



SPC2: Special Conference on Climate Crises

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Issue: Addressing the issue of the impact of fast fashion on climate change

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Committee:	Special Conference on Climate Crises (SPC2)
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I. Introduction

According to NASA, "Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates." There are many factors that come into play when we look at climate change including CO2 and methane emissions, deforestation, plastic waste production, excessive use of water for agriculture, and much more. The fast fashion industry is also responsible for further increasing the effects of climate change, as the process from a fabric's raw material to apparel has a significant impact on the environment. Fast-fashion is a term used to describe the way in which clothing companies create a high quantity of low-quality products for a very cheap price. Along with most of the industry using unethical labor practices, it also directly or indirectly furthers the factors -that affect climate change- stated above. Corporations are able to produce these products cheaply by manufacturing them in countries where labor is cheap, the raw material is grown, environmental laws are vague, nonexistent, or not followed by factories -in other words, developing countries. Fast fashion companies based in developed countries often choose developing countries -such as India, Viet Nam and Bangladesh- as a way to escape the strict environmental guidelines in their country thus giving the false impression of only developing countries being responsible for the negative impacts of fast-fashion. These developing countries are usually located in the Far-East or South Asia, which makes the environmental harm of fast fashion prevalent in these locations. Thus, they will face the detrimental effects of fast fashion both to their environment and their citizens who either work for or are impacted by environmental damage. However, climate change is a global issue that can only be tackled by cooperation between nations. The effects of climate change are beginning to be more noticeable and are not going to diminish without proper interference. Therefore, delegates must cooperate and find adequate solutions that are applicable to all countries to this urgent issue so that companies cannot exploit countries with vague legislations.

II. Involved Countries and Organizations

The United States of America

The impact of the United States on fast fashion is more global than localized. Even though 98% of the United States' garments are produced overseas, their carbon dioxide emissions are one of the highest in the world, mostly due to their oil and industrial industry. The reason why fast-fashion is a significant issue



in the United States is consumerism. Since clothing is cheaper, most people can afford to buy more; this added with the ever-changing fashion trends result in mass consumption. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, “the generation of textiles in 2017 was 16.9 million tons” in the US (www.epa.gov). When companies profit off of this production model, they produce and advertise more of their products, which are disposed of in landfills shortly after purchase. In addition to the copious amounts of textile waste produced, “second-hand clothing not sold in the United States market is compressed into 1000-pound bales and exported overseas to be “graded” (sorted, categorized and re-baled) by low-wage workers in LMICs and sold in second-hand markets”(Bick et al., The global environmental injustice of fast fashion”). Because the U.S. produces most of its garments overseas, the transportation of the garments are more harmful to the environment than garments produced in the US. In 2017, The United States produced 6.5 metric tons of greenhouse gases in total and 28.5% of it came from transportation in general (www.cbsnews.com). Even though it is more expensive, the United States should transition into the locally produced textile with an ethical chain of production in order to decrease its CO2 rates.

People’s Republic of China

One of the largest garment-manufacturing countries in the world, China has significant export rates with approximately 46 million dollars worth of textiles to the United States in 2018 alone (www.witsworldbank.org). Both the domestic and international market remains the largest in the world. In addition to the largest population in the world, consumerism is on the rise in China. The apparel industry is worth approximately 2.08 yuan -300 billion US dollars- and is expected to grow 7.8% in 2018 (Tang, “Are the heydays over for foreign fast fashion brands in China?”). Although COVID’19 initially decreased China’s emissions by 25%, now their emission rates are back to pre-coronavirus rates with more than 900 million metric tons of CO2 recorded in May 2020 (Myllyvirta, “Analysis, China’s CO2 Emissions Surged Past Pre-Corona Levels in May”). China’s CO2 emissions affect the whole world, as they further climate change. Waste accumulated from the production of clothes is also wasted in China. China Water Risk states that “nearly 75% of textile wastewater (is) not recycled”. Contrary to the United States, China does produce their clothes locally, however, they emit too much CO2. Thus, new laws should be implemented to limit these emission rates.

Sweden

Sweden has been a role model for other countries in terms of their environmental-consciousness and sustainability measures. They have introduced chemical taxes on electronics in 2017 and on clothes in 2019. This way, they can deter companies from using harmful chemicals which could potentially harm both their workers and the environment. The main environmental legislation that Sweden uses is the Swedish Environmental Code (SFS 1998:808) that was put into force in 1999. The EU environmental policy is worked



into part of Swedish environmental law. Additionally, the Swedish Parliament adopted national goals on environmental quality. Any operation that might be hazardous to the environment and water quality requires an environmental permit, which is received by conducting an environmental impact assessment. Businesses that fail to comply with the requirements and standards of the permit can be held responsible under criminal law. Low carbon dioxide emission levels, high public awareness, and low rates of air pollution are among the reasons why Sweden is considered to be one of the most sustainable countries in the world.

Viet Nam

The textile and fashion industry is one of the main contributors to Vietnam's economy. Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (VINATEX) states that in 2014 textile and garment exports accounted for 15% of Vietnam's gross domestic product and increased by 18% in a year, which totals approximately 20 billion US dollars. Therefore, garment production has been on the rise due to a large amount of profit it brings. With the industry having such a huge impact on Vietnam's economy (and therefore families), it is harder to change an environmentally damaging system that is economically beneficial. With more powerful countries such as Japan and the United States being their main exporting destinations, the garment industry also has a political impact. Wastewater produced as a result of manufacturing and dyeing clothes almost always ends up in sewage systems or rivers. Even if some businesses possess water recycling systems, they are usually deemed as too expensive and not efficient enough. The Environment Protection Act of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam legislated in 1994 serves as the key environmental policy that is used to regulate and monitor businesses. However, looking at how much wastewater goes into oceans and how much toxic chemicals pollute the air, these regulations are either not enforced well enough, or not strict enough.

Bangladesh

Similar to Viet Nam, Bangladesh heavily relies on the fast fashion industry for its economy. Quartz reports "The World Bank, meanwhile, predicts Bangladesh's GDP will grow 6.7% in 2016, making it one of the world's fastest-growing economies. So what's its secret? Insatiable global demand for cheap clothes, which made up \$2.67 billion, or more than 83%, of that monthly record." Workers who sew the clothes are paid a dangerously low-wage and face environmental threats daily due to hazardous workplaces. The only upside of the situation is that fast fashion creates job opportunities for them to earn a living.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

As the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), The UNEA is the highest authority that makes decisions upon environmental issues. It has the membership of 193 Member States



and aids in intergovernmental action towards a more environmentally friendly future and pushes to help achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through its resolutions. Their Fourth Assembly Session, which was conducted in March 2019, concluded that “The factors identified as critical for success were: a strong vision and UNEP/EA.4/2 14 ambitious targets based on data and estimates; community and private-sector engagement in planning and policymaking and the involvement of local governments early in national policy and strategy processes; support for the capacity of local governments to structure bankable projects; and new financial instruments such as green bonds and grants to bridge gaps in credit or financing”(wedocs.unep.org). Additionally, their Fourth Assembly Session ended with twenty-three resolutions passing, including the resolution “Innovative pathways to achieve sustainable consumption and production (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1)”. This resolution focuses on ethical and sustainable production as a whole rather than just fast-fashion but is one of the most detailed resolutions to pass. More specifically about the fashion industry, during the Fourth Session, they launched the UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion which aims to halt the destructive production chain of the fashion industry. According to their press release, “The Alliance is improving collaboration among UN agencies by analyzing their efforts in making fashion sustainable, identifying solutions and gaps in their actions, and presenting these findings to governments to trigger policy” (UN Environment).

Centre For Sustainable Fashion (CSF)

According to their website, “Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF) is a Research Centre of the University of the Arts London based at London College of Fashion.” They prepare in-depth research reports on the fashion industry, partner with businesses, legislators, and companies to help them achieve a more sustainable supply chain and enhance public awareness in a sustainable fashion. Their research helps companies, foundations, and government agencies to be more environmentally conscious with minimum setbacks. Additional to their research, they also partake in advocating policy changes in faulty systems. For example, CSF provided the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Ethics and Sustainable Fashion. The group introduced the topic relating to consumption in the UK parliament concerning Modern Day Slavery and introduced an amendment to the 2015 Act. Thus, even though they are a relatively new organization, their work has demonstrated their potential for changing legislations.

III. Focused Overview of the Issue

1. History of Fast Fashion

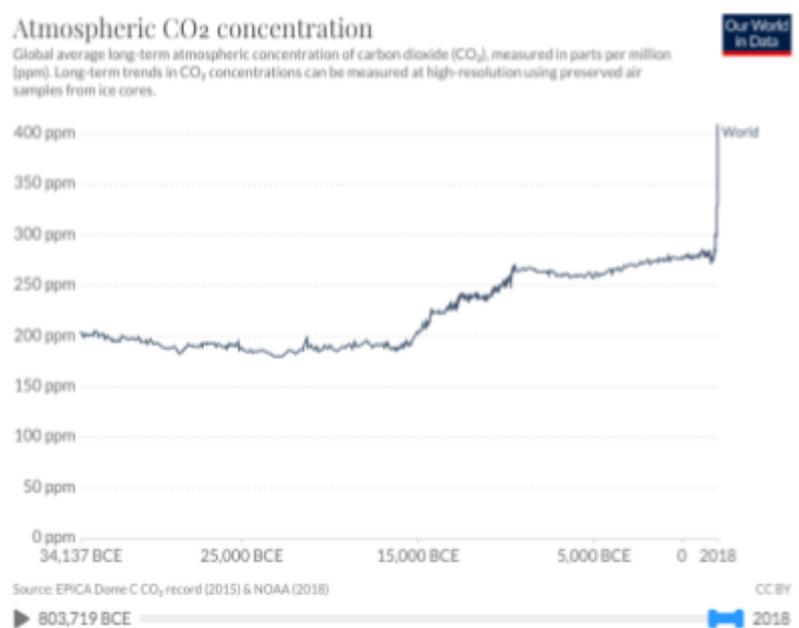
Ever since the first Industrial Revolution, clothing has gradually become easier and cheaper to manufacture. During the 1800s, with the invention of new machinery like the sewing machine, clothing prices fell rapidly while production increased. Local dressmaking businesses started to employ a team of workers



to sew the clothes in the workroom along with people who sewed the pieces from home for a very low-wage; this practice of workers working for a very low-wage would become the fundamental way which some fast fashion brands would assemble clothing. Even though ready-made clothing was available and used by the middle-class in industrialized countries like the US or the United Kingdom, clothes weren't seen as disposable, they were worn for many years -especially in non-industrialized regions such as India or Bangladesh; fashion did not change as fastly as it does now. Throughout the beginning of the 20th century, people still relied on local businesses to purchase their clothes or made their own in their homes. During this time, the fabric was scarce due to World War I and World War II, thus the majority of people opted for more affordable - and therefore mass-produced - clothes. It was only after the 1960s where fashion trends started to change more quickly. "Soon, fashion brands had to find ways to keep up with this increasing demand for affordable clothing, leading to massive textile mills opening across the developing world, which allowed the U.S. and European companies to save millions of dollars by outsourcing their labor" (Idacavage, Fashion History Lesson: The Origins of Fast Fashion."). The term fast-fashion "...was coined in fashion retail to describe the quick turnover of designs that move from the catwalk to current fashion trends and became extremely popular in the early 2000s"(www.edology.com). Thus, environmentally harmful ways of dyeing and sewing fabric became more widespread and fast fashion gradually became one of the most polluting industries.

2. Climate Change

One of the primary factors that cause climate change is carbon dioxide emissions, which creates a greenhouse effect that results in global warming. As the average yearly temperature rises consecutively for decades, the climate changes, and the ice glaciers in the Arctics and Antarctica melt causing the sea level to rise. Declining drinkable water, food insecurity, natural disasters, and ecosystems collapsing are all real consequences of climate change that have started to happen. "Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate"(Allen,





“Understanding The Global Warming of 1.5C.”). Even though the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has always fluctuated in between centuries, it hasn’t been this severe at any point in history as seen in Figure 1. Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses (for example methane, ozone, and nitrous oxide) are caused by the burning of fossil fuels for various industries such as but not limited to agriculture, transportation, electricity, and the heating industry. By relying on these industries to function, according to Business Insider, the fast fashion industry produces 10% of all carbon dioxide emissions produced. Additionally, according to The Pulse of the Fashion Industry by Common Objective, the fashion industry was responsible for 1.7 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2015.

A fashion season is when a company releases its new collection for consumers to buy. When clothes were produced locally and were made to last, a typical company would only have two seasons per year.

This means that the company could only design, approve, gather the materials, produce, and advertise their garments twice per year. However, as seen in Figure 2, due to their production model fast fashion companies can repeat this process every two to three weeks. This way, they manufacture a much larger amount of various garment

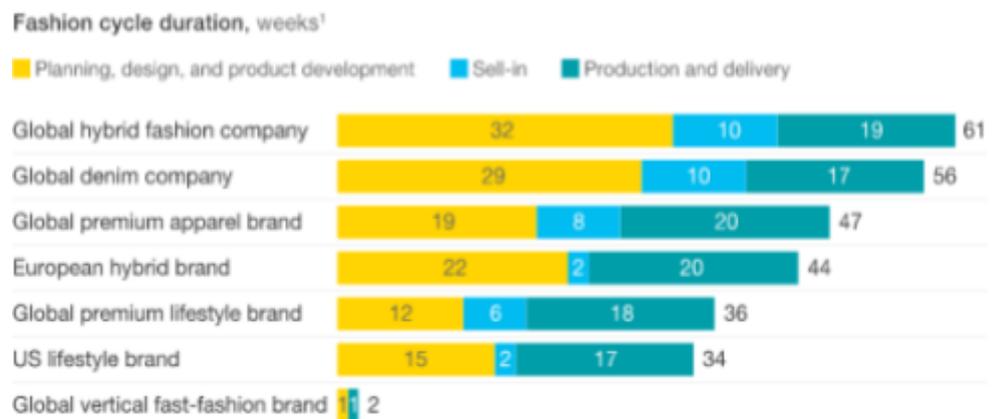


Figure 2: Fashion Cycle Duration (Season) Graph

types, which multiplied with the maximum amount of clothing that they can produce, results in tonnes of clothing to be bought and then disposed of when the garment is not fashionable anymore. This is the type of supply chain (or chain of production) that is the basis of fast fashion.

3. Fast Fashion, Governments and the Economy

Even though cheap textile factories produce excessive waste, and are harmful to the environment and their workers’ health, many people rely on these factories to make a living. Governments control the policies regarding production, and therefore, only they can force companies to adhere to environmentally-conscious practices. This is why in developed countries, there aren’t many fast-fashion factories from huge industry names like Zara or H&M, because production is more expensive there. International companies produce their clothes in developing companies like Bangladesh or Viet Nam due to their low wages and poor waste management laws -resulting in toxic waste to be dumped in rivers which is



extremely cheap. However, many countries also depend upon the textile industry since an important portion of their economy is based on the fast fashion industry even if it is harmful to them in the long run.

Implementing strict environmental laws in developing countries without helping to relocate textile workers into different industries would create economic issues for the country and employees even if it protects the environment. Therefore, before legislating new laws, one must also consider and reflect on how these laws might affect these developing countries and workers.

4. Pollution and Water Usage

In addition to generating massive amounts of garments, the fashion industry creates an enormous amount of waste as well. According to Common Objective, 85% of all textiles end up in landfills every year, where some textiles don't decompose for years and aren't used again. "According to the documentary released in 2015, *The True Cost*, the world consumes around 80 billion new pieces of clothing every year, 400% more than the consumption twenty years ago". While companies are largely responsible for using toxic chemicals, low-quality products, and mass-produced products, consumers should also be held accountable. Consumers support these brands by continuously purchasing large amounts of their merchandise and then disposing of the low-quality items as soon as they go out of fashion, indirectly encouraging the brands to continue with their practices. Even though companies pollute the environment through their methods of dyeing, producing, and distributing clothes, the bigger issue is with how much they produce and how much their customers buy their clothes.

The chain of events that make the raw material into an article of clothing in a shop also generates catastrophic amounts of pollution and uses up a lot of water. First of all, producing one cotton t-shirt uses up 700 gallons and one pair of jeans uses 2000 gallons of water. Also, colorful clothes require the fabric to be dyed and use up a lot of water as well. "It's estimated that processing (including spinning, dyeing, finishing) a kilogram of fiber (not just cotton, but also polyester and other materials) requires 100 to 150 liters of water" states Common Objective. According to Business Insider, the world's second-largest source of water pollution is textile dyeing. The dyes can contain toxic chemicals that are dumped into rivers and oceans, harming the aquatic environment since microfibers in the synthetic fabrics are toxic to aquatic wildlife. Besides the extremely high consumption of water, the overall transportation of these products also generates high amounts of greenhouse gasses.

5. Greenwashing

Greenwashing is when a company advertises itself as more environmentally friendly than they actually are. They are able to do this by producing a certain amount of their merchandise through more eco-friendly ways and then advertising those products more than the products manufactured through their



regular procedure. This causes customers to gravitate towards their products since it seems like a more ethical option. It has become more relevant since the 2010s because of the rise of interest in reducing climate change. One of the most solid examples of greenwashing is H&M with their “Conscious” collection or Zara. Even though these two companies have both adopted some sustainable practices, both of their main production value -being fast-fashion- contradicts sustainability. In general, developed countries -such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, etc.- are more likely to have greenwashing since consumers are susceptible to spending more money on environmentally-conscious products than people in developing countries (www.theguardian.com). A specific example of a country that greenwashes as a whole is Brazil. According to Market Analysis, a Brazilian research firm, “only 15% of consumer products’ green claims are backed up by third-party certifications” (Moodie, Brazil's big greenwash boom”). This means that most of the claims about eco-friendliness from companies in Brazil are not confirmed by environmental scientists, and therefore may be deceiving the public. The short-term effects of greenwashing are higher revenue for the aforementioned companies. The long-term effects of greenwashing, however, are much more detrimental to the environment since companies did not change their ways, they just labelled it differently.

6. COVID'19 and Its Impact on Fast Fashion

With the recent coronavirus pandemic, there have been a few changes in the way that fast-fashion operates. Big, in-person fashion chains have closed down most of their stores and switched to online retail. To make up for their decreases in profit, many companies have now turned into greenwashing to advertise their products. On the other hand, brands that only operate online have had huge increases in their sales. Production continues and thus the environmental harm and dangerous work conditions also continue. The British Trade Union reports that in ASOS -an online retail company- there have been no measures taken for social distancing and that “out of 4,000 workers in the ASOS Grimethorpe warehouse, 98% of them feel unsafe at work”(Ierace, “COVID and the Ugly Side of Fast Fashion”). Although at first, the fashion industry seemed to slow down, they are back at their pre-COVID'19 pace of mass-producing clothes and harming their surroundings simultaneously.

7. Humanitarian Aspect of Fast Fashion

Although the humanitarian issues that arise because of fast fashion aren't related to climate change, it is still a significant issue. Garment production is a huge reason why child labor is common. Fast fashion pushes companies to find cheap sources, including labor. According to UNICEF, “The ILO estimates that 170 million are engaged in child labor, with many making textiles and garments to satisfy the demand of consumers in Europe, the US and beyond”. Several fast fashion brands produce their garments in Southeast Asia because of the minimal regulation and prevalence of child labor. Countries such as India or Bangladesh



have a significant amount of their child population working in these types of factories due to inadequate regulation and the exploitation of vague laws. Additionally, even if the workers are of age, they face dangerous factory conditions and incredibly low wages. All of these factors decrease the quality of life of countries where garment production is highly relevant.

IV. Key Vocabulary

Consumerism: The theory that consuming a larger amount of products is more desirable and that a person's happiness depends on how much material possessions they own. From a negative point of view, consumerism causes a person to engage in a wasteful lifestyle, and be ignorant of the consequences of the mass production of the products that they buy. On the other hand from a more positive perspective, it fuels economic growth since it is the key driver of the economy.

Fast-Fashion: The production of inexpensive clothing on an extremely fast and large scale in order to meet new trends. As a result of consumerism, fast-fashion retailers may design, produce, and sell brand new products on a daily basis (mass production). In order to produce such a large quantity of clothing inexpensively, cheap natural resources, cheap labor (child labor in some cases), and overall cost-cutting methods are used which damages both the person making the clothes and the environment.

Climate Change: Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional, and global climates (climate.nasa.gov).

Global Warming: Global warming is the long-term heating of Earth's climate system observed since the pre-industrial period (between 1850 and 1900) due to human activities, primarily fossil fuel burning, which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth's atmosphere.

Greenwashing: Making people believe that a company is more eco-friendly and doing more for the environment than it actually does.

Supply Chain/Chain of Production: A supply chain is a network between a company and its suppliers to produce and distribute a specific product to the final buyer (Kenton, "How Supply Chains Work.").

Ready to Wear Clothing: Clothing that is made in bulk in a range of set sizes instead of tailored specifically to a person.



V. Important Events & Chronology

Date	Event
Before the 1800s	People relied on wool from sheep and time-consuming methods of making clothing, without any complex machinery.
1770-1830	The First Industrial Revolution: With the invention of complex machinery, new textile machines were introduced, factories were built and eventually “ready-to-wear” fashion emerged.
1846	The invention of the sewing machine: A decrease in the price of clothing and an increase in production.
The 1890s	Two scientists start researching potential problems caused by CO ₂ buildup in the atmosphere and realize that fossil fuels could cause global warming.
The 1890s-1940s	Average surface air temperatures rise approximately 0.25C degrees.
1900-1950	Fabric is scarce and poverty is on the rise due to the effects of two detrimental wars. People start to gravitate towards cheaper options.
1960-2000	With developed countries recovering from wars, people generally have more money to spend. The fashion cycle becomes shorter and consumption rises.
1979	UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
1985	Villach Conference in Austria warns that greenhouse gasses will cause global warming if no precautions are taken.
1990	IPPC discovers that the planet warmed by 0.5C in the 20th century and warns that only very strong measures can prevent serious global warming.
1997	Kyoto Protocol is introduced, however, not signed yet because it was thought of as detrimental to economies.
2000s-Today	Fast fashion is the leading method of garment production, generating tonnes of waste per year.
2002	Parliaments in the EU, Japan, and other countries ratify the Kyoto Protocol while the US, Russia, and Australia don't; hence, they aren't legally bound to cut emissions.
2005	Kyoto Protocol comes into force, Russia ratifies it and the US and China agree to a “non-binding dialogue”.
2016	The Paris Agreement is put into force.
March 15, 2019	UNEA adopts resolution (UNEP/EA.4/Res.1) that focuses on sustainable consumption and production



VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

- [Resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 15 March 2019 \(UNEP/EA.4/Res.1\)](#)

The resolution presents alternative ways to achieve sustainable consumption and production. It encourages the Member States to support sustainable business practices through incentives and to educate the public on sustainable practices. Since the resolution is relatively new and aimed towards a more long-term solution to the issue, it is unable to determine whether the resolution is successful or not.

- [UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution](#)

The Convention, signed in 1979 and put into force in 1983 is concerning regional air pollution in Europe and how to decrease air pollution. UNECE states, "The result of this collective effort has been remarkable: emissions of a series of harmful substances have been reduced by 40 to 80% since 1990 in Europe. In particular, the decrease in sulfur emissions has led to healthier and forest soils"(www.unece.org). Countries including, the United States, The United Kingdom, France, Finland Azerbaijan, and Turkey have ratified this treaty.

- [The Paris Agreement](#)

The Paris Agreement is a combination of legally binding and non-binding provisions that are aimed to prevent global warming from increasing. Its primary goal is to keep the global temperature rise this century below 2C degrees by strengthening the global response towards climate change. In addition, the agreement also aims to aid developing countries concerning their ability to deal with the consequences of climate change financially. "To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate mobilization and provision of financial resources, a new technology framework and enhanced capacity-building is to be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives"(www.Unfccc.int). Even though the agreement was put into force on November 4, 2016, countries still continue to ratify it today. By early 2017, 125 countries had ratified the agreement.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Rather than **failed** solutions on climate change, most solutions haven't been enough, seeing that climate change is nowhere near slowing down. Upon observing countries that harm the environment through generating high carbon dioxide levels and toxic wastewater, it is clear that constructing flexible and vague laws concerning environmental factory regulations will only cause companies to gravitate towards



these countries to produce their products. This is seen in countries like Viet Nam or Bangladesh, where even though environmental laws exist, they are not implemented and monitored correctly.

Carbon offsetting is a system where countries move some of their production to other countries in order to escape fines on high carbon dioxide emission rates. As climate change is a global issue, this “solution” is only a way for countries to not surpass their emission targets. This system also prohibits organizations from successfully determining the true source of a country’s emissions. “Offsetting allows industrialized countries to continue using the little remaining atmospheric space available, denying developing countries the right to use this to develop and bring their populations out of poverty” (www.foeeurope.org). The term carbon offsetting is usually used for industrial products, however, the fashion industry also indirectly applies this system in developed countries; but it is not regulated by governments since the actual culprits are big fashion chains. International fast-fashion companies produce their clothes mainly in the East and sell them predominantly in developed countries. For example, today, only 2% of garments in the United States are actually produced there (kqed.org). These impacts countries where garment production is a major source of income since it gives the illusion that they are the only ones guilty of harming the environment when they are encouraged to be exploited by big fast-fashion chains.

While raising awareness on the issues that fast-fashion causes are an adequate way to help combat the problem, some methods are more favorable than others. Public protests have proven to raise awareness in people, however, they usually don’t motivate governments to take action. For instance, Extinction Rebellion’s public protest in London in April 2019 did not have an effect on government policies concerning the environmental impact of the fashion industry. Furthermore encouraging people to donate to thrift stores -or charity shops- does not decrease the number of clothes produced; it only prevents them from going into landfills. Instead, encouraging people to return their old clothes to fast-fashion chains that give a small amount of money in exchange -for example, H&M’s 3 cents for 1 kilogram of clothes in Australia- might motivate other companies to recycle their garments. This way, governments may also observe that returning used fabrics is profitable for businesses and create programs to do the same for them.

VIII. Possible Solutions

Since fast fashion countries usually choose countries with more flexible environmental and labor laws, which as stated before are usually LEDCs, a good solution is improving current laws in those countries. Therefore, setting up environmental regulation systems that are fit to a country’s impact on the environment and economic needs is necessary. Legislations that implement taxes on factories for CO₂ emissions or subsidies for factories that are under an amount of weight of CO₂ per month, require factories



to use and own air and water filtration systems along with fines on factories that don't adhere to this legislation are good examples for this case. Additionally, after stricter and more thorough environmental laws are implemented, countries must follow-up on whether the laws are actually being obeyed or not. This could be achieved through random inspections conducted by an independent group of officials. Delegates can be inspired by legislations from countries that use more environmentally conscious methods of production.

Many garment-producing countries need funding in order to build and develop sustainable factories. As mentioned before, a big reason why these countries rely on harmful practices is a lack of funds rather than disregard for the environment. Since companies based in developed countries manufacture their products in developing countries, developed countries are also responsible for the harmful effects of fast fashion, even if they have adequate environmental laws themselves. Therefore, developed countries should collaborate with developing countries while also keeping the economical factors in mind due to the aforementioned reasons.

Raising awareness gradually makes consumers opt for more environmentally friendly products, which encourages companies to change their means of production to fit into consumers' wants. In addition, educating younger generations by putting more emphasis on production chains and environmental science is a way to ensure that future generations are environmentally conscious. This is an excellent additional plan to reduce emissions because it is a social change that is not affected by the legislation. If for any reason, environmental laws were disregarded, companies would still have to slowly adhere to their customers' demands -despite the expensive means of production- to stay in business. However, this social change is gradual and not as immediately effective nor dependable as environmental laws, thus should not be relied upon as the primary method of solution.

IX. Useful Links

- This website shows failed solutions to climate change in general:
<https://www.foeeurope.org/false-solutions>
- This website gives a basic overview of fast fashion statistics, its effects, and shows efforts made by individual brands:
<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2019-march-2020/battling-damaging-effects-%E2%80%98fast-fashion%E2%80%99>
- This video shows a basic overview of fast fashion and its effects on the environment:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOAO0D0i5-fA>
- This video targets specific companies and their effects on the world resulting from their production practices: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLfNU0D0-8ts&t=249s>



- This website gives a historical overview of the fast fashion and the ready-to-wear fashion industry:
<https://fashionista.com/2016/06/what-is-fast-fashion>



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