



United Nations Clothing Lifetime Sustainability (UNCLS)

Vintage Clothing Seller Stewardship Policy Package

Charter framework, program design, and five-day annual meeting agenda

Primary focus: vintage clothing curators and sellers (VCCs) who source, sort, repair, authenticate, style, and resell secondhand clothing. The framework separates upstream market controls from downstream financial support so VCCs are not asked to fix fast fashion alone.

20 September

Policy Logic

UNCLS is designed around the position of vintage clothing sellers in the fashion system. Upstream, manufacturers and importers shape the quality, material composition, and volume of clothing that will eventually enter the secondhand stream. Downstream, VCCs need grants, tax relief, certification, and public recognition to keep repairable clothing in circulation and to compete with ultra-fast-fashion pricing.

Policy lever	Target	Purpose for VCCs
1. Tax synthetic materials	Virgin fossil-based synthetics and synthetic-heavy disposable garments	Makes low-durability polyester-heavy clothing less artificially cheap and improves the future quality of secondhand supply.
2. Cap covered synthetic inputs	Total volume of covered synthetic fiber-equivalent placed on regulated markets	Limits fast-fashion throughput and reduces the flood of low-quality clothing entering resale and waste systems.
3. Tax new clothing	First sale/import of new garments, with higher rates for ultra-fast-fashion and low-durability items	Narrows the price gap between new disposable clothing and secondhand clothing sold by VCCs.
4. Fund VCC support	Vintage clothing curators, resale shops, repair operators, and community sellers	Provides grants, tax breaks, certification, repair funds, authentication support, and storefront stability.

Key Goals

- improve the quality of garments entering the secondhand stream for VCCs;
- reduce the market advantage of disposable synthetic-heavy fast fashion;
- make repair, resale, authentication, sorting, and landfill diversion financially viable;
- increase customer trust in vintage and secondhand sellers through verified certification;
- support storefront affordability and access for small, community-based VCCs; and
- make high-quality secondhand clothing more accessible without placing all responsibility on consumers.



I. Charter framework

Article 1. Purpose

UNCLS establishes a two-part United Nations policy package centered on vintage clothing curators and sellers. Its purpose is to improve the quality of clothing that reaches VCCs, reduce the oversupply of disposable new garments, and finance the people and businesses that keep clothing in use.

Article 2. Scope

This instrument applies to apparel, footwear, and home textiles placed on regulated markets. It covers manufacturers, importers, large direct-to-consumer sellers, e-commerce importers, fast-fashion sellers, and registered VCCs participating in support or certification programs.

Article 3. Definition of VCC

A vintage clothing curator or seller means a person, store, resale operator, repair operator, community seller, or small business that sources, sorts, repairs, authenticates, styles, resells, or diverts usable secondhand clothing from landfill or incineration.

Article 4. Part I - Upstream market controls

The upstream portion of UNCLS regulates the new-clothing side of the market. It includes three distinct tools: a synthetic-material tax, a cap on covered synthetic inputs, and a tax on new clothing. These measures target manufacturers and first placers, not VCCs.

Article 5. Synthetic-material tax

Virgin fossil-based synthetic materials, including polyester, nylon, acrylic, elastane, polypropylene, and polyurethane-based textile inputs, shall face a higher tax rate when used in disposable, low-durability, or hard-to-repair garments. Natural, durable, repairable, and lower-impact materials may receive lower tax treatment.

Article 6. Cap on covered synthetic inputs

UNCLS shall establish a declining cap on the total quantity of covered synthetic fiber-equivalent placed on regulated markets. The cap is intended to reduce synthetic-heavy fast-fashion throughput and prevent low-quality garments from overwhelming secondhand, repair, waste, and export systems.

Article 7. Tax on new clothing

A first-sale or import tax shall apply to new garments placed on regulated markets, with higher rates for ultra-fast-fashion, low-durability, and high-return-volume products. The tax is separate from the material tax: it addresses the volume and speed of new clothing sales, while the material tax addresses composition.



I. Charter framework, continued

Article 8. Carbon and circularity credits

Manufacturers may earn credits for lower lifecycle emissions, longer expected useful life, repairability, resale readiness, and verified reductions in virgin synthetic inputs. VCCs may earn recognition for verified repair, resale, authentication, and diversion of usable garments from landfill or incineration.

Article 9. Part II - VCC financial support

The downstream portion of UNCLS directly funds VCCs. Eligible uses include repair tools and labor, authentication systems, inventory sorting, cleaning, storage, storefront rent, pop-up market fees, e-commerce infrastructure, public education, and landfill-diversion work.

Article 10. Grants for VCCs

Grants shall be available to small and community-based vintage sellers, repair operators, and resale organizations. Priority shall be given to applicants that increase access to durable secondhand clothing, divert clothing from landfill, provide repair services, or serve communities underserved by sustainable fashion markets.

Article 11. Tax breaks for VCCs

Registered VCCs may receive tax deductions, credits, or exemptions for repair labor, authentication expenses, inventory processing, circular-fashion education, storefront operations, and donation or diversion of unsellable but reusable garments.

Article 12. Certification and public label

A verified circular-fashion certification shall identify VCCs that meet standards for repair, resale, authentication, waste diversion, and transparent customer communication. The label should help customers understand why secondhand garments may cost more than ultra-fast-fashion alternatives.

Article 13. Small-seller protection

UNCLS shall avoid overburdening VCCs with paperwork. Low-volume sellers shall have simplified reporting pathways, template-based certification, and technical assistance. Compliance obligations for VCCs shall be proportional to size and designed to unlock support rather than punish small sellers.

Article 14. Funding and amendment procedure

Revenue from the synthetic-material tax, the new-clothing tax, auctioned cap allowances, penalties, and related fees shall be earmarked for VCC grants, repair infrastructure, sorting capacity, public labeling, and community access. Technical annexes may update rates, caps, eligible costs, certification rules, and reporting thresholds.

II. Standing committee functions

Synthetic Materials Tax and Cap Design. Sets covered materials, synthetic tax rates, cap trajectory, allowance rules, and safeguards against substitution loopholes.

New Clothing Levy and Fast-Fashion Throughput. Reviews first-sale/import tax rates, ultra-fast-fashion definitions, durability thresholds, return volumes, and price-gap effects.

VCC Grants and Tax Relief. Designs grants, eligible costs, tax benefits, simplified application pathways, and small-seller protections for vintage clothing sellers.

VCC Certification and Consumer Trust. Develops public labels, verification standards, customer-facing communication, authentication rules, and anti-greenwashing safeguards.

Registry, MRV, and Product Data. Oversees manufacturer reporting, product passports, material disclosure, seller certification data, resale outcomes, and verification protocols.

Equity, Access, and Waste Reduction. Directs funds toward community-based resale, repair access, affordability, landfill diversion, textile sorting, and developing-country implementation support.



III. Numbered provisional agenda for the annual five-day session

Items 1-10	Items 11-20
1. Opening of the session.	11. VCC grants: eligible costs, repair tools, authentication, inventory sorting, storefront support, and community resale programs.
2. Election of officers.	12. VCC tax breaks: repair labor, resale operations, education, diversion, and simplified documentation for small sellers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.	13. Certification and consumer trust: verified circular-fashion labels, public communication, and customer-facing transparency.
4. Credentials of representatives.	14. Registry, reporting, product-passport integration, and measurement, reporting, and verification standards.
5. State of vintage clothing sellers in the global textile system: supply quality, fast-fashion competition, customer trust, and waste flows.	15. Equity and access: support for small sellers, community-based resale, and affordability of high-quality secondhand clothing.
6. Report on VCC needs, including repair labor, authentication, storefront costs, sorting burdens, and landfill-diversion work.	16. Compliance findings, anti-greenwashing measures, correction orders, penalties, and appeals matters.
7. Synthetic-material tax: covered fibers, tax rates, durability modifiers, and safeguards against material substitution.	17. Financing mechanisms and allocation of revenues from material taxes, new-clothing taxes, cap allowance auctions, and penalties.
8. Cap on covered synthetic inputs: baseline, annual decline path, allowance distribution, and market-stability measures.	18. Adoption of decisions and declaration of the session.
9. Tax on new clothing: first-sale/import levy, ultra-fast-fashion criteria, price-gap effects, and treatment of low-durability garments.	19. Provisional agenda, date, and venue of the next annual session.
10. Carbon and circularity credits: lower-impact production, repairability, resale readiness, verified repair, resale, and landfill diversion.	20. Closure of the session.



Annex I. Indicative organization of work for the five-day session

Morning meetings shall normally be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The programme below is indicative and may be adjusted by the Chair in consultation with Parties.

Day	Primary focus	Morning meeting	Afternoon meeting
Day 1	VCC baseline and policy opening	Opening of the session; election of officers; adoption of the agenda; credentials; presentation on vintage clothing sellers and fast-fashion pressures.	General statements by Parties and VCC observers; briefing on garment quality, secondhand supply, customer trust, and textile waste indicators.
Day 2	Upstream controls	Committee review of the synthetic-material tax and covered synthetic inputs, including polyester, nylon, acrylic, elastane, and related blends.	Session on the cap for covered synthetic inputs and the separate tax on new clothing, including ultra-fast-fashion thresholds and price-gap effects.
Day 3	VCC financial support	Review of grants for VCCs, including repair tools, authentication support, inventory sorting, storage, storefront operations, and landfill-diversion funding.	Session on VCC tax breaks, simplified documentation, small-seller protections, and how revenue from upstream controls flows back to seller support.
Day 4	Certification, trust, and access	Review of verified circular-fashion certification, public labels, customer-facing transparency, product data, and anti-greenwashing rules.	Stakeholder dialogue on community-based resale, affordability, accessibility, developing-country support, and unresolved draft decisions.
Day 5	Compliance and closure	Presentation of compliance findings, appeals matters, technical annex updates, and budget allocation for VCC grant programs.	Adoption of decisions and declaration; next-session agenda, date, and venue; closure of the session.

This UNCLS package is explicitly centered on vintage clothing sellers. It separates upstream controls on synthetic materials, synthetic-volume caps, and new-clothing taxes from downstream grants, tax relief, certification, and operational support for VCCs.