current environmental challenges. These characteristics create both opportunities and responsibilities for development within the global sustainable leather framework.

2. Textile Exchange and RLRT Framework

Textile Exchange, established in 2002, has evolved into a leading global non-profit organization driving positive impact across the textile and leather industry. The organization focuses on materials sustainability, supply chain integrity, and the development of industry standards. Their comprehensive approach includes impact measurement and stakeholder engagement programs that have shaped the industry's sustainability landscape.

The RLRT operates through a structured governance system comprising a leadership committee, technical working groups, and regional chapters. The organization's current initiatives include the Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) 2.0, which provides a comprehensive framework for responsible leather production. Their benchmark program and certification framework offer clear pathways for improvement, while training programs and research projects support continuous industry development.

Recent developments within the RLRT have focused on enhancing traceability systems and improving impact measurement tools. The organization has expanded its regional support networks and strengthened its capacity-building programs, making it increasingly relevant for emerging markets like Mongolia.

2.1. Implementation Strategy and plan

The successful integration of Mongolian tannery clusters into international sustainability frameworks requires a carefully planned, phased approach. The initial assessment phase should focus on evaluating current practices against international standards and identifying priority areas for improvement. This process typically requires three to six months and should involve all stakeholders within the cluster.

Following the assessment phase, clusters should begin the membership application process for selected organizations. This phase involves extensive documentation preparation, preliminary assessments, and coordination of site visits. Securing funding commitments and establishing clear communication channels with international organizations are crucial elements of this stage.

The implementation phase represents the most resource-intensive period, typically extending over twelve to eighteen months. During this time, clusters must initiate certification processes, implement required changes, and conduct comprehensive staff training programs. Regular documentation of progress and continuous adjustment of strategies ensure optimal results.

Stage 1: Assessment and Planning

- Conduct a baseline assessment of current practices and gaps
- Develop a roadmap for compliance with RLRT standards

Stage 2: Technology and Infrastructure Upgrades

- Invest in eco-friendly tanning methods (e.g., vegetable tanning)
- Implement waste management and water treatment systems

Stage 3: Training and Capacity Building

- Train workers on sustainable practices and safety standards
- Educating management on RLRT requirements and benefits

Stage 4: Certification and Membership

- Apply for RLRT membership and undergo the certification process
- Engage with RLRT working groups and initiatives

Stage 5: Marketing and Market Access

- Promote the cluster's RLRT participation to international buyers
- Attend trade shows and conferences to showcase sustainable products

Stage	Timeline	Key Milestones
Stage 1: Assessment & Planning	Months 1–3	▪ Baseline assessment of current practices ▪ Identification of gaps ▪ Development of a compliance roadmap
Stage 2: Technology & Infrastructure Upgrades	Months 4–9	▪ Investment in eco-friendly tanning technologies ▪ Implementation of waste management systems ▪ Facility upgrades
Stage 3: Training & Capacity Building	Months 10–12	▪ Worker training on sustainable practices ▪ Management education on RLRT standards ▪ Workshops on safety and compliance
Stage 4: Certification & Membership	Months 13–15	▪ Submission of RLRT membership application ▪ Completion of audits and certification process ▪ Engagement with RLRT working groups
Stage 5: Marketing & Market Access	Months 16–18	▪ Development of marketing materials ▪ Participation in international trade shows ▪ Promotion of sustainable products to global buyers

2.2. Market Access and Trade Opportunities

International certification and participation in global sustainability initiatives opens significant market opportunities for Mongolian tannery clusters. European luxury brands increasingly require environmental certifications and traceable supply chains, creating premium market access for certified tanneries. The Asian market, particularly Japan and South Korea, demonstrates growing demand for sustainably produced leather, while maintaining proximity advantages for Mongolian producers.

The Chinese market represents both a major opportunity and potential competition. Chinese manufacturers seek high-quality raw materials and semi-finished leather, areas where Mongolian tanneries excel. Strategic positioning through international certifications can help Mongolian clusters differentiate their products and secure premium market positions.

2.3. Environmental Considerations

Mongolia's unique environmental challenges require specialized approaches to sustainability implementation. Water scarcity in many regions necessitates advanced water recycling and conservation technologies. The country's extreme temperature variations affect energy consumption patterns, demanding innovative solutions for maintaining optimal processing conditions year-round.

Climate change impacts on the Mongolian leather industry manifest through changing patterns in raw material availability and quality. Sustainable practices must account for these variations while maintaining consistent product quality. Environmental protection measures must consider both local ecological sensitivity and global climate impact.

2.4. Technical Requirements and Standards

International standards for leather production encompass multiple technical aspects requiring careful attention. Water quality management systems must meet specific parameters for both intake and discharge, with regular monitoring and documentation. Chemical management systems require precise inventory control, proper storage facilities, and detailed usage tracking protocols.

Energy efficiency standards focus on optimizing production processes through modern equipment and improved facility design. Waste management protocols address both solid waste and air emissions, requiring specific handling procedures and documentation. These technical requirements often necessitate significant facility upgrades and staff training.

2.5. Training and Capacity Building

Successful implementation of international standards requires comprehensive training programs across all organizational levels. Management training focuses on sustainability strategy development, international compliance requirements, and effective implementation oversight. Technical staff require detailed training on new equipment operation, monitoring systems, and maintenance procedures.

Worker safety training emphasizes proper chemical handling, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment usage. Environmental management training covers monitoring protocols, documentation requirements, and corrective action procedures. Regular refresher courses and skills assessments ensure consistent standard maintenance.

2.6. Documentation and Reporting Systems

Effective documentation systems form the backbone of international certification compliance. Environmental monitoring requires detailed record-keeping of water usage, chemical consumption, and waste generation. Production tracking systems must maintain complete material flow documentation from raw material receipt through finished product dispatch.

Worker safety records must include training completion, incident reports, and corrective actions. Chemical inventory systems require detailed tracking of usage patterns and disposal procedures. Modern digital systems can streamline these requirements while ensuring data accuracy and accessibility.

2.7. Success Indicators and Monitoring

Effective progress monitoring requires establishing clear success indicators across multiple areas. Environmental performance indicators track water usage, chemical consumption, and waste generation reductions. Quality metrics monitor product consistency and defect rates throughout the implementation process.

Financial indicators track implementation costs against budgets while monitoring market access benefits. Worker safety statistics demonstrate improved working conditions and reduced incident rates. Regular review of these indicators enables timely adjustments to implementation strategies.

3. SWOT Analysis

Below is an attempt to include in a SWOT analysis the current situation of the Mongolian leather industry and the potential benefits from participating in the RLRT.

Strengths

- Abundant raw materials from Mongolia's livestock industry
- Traditional knowledge and craftsmanship in leather production
- Growing interest in sustainable practices among local stakeholders

Weaknesses

- Limited access to advanced technology and infrastructure
- Lack of awareness of international sustainability standards
- High operational costs associated with compliance

Opportunities

- Access to global markets through RLRT certification
- Collaboration with international organizations for technical and financial support
- Increased demand for sustainable leather products

Threats

- Competition from established sustainable leather producers
- Regulatory challenges in meeting international standards
- Economic constraints and fluctuating raw material prices

4. RLRT Membership Requirements and action plan

The following table presents the main requirements that each member of RLRT should commit to. Thus, it is important that the Mongolian cluster representatives adhere to these.

Requirement	Details
Commitment to Principles	Sustainability, traceability, animal welfare, and social responsibility
Environmental Standards	Resource efficiency, chemical management, waste reduction, carbon footprint
Social Standards	Fair labor practices, safe working conditions, community engagement
Animal Welfare Standards	Ethical sourcing, traceability, humane treatment of animals
Certification & Audits	Third-party audits and RLRT certification
Participation in Initiatives	Working groups, collaborative projects, and annual reporting
Continuous Improvement	Setting goals, monitoring KPIs, and implementing corrective actions
Membership Fees	Annual fees based on organization size and type

As far as joining the RLRT, the following steps are necessary.

Step 1: Assess Eligibility

- Ensure the tannery (or cluster) meets basic environmental and social compliance standards
- Review of RLRT membership criteria and requirements

Step 2: Express Interest

- Contact the RLRT secretariat via their official website or email
- Briefly describe your tannery/cluster and your interest in joining

Step 3: Initial Screening

- RLRT may conduct an initial assessment of your tannery's practices
- Prepare to provide basic information about operations and sustainability efforts

Step 4: Application Submission

- Complete the RLRT membership application form
- Provide detailed information about the tannery's:
  - Production processes
  - Environmental management systems
  - Social responsibility practices
  - Supply chain information
- Include any relevant certifications or audit reports

Step 5: Review Process

- RLRT committee reviews the application
- Additional information or clarifications may be required

Step 6: Site Visit (if required)

- RLRT representatives may conduct a site visit to verify information
- Prepare for a thorough inspection of your facilities and processes

Step 7: Commitment to Improvement

- Develop an action plan to address any gaps identified during the review process
- Set clear timelines for implementing improvements

Step 8: Membership Approval

- Upon satisfactory review, RLRT approves membership
- Sign membership agreement and code of conduct

Step 9: On-boarding

- Participating in RLRT onboarding process
- Gain access to RLRT resources, tools, and network

Step 10: Ongoing Participation

- Actively engage in RLRT initiatives and working groups
- Provide regular updates on your progress towards sustainability goals
- Participate in RLRT events and knowledge-sharing activities

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Mongolian tannery clusters possess significant potential for successful integration into international sustainable leather production networks. Strategic approach to certification processes, combined with careful resource allocation and strong stakeholder commitment, can transform challenges into competitive advantages.

Success requires sustained commitment to implementation processes, adequate resource allocation, and effective stakeholder communication. Regular progress assessment and strategy adjustment ensure optimal outcomes. Early engagement with international organizations can provide valuable guidance and support throughout the implementation process.

Recommendations

- Establish a dedicated task force to oversee the implementation process
- Seeking partnerships with international organizations for technical and financial support
- Continuously monitor and report progress to maintain RLRT certification
- Engage with local communities and stakeholders to build a shared vision for sustainability

Appendices

Appendix A - Contact Directory

Global Organizations

Apart from Textile Exchange and RLRT, a few other Global organisations support the leather industry.

The **International Council of Tanners** (leather-council.org) coordinates through their central secretariat in Paris, while maintaining regional representatives throughout Asia. ICT serves as a global platform for leather industry cooperation, providing extensive market intelligence and technical expertise. Their annual congresses and regional workshops offer valuable networking opportunities and knowledge exchange platforms for members. The organization's focus on Asian leather markets makes it particularly relevant for Mongolian tanneries seeking international integration. Their Beijing office serves as the primary contact point for Central Asian members, offering services in both English and Mandarin Chinese.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization's (UNIDO) Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel (leatherpanel.org**)** provides comprehensive technical assistance programs and facilitates clean technology transfer to developing countries. Their project-based funding approach offers significant opportunities for Mongolian tanneries to access resources for sustainability improvements without requiring substantial upfront membership fees.

The **Leather Working Group (LWG)** has established itself as the leading environmental stewardship certification body in the leather industry. Their detailed audit protocol and medallion system provide clear benchmarks for environmental compliance and achievement recognition. The organization's global market recognition makes it particularly valuable for tanneries seeking international market access.

Regional Support Networks

The **Central Asian Leather Association**, headquartered in Ulaanbaatar, serves as a crucial liaison between Mongolian tanneries and international organizations. Their technical support team provides local expertise in implementing international standards while understanding regional constraints and opportunities.

The **Mongolia-China Leather Industry Alliance** maintains offices in both Ulaanbaatar and Beijing, facilitating cross-border trade and technology transfer. Their bilingual staff assists with documentation requirements and technical translations for international certification processes.

Resource Directory

Technical Support Services

Technical support services are available through multiple channels. The RLRT's Technical Assistance Program provides remote consultation services via their online platform, complemented by scheduled site visits from expert teams. Their documentation includes comprehensive implementation guides translated into multiple languages, including Mongolian.

The UNIDO Leather Panel offers specialized technical assistance through their regional development programs. Their experts provide hands-on training and implementation support, with particular focus on cleaner production technologies and resource efficiency improvements.

Financial Resources

Development funding sources include the Asian Development Bank's Industrial Modernization Program, which offers both grants and low-interest loans for sustainability improvements. The World Bank's Green Industry Initiative provides matching funds for environmental upgrades, with special consideration for cluster-based applications.

Regional development banks offer tailored financing packages for leather industry modernization. These typically combine technical assistance grants with investment loans, providing comprehensive support for sustainability implementation projects.

Training Resources

The RLRT's Learning Management System provides online training modules covering all aspects of sustainable leather production. These modules, available in multiple languages, include interactive elements and assessment tools to ensure effective knowledge transfer.

The Leather Working Group conducts regular regional training workshops, combining classroom instruction with practical demonstrations. Their trainer certification program enables local experts to provide ongoing training support within their regions.

Appendix B - Case studies

Below are case studies of successful participants in the Responsible Leather Round Table (RLRT) or similar sustainability initiatives in the leather industry. These examples highlight best practices, challenges, and outcomes, providing valuable insights for the Mongolian cluster of tanneries as they prepare to join the RLRT.

1. ECCO Leather (Netherlands/Global)

ECCO Leather is a global leader in sustainable leather production and a prominent member of the RLRT. The company has implemented innovative practices to reduce its environmental footprint and improve supply chain transparency.

Key Initiatives:

- DriTan Technology: Developed a water-free tanning process that saves millions of liters of water annually
- Traceability: Implemented a blockchain-based system to track leather from raw materials to finished products
- Certifications: Achieved Gold certification from the Leather Working Group (LWG) and comply with RLRT standards

Outcomes:

- Reduced water usage by 25% and carbon emissions by 20% over five years
- Gained access to premium markets, including luxury fashion brands
- Enhanced brand reputation as a sustainability leader

Lessons for Mongolia:

- Invest in innovative technologies to reduce resource consumption
- Prioritize traceability to meet international standards

2. PrimeAsia (USA/Global)

Overview:

PrimeAsia is a leading leather supplier committed to sustainability and a member of the RLRT. The company focuses on eco-friendly practices and ethical sourcing.

Key Initiatives:

- Eco-Efficient Tanning: Uses chrome-free and vegetable tanning methods to minimize environmental impact
- Waste Management: Recycles 95% of its solid waste and treats 100% of its wastewater
- Community Engagement: Supports local communities through education and training programs

Outcomes:

- Achieved LWG Gold certification and compliance with RLRT standards

- Increased sales to environmentally conscious brands like Patagonia and Timberland
- Reduced chemical usage by 30% and energy consumption by 15%

Lessons for Mongolia:

- Adopt eco-friendly tanning methods to meet global standards
- Engage with local communities to build social credibility

3. Tanneries Minke (Germany)

Overview:

Tanneries Minke is a family-owned tannery that has embraced sustainability and joined the RLRT to improve its practices and market access.

Key Initiatives:

- Renewable Energy: Installed solar panels to power 50% of its operations
- Chemical Management: Replaced hazardous chemicals with biodegradable alternatives
- Transparency: Published annual sustainability reports to showcase progress

Outcomes:

- Reduced energy costs by 20% and carbon emissions by 25%
- Gained recognition as a sustainable supplier in the European market
- Improved employee satisfaction through better working conditions

Lessons for Mongolia:

- Explore renewable energy options to reduce operational costs
- Publish sustainability reports to build trust with stakeholders

4. Zheng Hong Tannery (China)

Overview:

Zheng Hong Tannery is a Chinese company that transformed its operations to meet international sustainability standards, including RLRT requirements.

Key Initiatives:

- Water Recycling: Installed a closed-loop water system to reduce water usage by 40%
- Training Programs: Conducted workshops for workers on sustainable practices and safety
- Certifications: Achieved LWG Silver certification and aligned with RLRT principles

Outcomes:

- Increased exports to Europe and North America by 30%
- Reduced water and energy costs by 15%

- Improved compliance with international regulations

Lessons for Mongolia:

- Implement water recycling systems to address resource scarcity
- Invest in worker training to ensure compliance with standards

5. Naturana Leather (Brazil)

Overview:

Naturana Leather is a Brazilian tannery specializing in eco-friendly leather production and a participant in the RLRT.

Key Initiatives:

- Vegetable Tanning: Uses plant-based tannins to produce biodegradable leather
- Biodiversity Conservation: Partners with local organizations to protect the Amazon rainforest
- Certifications: Complies with RLRT standards and holds Rainforest Alliance certification

Outcomes:

- Gained access to high-end markets, including luxury fashion and automotive industries
- Reduced environmental impact by 50% compared to traditional tanning methods
- Enhanced brand value through sustainability storytelling

Lessons for Mongolia:

- Leverage local resources (e.g., plant-based tannins) to create unique selling points
- Partner with environmental organizations to strengthen sustainability credentials

Summary Table: Case Studies at a Glance

Company	Country	Key Initiatives	Outcomes
ECCO Leather	Netherlands	DriTan technology, blockchain traceability, LWG Gold certification	Reduced water usage by 25%, gained premium market access
PrimeAsia	USA	Chrome-free tanning, waste recycling, community engagement	Increased sales to eco-conscious brands, reduced chemical usage by 30%.
Tanneries Minke	Germany	Solar energy, biodegradable chemicals, annual sustainability reports	Reduced energy costs by 20%, improved market recognition
Zheng Hong Tannery	China	Water recycling, worker training, LWG Silver certification	Increased exports by 30%, reduced water and energy costs by 15%.
Naturana Leather	Brazil	Vegetable tanning, biodiversity conservation, Rainforest Alliance certification	Access to luxury markets, reduced environmental impact by 50%

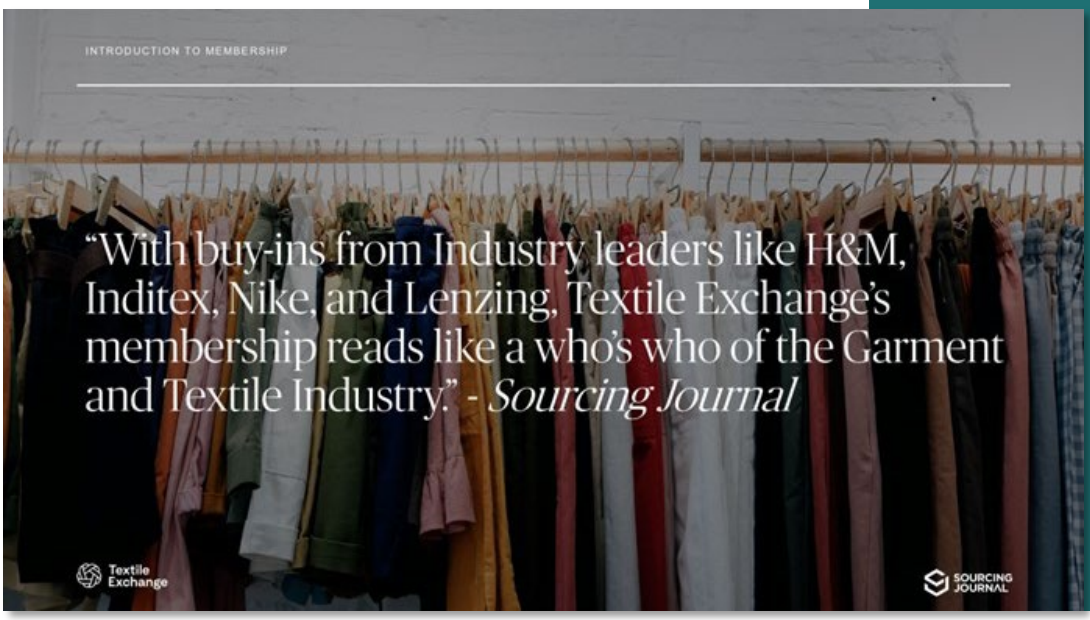
Appendix C – RLRT Membership information

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Founded in 2002, Textile Exchange is a global non-profit 501(c)3 with more than 850 members representing leading brands, retailers, and suppliers in the textile industry. The organization works to create leaders in the responsible fiber and materials sector by providing learning opportunities, tools, insight, standards, data, measurement, and benchmarking; and by building a community that can collectively accomplish what no individual or company can do alone.

Textile Exchange

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP
Vision
We envision an enriching global fashion, textile, and apparel industry that protects people and planet by positively impacting climate, soil health, water, and biodiversity.
Mission
Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate the adoption of preferred materials through clear and actionable guidance. We convene the fashion, textile, and apparel industry to collectively achieve climate reduction goals and holistic positive impacts across fiber and raw material production.
Textile Exchange


INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP
"With buy-ins from Industry leaders like H&M, Inditex, Nike, and Lenzing, Textile Exchange's membership reads like a who's who of the Garment and Textile Industry." - Sourcing Journal
Textile Exchange
SOURCING JOURNAL

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Climate+

For years, Textile Exchange has promoted practices, standards, and resources that benefit the climate.

Under the Climate+ strategic direction, Textile Exchange will be the driving force for urgent climate action with a goal of **45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within fiber and raw material production**

The + in Climate+ represents the interconnected pillars that constitute Climate; water, biodiversity, and soil health.

The + also represents partnership - the collaborative mentality needed to accomplish this goal.

Achieving the 2030 Strategy: The Climate+ goal will require strong partnerships to accelerate the adoption of existing tools as well as enable disruptive innovation around new business models and zero-carbon materials.

Learn more at: TextileExchange.org/2030-climate-plus

Textile Exchange

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP

The Value of Membership

Join more than 850 like-minded members in delivering the Climate+ goals.

Textile Exchange empowers its members to navigate the complexities of the textile industry. Regardless of where you are in your sustainability journey, Textile Exchange membership will equip you with data, tools, and, most importantly, the community necessary to achieve the 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within fiber and raw material production.

As a global non-profit, our suite of resources focuses on minimizing the harmful impacts of the textile industry and maximizing its positive effects. Since 2002, we have helped establish best practices and fair business models for the entire supply network from farm to retail.

United by our Climate+ Strategy, our members connect, collaborate, and accelerate the rapid adoption of preferred materials for the textile industry.

All that is missing to reach this goal is your voice *- join us today.*

Textile Exchange

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Unlock the Power of Community

Connect. Collaborate. Accelerate. Join a community that can collectively accomplish what no individual or company can do alone. Gain access to our membership community portal – The Hub.

Access to Expertise

Dedicated support from Textile Exchange's staff (865 years of combined experience) via The Hub. Individual team access and virtual training for our Partner-Level members.

Show Leadership and Gain Exposure

All members are listed on our website and announced on The Hub. They may also be recognized in our external communications, through which we share industry expertise and best practices within our community.

We invite you to keep us informed about your latest work and projects for consideration as part of our evolving content offering, including videos, reports, interviews, and case studies.

Convene and Connect

Expand your organization's network through our member-only online community portal The Hub, exclusive members-only events, webinars, and publications. Benefits include tickets (or discounted price tickets) to our annual conference, depending on the level of membership.

Develop, Measure, and Track Progress to a Preferred Fiber Strategy

Demonstrate progress and industry leadership towards achieving the Climate+ goals. All members participating in the Materials Benchmark have access to an Advanced Scorecard.

Textile Exchange

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Membership Levels (based on annual sales volume)

Partner - $12,500 / year

We welcome brands, retailers, suppliers, and manufacturers generating over $25 million in annual sales.

Value of Member Benefits >$15,000

- Annual Conference Tickets - 3 In-Person, 2 Virtual (Value $8,200) + 25% discount on additional tickets
- Access to our range of 36 Material Summary publications (Value $1,800)
- Materials Benchmark Advanced Scorecard (Value $3,000)
- Member-only training on Preferred Fibers or Standards (Value $1,500)
- Additional benefit for Supplier Partners only: Exhibit space at the annual Textile Sustainability Conference (Value $3,500)

Supporter - $3,000 / year

We welcome brands, retailers, suppliers, and manufacturers generating between $5 and $25 million in annual sales.

Value of Member Benefits >$9,500

- Annual Conference Tickets - 1 in-person/2 virtual (Value $4,200) + 25% discount on additional tickets.
- Access to our range of 36 Material Summary publications (Value $1,800)
- Materials Benchmark Advanced Scorecard (Value $3,000)

Friend - $500 / year

Reserved for small to medium-sized enterprises that generate under $5 million in annual revenue. Contact membership@textileexchange.org for approval.

Value of Member Benefits >$3,500

- Annual Conference Tickets - 25% discount, (Value $500)
- Materials Benchmark Advanced Scorecard (Value $3,000)

Textile Exchange

Textile Exchange Member

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Open-source access to the following programs and publications, funded by membership fees:

Benchmarking:
Members are entitled to an advanced scorecard, including gap analysis and impact dashboard.

Round Tables:
Join fiber-specific quarterly video calls and access the respective communities via The Hub.

Learning Center:
Download reports, and stream public-facing webinars.

Textile Exchange

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERSHIP — MEMBER BENEFITS

		Partner	Supporter	Friend
	Annual dues renew on a rolling basis.	$12,500	$3,000	$500
Unlock the Power of Community	Unlimited access to our member portal, The Hub	No limit to the number of subscribers from your organization	No limit to the number of subscribers from your organization	No limit to the number of subscribers from your organization
	Annual conference tickets	3 in-person, 2 virtual (value: $8,200) + 25% discount on additional tickets	1 in-person, 2 virtual (value: $4,200) + 25% discount on additional tickets	25% discount (value: $500)
	Annual conference member-only event	No limit to the number of attendees from your organization	No limit to the number of attendees from your organization	No limit to the number of attendees from your organization
	Exhibit space at our annual conference*	For Suppliers (value: $3,500)	–	–
	Invitations to regional events	✓	✓	✓
	Job listings on The Hub and Textile Exchange's Job Zone	✓	✓	✓
Education and Guidance	Annual conference recordings	✓	✓	✓
	Material Summaries library (36 available)	Value: $1,800	Value: $1,800	Available for purchase
	Member-only webinars and report briefs	✓	✓	✓
	Member only trainings on preferred fibers or standards	Value: $1,500	–	–
	One on one support from Textile Exchange team experts – subject to availability	✓	Served via The Hub, member portal	Served via The Hub, member portal
	Materials Benchmark Advanced Scorecard	Value: $3,000	Value: $3,000	Value: $3,000
Recognition	Link to corporate URL listed on our website	✓	✓	✓
	Acknowledgement of Membership	✓	✓	✓
	Priority for inclusion in the conference agenda	✓	✓	✓
	Total Value:	Brands/Retailers >$15,000; Suppliers >$18,500*	>$9,500	>$3,500

Suppliers and manufacturers receive exhibit space at our annual conference

Textile Exchange Member

Textile Exchange

Contact us:

membership@textileexchange.org

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Appendix D – RLRT Application Form

The form can be found at *https://www.tfaforms.com/5051843*

Textile Exchange Membership Screening Form

Important note: This form is for Textile Exchange **Membership**.

If you are interested in Textile Exchange **Standards Certifications (i.e. GRS, RWS, OCS, etc.)**, please contact Standards@TextileExchange.org.

If you have questions about Membership, please contact Membership@textileexchange.org.

Basic Information

Please complete all sections of the form. Note that fields marked with an asterisk * are mandatory.

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Job Title _____

Email _____

Personal LinkedIn Profile _____

Company's Legal Register Name (in Full) _____

Example: Ah Brah Cadabra Company Ltd. _____

Company's Preferred Name for use in the Public Domain: _____

Example: ABC Company _____

Industry Segment and Expertise

Industry Segment _____

Brand and Retailer Supplier and Manufacturer Professional Services _____

Country _____

Web Address _____

Please provide your company's web address to be listed as a member on our website. The list will use your company's preferred name and link it to the address provided. If no web address is available, please provide your organization's LinkedIn profile _____

URL for the relevant sustainability pages from your website _____

How did you find Textile Exchange? _____

What Textile Exchange membership benefits are you most interested in? _____

More Information

We have a membership level for every size organization (based on annual sales revenue). Which one is right for you?

Please select... Partner = more than $25 million (annual dues $12,500) Supporter = between $5 million and $25 million (annual dues $3,000) Friend = less than $5 million (annual dues $500)

What fibers/materials are you sourcing/producing?

Please select... Cotton Hemp Leather Linen Man-Made Cellulosics Synthetics Wool OtherUse Cmd or Ctrl + Click to select multiple answers.

In a few words, please share your fiber and materials strategy and indicate areas where you are looking for guidance.

For which fibers and materials do you currently collect volume data? (If none, write "n/a")

Are you sourcing certified materials? (If so, up to which level: fiber, yarn, fabric, garment)?

Which of the below topics interest you? You can select multiple answers.

Please select... Animal Welfare Biodiversity Climate Soil Health Water Other (please specify) Use Cmd or Ctrl + Click to select multiple answers.

Are you interested in Textile Exchange Membership and/or Textile Exchange Standards Certifications? *Please note these are two separate offerings*

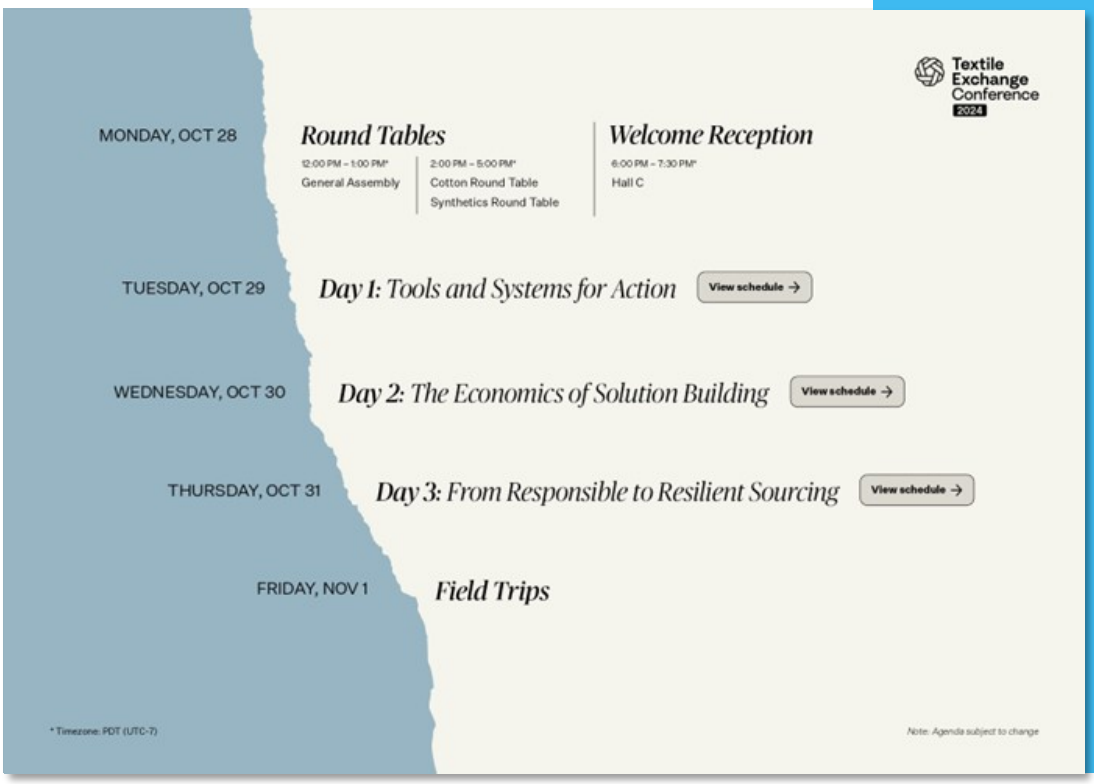
MembershipStandards CertificationSelect all that apply

Terms and Conditions

By checking this box, you confirm that you have read and agreed to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

By checking this box, you agree to receive communication from Textile Exchange, including industry news and relevant information (this can be changed at any time using the “update your preferences” option in any email you receive from us).

Appendix E - RLRT Conference Agenda 2024



TUESDAY
OCT 29

Day 1:
Tools and Systems for Action

Textile Exchange Conference 2024

OPENING PLENARY
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM*

Resilience and Responsibility: Shaping a Collaborative Future
Start the week with an impactful discussion on the evolving definitions of resilience and responsibility in the fashion, textile, and apparel industry, exploring how businesses, individuals, and communities can turn challenges into opportunities for sustainability.

BREAK
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM*

Coffee and networking

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM*

1A. Preferred Material Production Systems in Practice
Understand how Textile Exchange thinks about preferred materials, and the different tools and frameworks available to help you understand this concept.

1B. The Role and Realities of Material Sustainability Standards
Explore how sustainability standards can drive positive change across materials. We'll look at the certification journey and beyond.

1C. Understanding the Legislation Landscape
Get updates on the latest legislative changes in the US and EU. We'll unpack complex regulations and provide insights and strategies to help you navigate the evolving legal landscape with confidence.

1D. Gathering and Using Impact Data on the Ground at a Landscape Level for Regenerative Systems
Explore practical ways to work with producers to gather and use data effectively and equitably to drive change across supply chains and landscapes.

LUNCH
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM*

Spotlight sessions with designers, farmers, and thought leaders, and technical drop-ins

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM*

2A. Building Resilient Agricultural Systems for Material Production
Hear from producers on how investing in biodiversity and sustainable land management has strengthened their climate resilience and operations.

2B. The Future of Impact Data
Dive deep into the benefits and limitations of the Life Cycle Assessment methodology – the best available at scale for a scientific view of impact, but known for its gaps and complex, costly nature.

2C. The Demand/Supply Paradigm for Preferred Materials
Find out how to make commitments that help drive demand and increase the supply of materials with improved environmental and social outcomes.

2D. Traceability Strategies Beyond Compliance
Discover strategies to advance your traceability efforts beyond compliance. Gain key insights from leading companies to strengthen your traceability roadmap and future-proof your supply chain.

BREAK
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM*

Coffee and networking

CLOSING PLENARY
5:15 PM – 6:00 PM*

Building a Unified, Impact-Driven Standards System
Join us for an exciting, milestone launch along Textile Exchange's pathway toward building a unified, outcome-focused standards system, including how we're addressing critical topics.

* Timezone: PDT (UTC-7)

Note: Agenda subject to change

WEDNESDAY
OCT 30

Day 2:
The Economics of Solution Building

Textile Exchange Conference 2024

OPENING PLENARY
10:00 AM – 11:20 AM*

From Risk to Opportunity: The Business Case for Climate Action
Explore how to navigate the sometimes-competing goals of ambitious GHG reduction targets and profit growth. Together, we'll see why sustainability must be integrated across all business operations.

BREAK
11:20 AM – 11:45 AM*

Coffee and networking

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM*

3A. Financial Mechanisms to Support Material Producers
Join an interactive session to explore how financial resources can be effectively funneled to farmers and material producers, focusing on why sharing financial risk is critical.

3B. Harnessing AI to Drive Sustainability in Fashion and Textiles
Hear from brands, suppliers, and experts on how artificial intelligence is being used to enhance material efficiency, manage supply chains, and address critical data gaps.

3C. Reimagining Growth and Value Creation
Explore how businesses can create value without increasing the extraction of new virgin resources, focusing on reimaging growth in a more sustainable, resource-efficient future.

3D. Practical Preparation for Textile Exchange's Standards Transition
Take part in a workshop to prepare for the upcoming changes to Textile Exchange's standards, and the necessary preparations for brands, suppliers, and material producers.

LUNCH
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM*

Spotlight sessions with designers, farmers, and thought leaders, and technical drop-ins

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM*

4A. Building Better Logistics for Textile-to-Textile Recycling
Problem solve around the challenges of getting usable textile waste into the hands of recyclers and how to measure the impact of recycling logistics.

4B. New Frameworks for Strategic Climate Finance
Explore economic models for funding sustainability efforts, examining their benefits and limitations, with insights from leading non-profits at the forefront of driving climate investments.

4C. What Does "Nature Positive" Mean?
Unpack what nature positive means as an overarching concept, and how to embed this into your business. Understand what beneficial impact looks like for biodiversity, how to measure it, and learn from those who do it well.

4D. Policy: Practicalities and Potential
Join us as we demystify government policy, making it more accessible through a variety of voices that help explain what "policy" really is, how you can engage, and where it can take you.

BREAK
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM*

Coffee and networking

CLOSING PLENARY
5:15 PM – 6:00 PM*

What Does Equitable Partnership Look Like in Practice?
Hear directly from those working on the ground as they share insights into building true supply system partnerships, where risks and rewards are shared fairly between parties.

EVENING
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM*

Members-only reception

* Timezone: PDT (UTC-7)

Note: Agenda subject to change

THURSDAY
OCT 31

Day 3:
From Responsible to Resilient Sourcing

Textile Exchange Conference 2024

OPENING PLENARY
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM*

Securing Our Future in a Changing Climate
Join us as we navigate the future a rapidly evolving landscape driven by shifting expectations, regulatory pressures, and the urgent need to address the climate crisis. This session will explore strategies for future-proofing, focusing on innovative solutions, and system-level transformation.

BREAK
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM*

Coffee and networking

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM*

5A. Feedstocks and Beyond: The Next Frontier in Textile Recycling
Explore the latest in textile-to-textile recycling, focusing on feedstock challenges and opportunities. This session covers the shift from bottle recycling, policy impacts, and case studies of recent achievements.

5B. The Intersection of Legislation and Certification
Unpack the role of standard schemes in complying with incoming legislation. Hear examples from outside the industry to see what our sector needs to consider in navigating new regulatory landscapes.

5C. Getting Organizational Buy-in for Sustainability Initiatives
Break down successful examples where company-wide buy-in for climate and nature initiatives has been built from the inside, both at the employee level and from the top-down.

5D. The Social Side of Sustainable Agriculture
Dig into farm-level partnership projects that have achieved beneficial outcomes for people as well as the planet, and what successful social regeneration looks like in different contexts.

LUNCH
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM*

Spotlight sessions with designers, farmers, and thought leaders, and technical drop-ins

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
3:15 PM – 4:30 PM*

6A. Reframing the Sustainability Narrative
Swap overwhelm for inspiration with a solution-orientated narrative around sustainability, concretizing the notion that change is achievable and there are already examples to learn from.

6B. Textile Waste from Micro to Macro
Explore the full spectrum of textile waste, from microfibers to landfills, and its impact on the environment. Hear solutions being developed and how industry stakeholders can play a role in advancing these efforts.

6C. The Realities and Returns of Textile Innovation
Explore the role and limitations of innovation in addressing sustainability challenges. Discover how innovation can drive widespread adoption of sustainable solutions while addressing economic viability.

BREAK
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM*

Coffee and networking

CLOSING PLENARY
5:15 PM – 5:35 PM*

Making the Case for Change: Takeaways from the Week
Join us to bring together the learnings from the week into a concise mandate for urgent climate action from fashion, textile, and apparel businesses, and the key next steps to take to ensure a resilient industry for years to come.

* Timezone: PDT (UTC-7)

Note: Agenda subject to change

Appendix F – Leather Round Table Terms of Reference

This Appendix is taken from Textile Exchange's Web site.

About the Leather Round Table

Leather Round Table Summary

The Leather Round Table is a collaborative, pre-competitive team of internal and external stakeholders that bring together stakeholders from across the leather industry and related sectors to mobilize action in the leather industry in line with Textile Exchange's sustainability vision and targets. To get there, we're helping the sector to develop a shared understanding of its core sustainability issues, create alignment on goals and actions, boost commitment from major players, and measure progress.

The Leather Round Table is a group of high-level experts drawn from all parts of the supply chain and other related industry representatives working together to drive the holistic industry engagement agenda.

It 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.

Participation in the Leather Round Table is voluntary. Discussions are confidential within the group, but we ask for regular attendance and contribution to meetings, as well as a willingness to engage in collaborative action.

Vision and Methods

Vision

The vision for the Leather Round Table is a leather industry that reduces its climate impact and improves biodiversity, water, and soil health while respecting the rights of people and animals.

Purpose

The purpose of the Leather Round Table is to support Textile Exchange's sustainability vision with focus on the leather industry.

Together, we aim to speed up the shift from discussion to action and deliver measurable results. Textile Exchange will be developing its leather Climate + strategy this year, which will allow us to set meaningful goals that contribute to the industry's overall emissions reduction by 45% by 2030, covering biodiversity, soil health, water, workers' rights, and animal welfare. We will then collectively work to identify necessary actions and determine how results will be tracked.

The Leather Round Table promotes the advancement of leather production in order to achieve high level, global climate sustainability goals in the international leather industry by identifying barriers to the success of those goals and creating breakthroughs in order to achieve them.

Objectives

The objectives of our work are:

- Set meaningful goals that contribute to the overall industry greenhouse gas reduction by 45% by 2030, and address biodiversity, soil health, water and the rights of people and animals.
- Determine how progress towards these goals will be measured and tracked.
- Identify and prioritize actions each year of the next decade.
- Mobilize Leather Round Table stakeholders and others to take actions to meet these goals.
- Establish partnerships with major players in the industry for collective efforts towards the goals.

Scope

The scope of our work is defined as:

- The bovine leather supply chain from cow-calf farm to finished leather, with an emphasis on the impacts at the farm level.

The scope of the Leather Round Table may be extended to other species in the future.

How We Add Value

The Leather Round Table adds value to the international leather industry by:

- Providing an inclusive place for all stakeholders to come together and develop a shared understanding of the issues.
- Being pre-competitive and collaborative.
- Creating alignment on goals and action with commitment to work towards these from key industry players.
- Measuring progress and mobilizing action.
- Operating at both global and regional levels, including the Round Table meetings, and working groups operating as part of the Round Table.

Round Table Membership Agreement Form

[Round Table Sign-up Form]

Background Information

Textile Exchange is a global non-profit, driving positive impact on climate change across the fashion and textile industry. It guides a growing community of brands, manufacturers, and farmers towards more purposeful production from the very start of the supply chain.

The Round Tables support Textile Exchange's Climate+ vision for a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment, reduces the climate impact of our industry, and enhances lives. It 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. Our goal is to help the industry to achieve a 45% reduction in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from

producing fibers and raw materials by 2030. This is known as Tier 4 of the supply chain, and it accounts for 24% of the industry's GHG impacts related to the supply chain.

Textile Exchange's Round Tables are global stakeholder platforms that support and bring together the textile community to be inspired, share knowledge, and drive collective action with a focus on achieving our common goals.

For real change to happen, everyone needs a clear path to positive impact. That's why we believe that approachable, step-by-step instruction paired with collective action can catalyze change, mobilizing leaders through attainable strategies, proven solutions, and a driven community. The Round Tables will deliver our strategy by:

- Convening a community of stakeholders across materials and fibers
- Identifying market issues and barriers
- Aligning the textile industry on common, actionable goals and
- Creating an action plan that reflects regional needs

The Round Tables are open to all (including non-members of Textile Exchange), but everyone must register to become a member and gain access to the Round Table Hub.

The Round Table Hub community is the virtual home for the Round Table members and is hosted in Textile Exchange's online membership portal, The Hub.

Round Table Terms of Engagement

Convener and Strategic Lead	Textile Exchange
Eligibility	Participation in the Round Table is voluntary
Composition, Representation	Representatives from Textile Exchange and the global textile industry: Suppliers, Brands, NGOs, and other industry professionals
Member Requirements	• Regular attendance of and contribution to meetings • Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group • Support the Round Table development and collectively create solutions to address Climate+ and supply barriers and uptake challenges in the global textile industry. • Commitment to achieving Climate+ goals and outcomes • Sign the Membership Agreement below
Responsibilities	• Organization: The Textile Exchange Round Table Lead will chair meetings and design them to facilitate discussion and action. • Determination: The Round Table will identify opportunities for the global textile industry to drive beneficial impact in their sector. • Action: The Round Table is committed to addressing and increasing positive impacts in the global textile industry.
Decision Making	The Round Table shall strive for consensus among all members of the group. As the entity ultimately responsible for delivery of initiatives, Textile Exchange reserves the right to make the final decision and will disclose any decisions that differ from the will of the wider feedback obtained through stakeholder groups.
Length of Membership	Round Table members can participate within the Round Table for as long as they have interest.

Meeting Frequency	• A Round Table Summit will happen annually with the purpose of bringing the community together to share knowledge and learning and will be an opportunity to workshop strategies and plans for the Round Table. In-person attendance is encouraged, although a virtual option will be available. These are open to all interested parties. • Regular Round Table meetings will occur throughout the year to drive action. These will be an opportunity to present projects, ideas, concepts that will help us achieve our Round Table strategy and shared objectives. These meetings will be virtual. Round Table participants sign up to join these meetings. • Round Table Working Group meetings will happen as needed with the purpose of focusing on a specific task to drive progress towards our Round Table strategy and shared objectives. These meetings will be virtual. Round Table participants join if they have the right skills to contribute to the task and have a demonstrated history of engaging with the Round Table(s).
Time Commitment	Members will attend and contribute to meetings regularly. There will be at least four Round Table meetings per year plus Working Group meetings as needed.

Round Table Terms of Reference

Please read the relevant Round Table Terms of Reference(s) below or click the arrow icon to download it to your computer. Click "Next" to confirm your agreement to the Membership Requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference and to join the Round Table. The membership includes access to the Round Table Hub, our online community network.

Round Table Membership Agreement

The undersigned has read and understands the Round Table Terms of Reference and agrees to the Membership Requirements therein:

- Contributing time and expertise during participation in Round Table activities
- Working openly and collaboratively to meet the objectives of the Round Table, sharing best practices and lessons learned
- Respecting Textile Exchange values (integrity, respect, inclusive community, learning, and collaboration) in all RT activities
- Non-disclosure and confidentiality of shared information within the group and compliance with all applicable antitrust and anti-competitive laws, including, without limitation:
    - Treating any information that is shared as part of any Round Table meeting or activity in accordance with the Chatham House Rule *(Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed)* ;
    - Ensuring that none of the information shared as part of the Round Table is used to cause competitive injury or disadvantage to another Round Table member, participant, Textile Exchange, or the (Name of) Round Table; and
    - Abstaining from any conversations or activities that may restrict competition or set prices.
- Refraining from using any information obtained through the Round Table, other than to advance the objectives of the Round Table and in no event to disparage Round Table Members, their products, practices, businesses, or their reputations.

Non-mandatory but highly encouraged:

- Become a Textile Exchange member .
- Familiarize yourself with the Textile Exchange Climate+ Strategy

Signed*_____ Date: _____

(X) I confirm that I have read and agree to the Round Table Terms of Reference and Membership Agreement

(X) I understand that failure to abide by the terms of my membership in the Round Table in any material way may result in my termination of membership and ability to participate in the Round Table.

(X) Optional – I give permission for my organization to be publicly listed as a member of the Round Table.

(X) Optional – I agree to receive communications from Textile Exchange, including industry news and relevant information (this can be changed at any time using the "update your preferences" option in any email you receive from us).

Appendix G - Extra material from RLRT for demonstrating the outputs from such participation

1. Textile Exchange Updates – Leather Round Table "Deforestation-Free Call to Action for Leather", 19/9/2024 (52 pages)
2. Textile Exchange. Materials Market Report, September 2024 (76 pages)
3. Textile Exchange. Materials Benchmark Insights and Trends, October 2024 (factsheet)
4. Textile Exchange - Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) Leather Supply Chain Mapping & Traceability Guidelines, 05/01/2021 (5 pages)
5. Textile Exchange - Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) LIA Benchmark for Leather Production Social Standards 1.0, 8/8/2023 (16 pages)
6. Textile Exchange - Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) LIA Benchmark for Leather Production Environmental Standards 1.0, 8/8/2023 (41 pages)
7. Textile Exchange. Improvements in Cattle Traceability in Latin America, 4/6/2024 (47 pages)
8. Textile Exchange– Leather Round Table, Focus on Recycling: Leather, 7/3/2024 (46 pages)
9. Textile Exchange Conference, Round Table General Assembly, October 2023 (72 pages)
10. Textile Exchange – Animal Fibers Round Table and Leather Round Table, Review of 2024, Preview of 2025, 17/12/2024, (32 pages)