

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

*Assessing the Global and Local
Impacts of Paris Fashion Week on
Tourism, Environmental
Degradation, Exploitative Labour
Practices Within the Fashion Supply
Chain, and Socio-Economic
Pressures on Host Communities in
Major Fashion Capitals.*

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I. INTRODUCTION:

The United Nations World Tourism Organization is an agency focused on promoting sustainable, responsible, and accessible tourism worldwide. Its power depends mainly on guiding the global travel industry towards economic growth, reducing poverty and fostering cross-cultural understanding (UN Tourism, n.d.). Nevertheless, this agency also faces key limitations that affect its efficiency and impact. One of its main challenges includes its lack of enforcement powers, which means that it cannot legally require sovereign nations to enforce regulations such as fair wages and sustainable practices. The agency also faces complications such as overtourism and local disruption. High tourism numbers often directly contribute to overtourism in major destinations including Barcelona, Venice, and Cancun, which leads to increasing housing costs, gentrification, strain on local infrastructure, and decreased quality of life for residents (*CUE Topic 2: Sustainable Tourism – Circular Benefits and Challenges* | Dut, n.d.). The World Tourism Organization has a few main core guiding rules and legal frameworks in order to promote responsible and sustainable tourism around the world. The organization founded the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, a framework that serves as a fundamental blueprint and promotes respectful, fair, and responsible behaviour between tourists, businesses, and governments, while also minimizing the potential negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage, and numerous societies throughout the world. It is a thorough set of ten principles that were adopted by the UN Tourism Organization in 1999 (*Global Code of Ethics for Tourism – UCLG-MEWA*, 2023). In addition, the committee supports tourism for development, and it encourages tourism to create jobs, reduce poverty, and strengthen economies.

Throughout its history, the United Nations Tourism Organization has taken important actions to support sustainable tourism, economic development, and international cooperation. First of all, UNWTO is quite concerned with environmental issues, supporting the Glasgow Declaration, which proposes a coordinated plan for tourism to commit to halving emissions by 2030 and to be able to accomplish net zero emissions before 2050 (UN Tourism, 2025). Continuing its involvement in the environment, UNWTO attended the Conference on Climate Change and Tourism in Switzerland in 2007. Furthermore, it has produced social and economic benefits. UNWTO has encouraged the implementation of a Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

This aims to develop tourism's socio-economic growth while reducing its negative impacts, supporting sustainable development and the minimization of economic hardships (UN Tourism, n.d). During the 2009 global economic crisis, the organization helped demonstrate how tourism could contribute to economic benefit and recovery. UNWTO has also been involved in responding to global crises, like the one following the Asian Tsunami in 2005. The organization attended the emergency meeting to help affected regions develop recovery strategies for their tourism sectors (UNWTO, n.d.). In addition, it established World Tourism Day, which highlights tourism as a transformative agent for positive change and promotes awareness of the social, economic, and cultural value of tourism (United Nations, n.d.). In conclusion, these actions have shown how the UN Tourism Organization has addressed historical and modern challenges while promoting tourism for future development.

Paris Fashion Week is one of the world's most influential fashion events, one that brings diverse groups of people such as designers, celebrities, models, and journalists from around the globe to Paris annually. The event significantly boosts local tourism, drawing tens of thousands of different visitors each year. As one of the major drivers of fashion tourism, the event generates significant economic benefits for the host city, including increased spending on hotels, transportation, restaurants, and luxury goods. Nevertheless, the rapid growth of fashion-related tourism has also raised concerns about its environmental, social, and economic impacts. (Nishikawa, 2026)

The impacts of Paris Fashion Week extend beyond France through global fashion supply chains, where workers may face poor working conditions and low wages. Although setting international labour standards is the responsibility of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UNWTO can encourage fashion events and brands to support ethical and sustainable practices through the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. Furthermore, increased production, travel, and consumption contribute to pollution and carbon emissions. According to *NSS Magazine* (Nishikawa, 2026), "The fashion weeks in New York, London, Milan, and Paris altogether emit around 241,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year." At the local level, host communities in major fashion capitals may face rising living costs, overcrowding, and pressure on public infrastructure during major fashion events (Vasquez, 2026). As fashion tourism continues to expand in the twenty-first century, governments, international organizations, fashion brands,

and local communities are continually seeking ways to balance the benefits of economic growth with environmental sustainability, responsible tourism, and resident well-being.



II. HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Origins of Paris Fashion Week:

Long before Paris Fashion Week was officially established, Paris had already been recognized as a global center of luxury fashion and haute couture. Many renowned brands and designers who have revolutionized the fashion industry emerged from Paris. Ever since the nineteenth century, many French designers have influenced global fashion and have helped establish Paris as a symbol of elegance (Renaud, 2025). Paris Fashion Week was officially created by the Fédération Française de la Couture in 1973. It began with the Battle of Versailles Fashion Show as a fundraiser for the restoration of the Palace of Versailles (Romane, 2026). The event placed French fashion houses against American designers on the same runway that successfully raised millions of dollars. It was also created as a way to integrate haute couture, ready-to-wear, and men's fashion into an organized event. This marked the beginning of Paris Fashion Week's development into an international fashion event. Over time, the fashion show became more courageous and creative, like Thierry Mugler's 1984 extravaganza at Le Zenith stadium and Jean Paul Gaultier's show-stopping conical bra (Jana, 2020). Paris Fashion Week brought together designers, buyers, and journalists, which increased international attention towards the city and attracted tourists from around the world. Throughout the years, Paris Fashion Week expanded beyond the fashion industry, attracting many celebrities and media, alongside tourists all around the globe.

During the 1990s and early 2000s, Paris Fashion Week continued to expand and grow in size and in influence. The city's authority extended far beyond its famous runways. It began as a mere fashion event and a showcase of different fashion collections; it evolved into a global platform that shaped trends and international tourism (imode-review, 2025). As its popularity continued to grow, the number of visitors increased each season, which generated significant economic growth and benefits in Paris. Nevertheless, this expansion also raised many environmental concerns and contributed to the growth of global supply chains as well as increasing social and economic pressures on both manufacturing communities and host cities. Consequently, many environmental, social, and economic issues linked to the fashion industry became more visible and developed because of events such as Paris Fashion Week.

Globalization of the Fashion Industry:

The expansion of global supply chains revolutionized the fashion industry. Instead of designing, producing, and selling products in a single venue, brands began distributing production across a variety of venues. As brands expanded their markets, the rest of the world needed to adapt and keep up with the rhythm at which one of the most important industries was growing. With the rise of social media, being able to keep up with fashion trends opened new opportunities for brands to expand their range of products and audiences. However, these changes increased the dependency of brands on heritage and their history. Most brands adapted easily to the new generation of consumers, but those who did not had trouble competing in this new market. An example of the possible success a brand may achieve through social media is presented in the article *Self-disruption in the fashion industry*, from the site McKinsey & Company, which quotes the following, “Clothing brand Reformation, for example, has 1.1 million Instagram followers, as of printing our broader report, and makes 80 percent of sales online. It pushes its green credentials and has a roster of celebrity endorsers, including Selena Gomez, Emily Ratajkowski, and Rihanna.” “Both companies are growing sales at high-double-digit rates.” (Amed et al., 2019). These 2 examples demonstrate how a company's success has changed over time, and how now the more exposure brands receive, the more sales increase.

In this new era of textile production, several ethical concerns arise, such as fast fashion. “Fast fashion is a term that describes the rapid production of inexpensive, low-quality clothing that often replicates popular styles of fashion labels, big-name brands, and independent designers.” (Kelleher, 2026). This issue has a very negative social and environmental impact. This model often depends on lowering workers' wages, which creates unsafe working conditions, longer shifts, violations of workers' rights, an increase in child labour, and lower pay. Furthermore, fast fashion negatively impacts the environment. Before the rise of fast fashion, the industry already produced 10% of the carbon emissions and used large amounts of water and chemicals, affecting entire ecosystems. Fast fashion just increases environmental problems like “clothing graveyards”, which are landfills in Chile full of clothing made of synthetic fibers.

Thanks to the new methods of marketing fashion events, brands and countries have approached new means in order to increase their tourism. The promotion of fashion weeks through social media increased public interest in these events and contributed to the growth of international fashion tourism. Most of these events are already familiar to audiences since they happen annually and are part of large campaigns. A fashion week is a perfect event to increase a country's economy, since not only customers attend, but also models, brands, directors, and even government officials. Every person who travels to attend these events needs things like food, lodging, and transportation, which translates to increased income from hotels, restaurants, transportation services, local businesses, and historic monuments. All these events being covered by the media just promotes it even further in order to reach a considerable range of audiences. Overall, a fashion week benefits a country's economy by millions of dollars. New York City fashion week generates approximately \$887 million dollars, London fashion week roughly \$370–\$375 million dollars, Paris about \$533 million, and Milan around \$677 million. The economy of an entire country can benefit by millions through a singular event (Longman, 2025).

The Growth of Fashion Tourism and Global Influence:

During the 2000s and 2010s, Paris Fashion Week experienced significant growth and became one of the most influential fashion events in the world, attracting thousands of visitors to Paris each year. As the global fashion industry expanded, Paris strengthened its position as an international fashion capital, attracting designers, buyers, journalists, models, and consumers from around the world. International tourists traveled to Paris to attend exhibitions, fashion shows, and related events throughout the year. This increase in international participation contributed to the growth of tourism in the city and many hotel bookings, restaurants, and attractions filled with visitors, generating economic benefits for Paris (Goel, 2024). During the 2000s, Paris Fashion Week attracted approximately 30,000 industry visitors per season, including fashion buyers, models, journalists, and shoppers (WifiTalents, 2026). As attendance continued to rise throughout the decade, the event became an increasingly important contributor to the city's economy. It drove massive direct economic activity through tourism, hospitality, and retail. High-end hotels, restaurants, taxis, and event production companies increased

revenue during each ready-to-wear and haute couture week (Longman, 2025).

Paris Fashion Week became a major tourist attraction and expanded its global influence during the 2000s due to advances in internet technology and digital media. Runway images could be viewed online rather than being limited primarily to fashion magazines. The emergence of fashion blogs and social media increased public access to fashion content. This allowed street style to become an increasingly important part of fashion culture. Consumers around the world were able to engage directly with trends from Paris. This caused the fashion industry to adapt quickly; brands began to livestream shows and create digital content, giving brands global exposure. Paris Fashion Week transformed from an industry-focused event into a global cultural phenomenon, strengthening its influence on international fashion trends and consumer behavior (Brownfashionagal, 2025).

Labour Rights Concerns and Global Supply Chain:

During the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, the fashion industry continued to grow and become increasingly globalized. As the global demand increased, many companies sought ways to reduce production costs and increase efficiency. Many companies moved their manufacturing operations to countries with lower production costs. This allowed them to produce clothing faster and with lower prices. However, this also raised concerns, because many workers often faced different challenges such as low wages, long working hours, and unsafe working conditions. Different companies outsourced production to countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, China, and India. This is often because labour costs are often less expensive and regulations may be less strictly enforced (International Labour Organization [ILO], 2022). Workers there were expected to meet demanding production targets in factories that often lacked adequate safety measures. As the fashion industry continued to grow, the pressure to produce large quantities of clothing at low costs intensified these issues.

One specific event that proved and highlighted these concerns was the Rana Plaza factory collapse. On April 24th, 2013, an eight-story building named Rana Plaza collapsed. This collapse resulted in 1,134 deaths and left thousands of others injured. According to the Clean Clothes Campaign (n.d.) The day before the building collapsed, large cracks in the

factory were discovered. Many shops and the bank that were on the lower floors closed immediately. However, the garment factory owners on upper floors decided to ignore the warnings to avoid using the building after the cracks appeared. Workers received orders to return to work the following day despite the safety concerns. A few hours later, the building collapsed. This tragedy brought international attention to labour conditions within fashion supply chains, and it became a turning point in discussions regarding labour rights, worker safety, and corporate responsibility. Following the Rana Plaza disaster, many governments, organizations, and fashion brands faced pressure to improve working conditions and strengthen transparency in supply chains. Several initiatives were introduced in different countries aiming to improve factory safety and put workers' rights first. Nonetheless, concerns regarding fair wages, workers' protections, and ethical sourcing are still being debated today, showcasing the ongoing challenges associated with the globalization of the fashion industry. (International Labour Organization [ILO], n.d.)

Environmental and Socioeconomic Challenges:

Between 2010 and 2020, Paris Fashion Week and the global textile industry generated significant carbon footprints. Approximately 70% of upstream emissions were caused by fabric production. About 241,000 tons of CO₂ were produced annually by business travel, airfare, and accommodation for roughly 11,000 individual retail buyers and 5,000 designers. Paris was ranked as the second most environmentally impactful fashion week city worldwide, generating approximately 45,000 tons of CO₂ emissions (Fleck, 2023). During this decade, textile waste reached approximately 92 million tons annually (Shamsuzzaman et al., 2025). These environmental impacts raised growing concerns regarding the sustainability of the fashion industry throughout the 2010s.

By the end of the 2010s, growing concerns regarding the environmental impact of the fashion industry led to the implementation of sustainability initiatives within Paris Fashion Week. The Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode established a commission dedicated to sustainable development in 2018, which became active in 2019. The organization committed to improving both the industrial and event value chains by promoting environmentally responsible

practices. During 2019 and 2020, initiatives included reducing paper consumption by 80%, increasing recycling and waste recovery programs, as well as encouraging the use of electric transportation and transitioning toward zero-emission mobility services. The Fédération also announced plans to eliminate single-use plastics, develop eco-design tools, and measure the ecological performance of Paris Fashion Week. These reforms reflected the fashion industry's growing recognition of environmental challenges and its efforts to promote more sustainable and circular practices (Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode, 2019).



III. CURRENT SITUATION:

Current importance of Paris Fashion Week:

Paris Fashion Week is one of the most important events in the global fashion industry and a significant contributor to France's tourism sector. Recent editions have attracted fashion houses, industry professionals, media organizations, influencers, and consumers around the world, demonstrating the event's continued relevance within both the fashion and tourism sectors (Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode, n.d.).

According to industry estimates, Paris Fashion Week attracts tens of thousands of visitors and generates substantial economic activity each year (WifiTalents, 2026). Moreover, according to Jain (2025) and Wendlandt (2016), Paris Fashion Week generates an estimated €1.7 billion in direct economic revenue per season, with its six annual shows producing €10 billion to €10.3 billion in annual commercial orders. Furthermore, Paris Fashion Week generates more than €1.2 billion in indirect visitor spending, which includes hotels, restaurants, and other tourism-related services. The sectors that experienced the most immediate benefits were hospitality, transportation, retail, luxury goods, and food services (Delpal, 2018). However, alongside these positive outcomes, there are concerns about the environmental, social, and economic challenges associated with large-scale fashion events, making Paris Fashion Week an important subject of contemporary debate (Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode, n.d.).

Environmental Impacts:

While the Paris Fashion Week generates significant economic and cultural gains, it has also become the subject of growing discussions regarding its environmental footprint. In 2020, the Carbon Trust, a UK consultancy, published a report on the environmental consequences of fashion weeks. The firm mentioned that fashion weeks in New York, Milan, Paris, and London all together emit an estimated amount of 241,000 tons of CO₂ each year (Nishikawa, 2026). Similarly, according to NSS Magazine (2024), one of the main sources of pollution associated with Paris Fashion Week is air travel by designers and buyers, which alone generates

approximately 147,000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually. Paris Fashion Week attracts thousands of international attendees each year, and this results in substantial carbon emissions from air travel and local transportation. In addition, some factors that also contribute to the event's environmental footprint include: the construction of elaborate sets, the use of lighting and sound systems, and the disposal of temporary materials (Lampoon Magazine, 2025). However, Paris Fashion Week has also introduced reusable scenography systems, waste recycling initiatives, and electric or hybrid shuttle services in an effort to reduce its environmental impact.

Labour Practices:

In addition to environmental concerns, Paris Fashion Week has prompted debates regarding labour practices and working conditions within the fashion industry. In 2017, casting director James Scully claimed that approximately 150 models attending the Balenciaga casting were forced to wait in “sadistic” and “cruel” conditions (Agren, 2017). This incident raised concerns about long working hours and inadequate labour protections. As Edie Campbell, a British model, noted, the informal nature of the industry can discourage individuals from reporting mistreatment due to fears of losing their jobs or damaging their careers (Agren, 2017). These concerns extend beyond the runway, with garment workers facing demanding schedules and intense workloads. An intern working at the Paris Fashion Week mentioned working under sleepless conditions during the day of an event, highlighting possible labour rights violations (T, 2022). These experiences highlight the challenges and pressures faced by many workers involved in the production of large-scale fashion events.

Social-economic Pressures:

While there are substantial economic benefits generated by Paris Fashion Week, the event also causes considerable socio-economic pressures for residents. In recent years, the large influx of visitors, fashion industry professionals, media personnel, and influencers has been reported to disrupt daily life in Paris through increased traffic congestion, road closures, and overcrowding in central areas of the city (Welcome2France, 2024). Residents frequently encounter difficulties

getting to work or visiting public places (Nishikawa, 2024). In addition, the event leads to an estimated 100,000 fashion professionals traveling to Paris, which creates pressure on airports, public transportation, taxis, and ride-sharing services (Longman, 2025).

Additionally, despite its benefits in the economic sector, Paris Fashion Week creates economic pressures and disruptions that affect the daily lives of residents. During the event, demand for hotels rises significantly, with occupancy rates reaching around 90% and accommodation prices exceeding €520 per night (Longman, 2025). Restaurants and entertainment venues often experience higher prices and reduced availability. While sectors such as luxury retail, hospitality, dining and transportation benefit considerably, these economic gains are not shared equally across the city. Luxury brands benefit disproportionately, while smaller designers struggle with costs. In addition, Paris Fashion Week can contribute to localized overtourism in shopping districts and popular tourist areas. These challenges show that the economic benefits of Paris Fashion Week can come at a cost for residents and city infrastructure.

Perspective and Debate Challenges:

Paris Fashion Week remains the subject of ongoing debate, with differing perspectives on its overall economic, social, and environmental impact. Supporters emphasize the significant economic and tourism benefits generated by the event. They also argue that Paris Fashion Week contributes substantially, with approximately 1.2 billion to the Parisian economy (*Paris Fashion Week Highlights Industry Strength Amid Global Turmoil*, 2026). This event also reinforces Paris' position as a global fashion capital with the attraction of visitors, media, investments, and commercial activity. As fashion-driven tourism continues to expand worldwide, stakeholders view fashion events as a valuable tool for economic development and international promotion.

Meanwhile, opponents highlight the environmental, social, and labour-related challenges associated with Paris Fashion Week and the fashion industry. Many critics argue that travel, venue construction, fashion production, and waste contribute to around 3-10% of the total carbon emissions (Nishikawa, 2026). They also tend to emphasize concerns regarding

labour rights violations within the fashion industry, including long hours and inadequate worker protections. Furthermore, residents experience increased congestion and overcrowding. Ultimately, Paris Fashion Week exemplifies the complex challenges of balancing economic growth and cultural influence with environmental responsibility, ethical labour practices, and the well-being of local communities.



IV. UN ACTIONS:

The United Nations and its different agencies have created various frameworks with the shared goal of promoting sustainable tourism, environmental protection, and ethical labour standards within the global fashion industry. Furthermore, the rapid growth of fashion-driven tourism events such as Paris Fashion Week and the pressures these events can generate on host communities have encouraged international organizations to address issues such as environmental degradation, labour concerns, and socio-economic pressures.

In 1998, the International Labor Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights of Work was officially adopted and later amended in 2022. The Declaration was amended to include a safe and healthy working environment as a fifth fundamental principle and right at work, reinforcing the importance of protecting workers from hazardous working conditions. These principles are legal instruments, created with the purpose of setting basic principles in labour practices in order to reduce unethical labour conditions in worldwide industries and promote appropriate practices in businesses (International Labour Organization, n.d). Furthermore, the declaration is composed of the following four fundamental principles regarding these labour rights: freedom of association and collective bargaining, the elimination of forced labour, the abolition of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination in employment. The declaration reaffirms the ideas that workers can join different unions and negotiate their working conditions, as well as the principle that no one should work under threats or abuse (International Labour Organization, n.d). Moreover, it also highlights the eradication of child labour while emphasizing that no child should do harmful work that affects their education or development (International Labour Organization, 1998). In addition, it states that there should be equal opportunities at work regardless of gender, race, and religion. Overall, this is a highly relevant framework used internationally to guide labour laws and protect workers. Particularly, the framework has been utilized in large global events such as Paris Fashion Week, where different workers across production, logistics, and related industries may face issues linked to labour conditions.

The Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, officially approved in 1999 by the World Tourism Organization, is a set of principles that guide main investors through Tourism development and prevent the latter from harming environments and communities. In addition, it

aims to minimize environmental consequences, loss of cultural heritage, and harm to societies across the globe while increasing the sector's benefits (UN Tourism, n.d.). Moreover, in 2001, the United Nations recognized it and encouraged UN Tourism to make sure countries and tourism organizations follow its principles. The Code has 10 articles that discuss environmental sustainability, the protection of cultural heritage, equitable economic benefits for local populations, and the protection of workers' rights within the tourism industry (UN Tourism, n.d.). In particular, Articles 3, 5, and 9 promote sustainable tourism development, encourage local communities to benefit fairly from tourism activities, and show the importance of protecting tourism workers and limiting job insecurity (UN Tourism, n.d.). These principles are especially relevant to fashion events such as Paris Fashion Week, where there is increased tourism that may impact environmental, socio-economic, and labour sectors. However, because the framework is not legally binding, countries and tourism industries are not required to follow its principles, which may diminish its effectiveness (UN Tourism, n.d.).

The Paris Agreement was adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on December 12, 2015, during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France. It was finally enacted on November 4th, 2016, almost a year later, and as of 2026, it has been signed by 194 states (*The Paris Agreement*, n.d.). It was developed as a response to the increasing impact of greenhouse gas emissions and intense climate change, and to establish an international framework in which countries commit to hold the temperature increase below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and aim to keep it within 1.5°C. The main objective of the agreement is to reinforce global climate action through nationally determined contributions (NDC's), which embody each country's efforts to reduce national emissions. It encourages climate mitigation efforts in areas like transportation, tourism, and industry, which are the main carbon emission producers. Paris Fashion Week ultimately depends on international travel by workers, clients, the public, and tourists, whose transportation affects the carbon emission footprint by increasing with these sorts of events, which just further reinforces the need for sustainable tourism.

In 2019, during the UN Environment Assembly on March 14, the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion was introduced with the purpose of halting environmentally and socially destructive practices of fashion (*UN Alliance For Sustainable Fashion Addresses Damage of*

'Fast Fashion', 2019). It was created as a response to the increased necessity of transitioning from harmful consumption habits and unsustainable waste generation to improved environmentally friendly actions and management. Moreover, the main target of this alliance is to improve collaboration across the UN system and to align the system with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Consequently, it functions by analyzing the UN agencies' efforts in making fashion sustainable, identifying solutions and gaps in their actions, and presenting these findings to governments to trigger policy (*UN Alliance For Sustainable Fashion Addresses Damage of 'Fast Fashion'*, 2019). Thus, Paris Fashion Week, as a major fashion and large-scale event, needs to take into account the UN Alliance due to the fact that these events contribute to the increase of consumption, generation of textile waste, and global tourism, which links back to the main goals of the alliance.

Altogether, the UN has carried out various different initiatives and implemented several frameworks to address concerns regarding environmental, social, and labour challenges related to the Paris Fashion Week-driven tourism. The International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights of Work, the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, and the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion are all examples of actions the UN has taken intending to promote fair labour, environmental sustainability, and responsible economic development. These are especially relevant to events like Paris Fashion Week, because the latter bring forth issues related to tourism impacts and labour conditions. Even though some of these initiatives, such as the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, are not legally binding, they encourage governments, organizations, and businesses to start adopting different practices that are more environmentally friendly and ethical in the fashion industry.

V. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

The impacts of Paris Fashion Week-driven tourism have become a major concern for the international community, affecting the environment, labour practices, and socio-economic conditions in host communities. Large fashion events contribute to pollution, excessive waste, exploitative labour practices, and increasing pressures on Paris residents. Therefore, the international community needs to seek ways to improve sustainable tourism while strengthening labour protections and supporting responsible fashion practices. Given these points, the following solutions and actions are recommended:

I. Investing a percentage of Paris Fashion Week's profits toward sustainable waste management and recycling programs:

- a) Directing a fixed percentage of the profits toward sustainable waste management initiatives and environmental restoration programs in the host city;
- b) Supporting recycling systems, disposing of textile and event waste in a sustainable manner, reducing the number of single-use materials, and implementing eco-friendly infrastructure to reduce environmental degradation caused by fashion events;
- c) Encouraging partnerships among local governments, environmental organizations, and fashion brands to ensure transparency in the distribution of funds and promoting sustainability practices within the fashion industry.

II. Implementing sustainability certification programs for participating fashion brands:

- a) The establishment of an official sustainability certification program for participating fashion brands to encourage environmentally responsible practices within the fashion industry;
- b) To obtain this certification, the brands participating in Paris Fashion Week will

need to demonstrate their efforts to reduce textile waste, lower carbon emissions, incorporate sustainable materials, and increase transparency within their supply chains. Existing frameworks such as those from the Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode (FHCM) could be used as a reference for the evaluation of the brands;

- c) Certified brands could receive official public recognition during the event, allowing consumers and audiences to identify which companies support sustainable fashion practices.

III. The strengthening of transparency regarding labour rights and supply chains within the fashion industry:

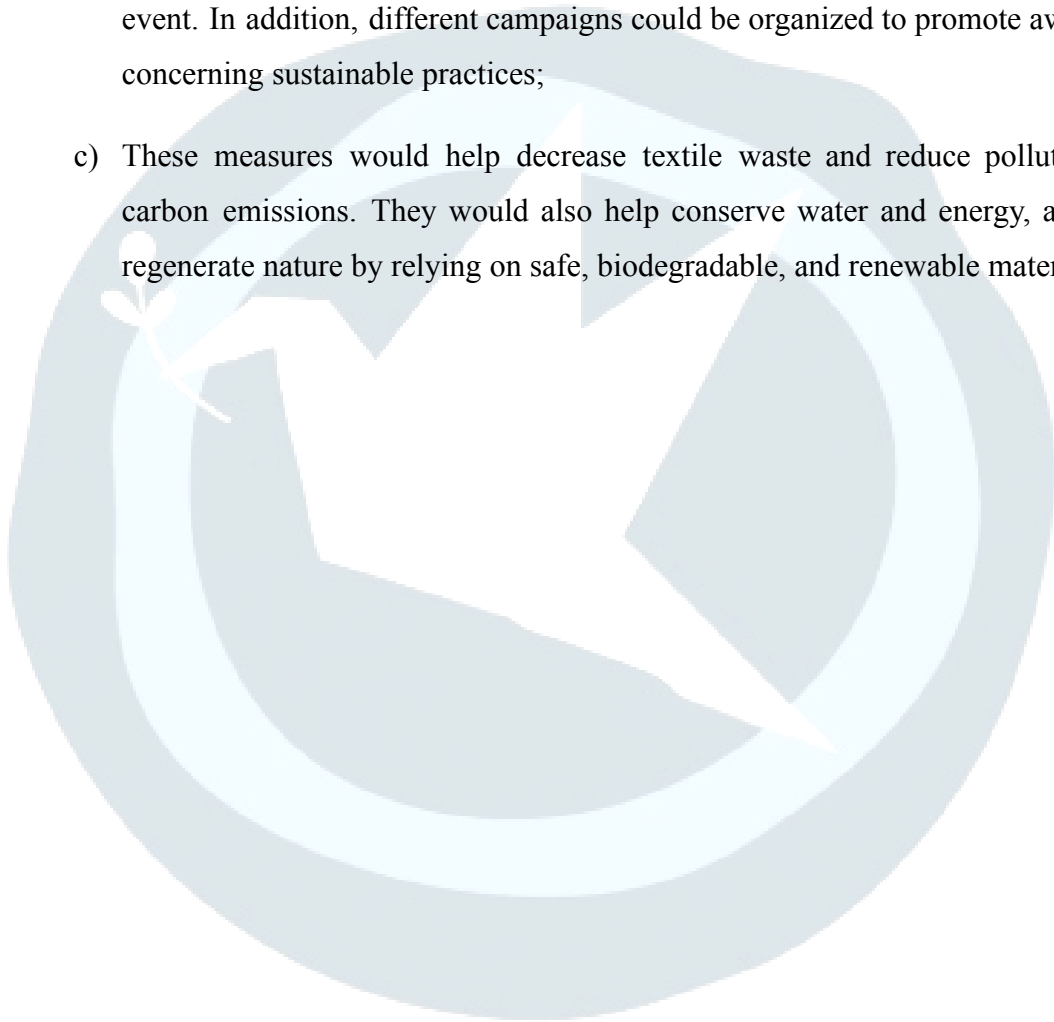
- a) Establishing stricter labour transparency for fashion brands participating in Paris Fashion Week would help promote more ethical practices within the supply chain, as well as protecting workers' rights;
- b) Brands would be required to disclose information including factory locations, wage policies, labour conditions, and working standards within the supply chain. There could be inspections and audits to ensure that recognized labour standards and worker protection regulations are followed;
- c) Increasing transparency would allow consumers, tourists, organizers, and investors to make informed decisions, and would encourage brands to maintain fair labour conditions and improve standards across the fashion industry.

IV. Implementing circular fashion and textile waste reduction:

- a) Circular fashion is a sustainable system in which clothing and accessories that are produced, sourced, and designed are done with the intention of making them last as long as possible. They are designed with non-toxic and biodegradable materials, and this system encourages renting, swapping, or purchasing

second-hand clothing instead of constantly buying new products (Green Strategy, 2025). This would encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns within the fashion industry;

- b) Brands participating in Paris Fashion Week could be encouraged to incorporate recycled materials into their collections, and event organizers could also create programs for clothing donations, resale initiatives, and recycling during the event. In addition, different campaigns could be organized to promote awareness concerning sustainable practices;
- c) These measures would help decrease textile waste and reduce pollution and carbon emissions. They would also help conserve water and energy, and even regenerate nature by relying on safe, biodegradable, and renewable materials.



VI. COUNTRIES INVOLVED:

1. French Republic

First and foremost, the French Republic serves as host of Paris Fashion Week; this is one of the most significant events for this country. While the local community benefits from Paris Fashion Week in several ways, it is also challenged in a number of ways. The event contributes significantly to the economy of France through the tourism that this event generates, as well as international media attention and commercial activity related to the fashion sector. On the other hand, the event also contributes to increased carbon emissions and waste, overcrowding in the city, and visitor numbers that place additional pressure on the already stressed local infrastructure. During the event itself, many of the fashion models are forced to live in substandard conditions and to work an excessive amount of hours a day (Welcome2France, 2024). As one of the world's leading fashion capitals, France plays a central role in shaping international fashion trends and industry standards. While the French government has increasingly supported sustainability initiatives, ethical production methods, and corporate accountability in the fashion industry (Planet Aid, 2025).

2. United States of America

The United States of America plays a major role in the global fashion industry, influencing fashion events such as Paris Fashion Week and other major fashion events worldwide. As one of the largest apparel markets, the country strongly influences fashion trends and consumer behavior (Culturs, 2024). The United States contributes significantly to the economic success of Paris Fashion Week with many journalists, buyers, designers, and celebrities attending. The United States has also supported sustainability initiatives within the fashion industry through different organizations such as the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), which promotes environmentally responsible practices within the fashion industry (CFDA, n.d). Despite these efforts, the United States remains one of the world's largest contributors to textile consumption and waste generation, significantly contributing to pollution associated

with fast fashion and fashion tourism (EPA, 2026).

3. Italian Republic

The Italian Republic is a key member state in the committee due to its role as the host of Milan Fashion Week, one of the largest and most relevant fashion events. Tourism in Italy significantly increases during these events by attracting buyers, designers, international visitors, and consumers. Milan's Fashion Week hosts approximately 30,000 visitors, which includes press, social media influencers, customers, brand representatives, among others. The event is a major contributor to Italy's economy (Hendriksz, 2021). Italy is one of the most important tourism destinations in all of Europe, and its tourism represents a major part of its national economy (OECD, 2024). Furthermore, Italy's importance within the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) framework is reinforced since its global tourism is affected by major fashion events. In addition, its participation in the Paris Agreement means that Italy is committed to reducing emissions in different sectors, particularly within the tourism sector. Overall, Italy plays an important part in balancing economic benefits with fashion sustainability, especially while addressing the challenges associated with the industry.

4. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom takes part in this matter because it is a host of one of the “Big Four” fashion events. London Fashion Week generates roughly \$88 billion dollars for the UK's economy annually and supports more than a million jobs across the country (Weir, 2025). Major events, and especially major fashion events, concentrate large numbers of people in a single city. This results in tourists spending money in the host city, which helps increase the income of local businesses such as restaurants, hotels, or any sort of hospitality and transportation services, catering, and historical locations. The economy of the UK is heavily reliant on its service sector, which accounts for approximately 72 percent of its annual GDP (UK GDP - Statistics & Facts, 2025). Moreover, its participation and involvement in the Paris Agreement hold the United Kingdom accountable for its fashion sustainability, making it responsible for its net-zero

emissions targets. Therefore, the UK is keen on balancing economic growth with environmental protection.

5. People's Republic of China

China is one of the most significant countries in terms of textile production. Nowadays, many fast fashion brands originated or continue manufacturing in China. However, fast fashion brands are not the only companies that manufacture there; well-known brands like Coach, Nike, Adidas, Prada, Zara, and several others also use China as their chosen manufacturing country (Best Custom Clothing Manufacturer, 2025). China is still a prominent figure in the fashion industry as one of the largest exporters of textiles and clothing; most brands that take part in Fashion Weeks use China as their manufacturer, involving it in global fashion events even if they do not take place in the country. Additionally, China is a part of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this agreement, China takes on the responsibility of reducing carbon intensity and improving environmental regulation frameworks, to even out all the economic benefits with the environmental responsibility (*The Paris Agreement*, n.d.). While China continues to carry the weight of being one of the biggest manufacturers, it also carries the obligation to try to improve its labour practices and continues to fulfill its environmental commitments.

6. State of Japan

7. Republic of Korea

8. Kingdom of Spain

9. Republic of India

10. People's Republic of Bangladesh

11. Socialist Republic of Vietnam

12. Republic of Indonesia

13. Republic of Turkey
14. Kingdom of Morocco
15. Arab Republic of Egypt
16. Russian Federation
17. Portuguese Republic
18. Hellenic Republic
19. Republic of Peru
20. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
21. Kingdom of Cambodia
22. Republic of Tunisia
23. Republic of Uzbekistan
24. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
25. Federative Republic of Nepal



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